

Montgomery County Community College  
 HSW 155  
 Introduction to Aging  
 3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This introductory course is designed to discuss basic principles and sensitize students to those personal and social forces which impact the lives of older adults in contemporary America. Commonly held attitudes about older persons and the aging process will be examined along with current theories and prominent bodies of knowledge associated with the biological, psychological and sociological aspects of aging. Roles which older adults assume in various settings – community, residential and institutions, as well as the responses of society to older adults will be emphasized.

**REQUISITES:**

*Previous Course Requirements*

None

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Formulate and analyze opinions about social problems in the aging process including; how social policy affects these problems in local, state, and national settings.	Lecture Discussion Assigned Readings Field Trips to Aging Facilities Other Experiential Activities	Case Study Essays/ Quizzes Web-Based Research Required Component Needed for Portfolio- Building Policy Analysis Research Project Presentations
2. Utilize the Ethical Standards of Human Service Professionals for decision-making processes in the field of gerontology.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Case Study Based Discussion Lecture/Discussion	Research Project Presentations Written Examinations Case Study Essays/ Quizzes Web-Based Research
3. Evaluate theoretical and applied knowledge with the various broad-based issues and components of gerontology.	Lecture Discussion Audio-Visual Materials Case Study Based Discussions Other Experiential Activities	Written Examinations Case Study Essays/ Quizzes Web-Based Research Research Project Presentations

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Assess and compare social policies and services concerning elder issues in other countries to current policies in the United States.	AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Assigned Readings Case Study Based Discussion	Case Study Essays / Quizzes Web-based Research Required Component Needed for Portfolio-Building Policy Analysis Research Project Presentations

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Definition of Gerontology
2. Dispelling the Myths Associated with the Aging Process
3. The Study of Aging
4. The Biological Aspects of Aging
5. The Psychological Aspect of Aging
6. The Sociological Aspects of Aging
7. Aging and Society – General Facts about Adjustment to Old Age
8. An International Perspective on Aging Issues

#### LEARNING MATERIALS:

William R. Lassey, Marie L. Lassey, (2001). *Quality of Life for Older People: An International Perspective*. Prentice Hall.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

#### COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Fay Stokes	Date: 4/1998
Revised by: Maureen Rose, MSW, HS-BCP	Date: 5/13/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 5/28/2013
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Revised by: Maureen Rose, MSW, HS-BCP  
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 12/17/2017  
Date: 1/10/2018



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*