Gerontology

Courses

GERON 1220 Special Topics In Gerontology: 3 semester hours
Same as INTDSC 1220. Selected topics dealing with various aspects of gerontology. The specific contents of this course will vary from semester to semester. The course may be repeated with permission from the Gerontology director.

GERON 2256 Bioethics: 3 semester hours
Same as PHIL 2256. An examination of ethical issues in health care practice and clinical research and in public policies affecting health care. Topics include: abortion, euthanasia, health care, experimentation, informed consent and the right to health care.

GERON 2272 Developmental Psychology: Adulthood And Aging: 3 semester hours
Same as PSYCH 2272. Prerequisites: PSYCH 1003. Personally social and physiological development from the onset of early adulthood through maturity and old age.

GERON 2280 Psychology Of Death And Dying: 3 semester hours
Same as PSYCH 2280. Prerequisite: PSYCH 1003. A beginning exploration of end-of-life issues integrating the scholarly, social, and individual dimensions of death and dying. This course provides a solid grounding in theory and research, as well as practical application to students’ lives.

GERON 3215 Aging Across Cultures: 3 semester hours
Same as ANTHRO 3215. Prerequisites: ANTHRO 1011 or PSYCH 1003 or SOC 1010, or consent of instructor. This course examines the wideranging variability in the roles of older people across different cultures and the effects these have on older people, their families, and their societies.

GERON 4361 Social Gerontology: 3 semester hours
Same as SOC 4361. Prerequisites: SOC 1010 and junior standing or consent of instructor. Topics include: sociological theories of aging, technological and social change and its effects on the environment of older people, and prejudice and discrimination against the elderly.

GERON 4376 Mental Health And Aging: 3 semester hours
Same as PSYCH 4376 and SOC WK 4376. Prerequisites: 9 hours of psychology, graduate standing, or consent of instructor. (MSW students normally take all foundation courses prior to enrolling in this course.) This course provides a survey of theory and research in mental health issues for older populations, focusing on psychological and social aspects of mental health and impairment. The course details approaches to understanding prevalence, etiology, assessment, and treatment of the psychological disorders most commonly experienced by older adults, including anxiety, depression, delirium, and dementia, among others.

GERON 4490 Directed Readings: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. Directed reading and research or field work. May be repeated for a maximum of three hours.

GERON 4680 Introduction to Gerontological Practice: 3 semester hours
Same as SOC WK 4680. Prerequisites: Advanced undergraduate or graduate standing. This course introduces key concepts and practices in the evaluation and care of older adults. It is intended for students considering aging-focused careers in the social service or healthcare fields. Topics include developmental and health-related theories of aging, functional and psychosocial aspects of aging, working with older adults in various service settings, multi and interdisciplinary team approaches, and basic standards of professional conduct that apply across professions.

GERON 5200 Gerontological Practice with Aging Veterans: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor. Aging veterans often demonstrate different social, health and psychological support needs. This practice-oriented course reviews and frames gerontological interventions for different veteran subpopulations, including those residing at home, in senior housing, and under Veterans Administration (VA) care. The impacts of age cohort, gender, service during war or peacetime, post-traumatic stress status, substance abuse and addiction, military culture, and pension and service-connected compensation are studied. Special opportunities and challenges for social service providers in the VA health system are also reviewed.

GERON 5320 Gender & Aging: 3 semester hours
Same as GS 5320. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor. This course examines advancing age through a gender lens. Men and women experience aging differently based on a host of genetic, biological, psychological, sociocultural and personal identity factors. This course challenges students to consider aging from various perspectives, including cultural expectations and norms, couple and family relationships, health and function, work life and retirement, sexual orientation, gender identity, concerns of LGBT elders, and veteran’s issues.

GERON 5361 Advanced Social Gerontology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing. An examination of sociological theories of aging, technological and social change and its effects on the environment of older people, and prejudice and discrimination against the elderly.

GERON 5376 Psychopathology And Aging: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing. Recent theory and research in mental health issues for older populations. The primary focus is on major psychological disorders prevalent among older adults and in assessment and treatment approaches for aging populations.
GERON 5420 Research Methods and Analysis I: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Admission to the MSG Program or graduate standing.
The first of a two-course sequence designed to provide students with the knowledge base and skills for using the scientific method to advance gerontological knowledge, theory and evidence-based practice. Focuses on research methods employed in aging-related studies, with a special emphasis on the critical evaluation of academic studies and the evidentiary basis of key findings. Covers quantitative and qualitative approaches, research design, sampling procedures, measurement, use of results, impact of research, and ethical considerations.

GERON 5440 Cultural Aspects Of Aging: 3 semester hours
Same as ANTHRO 5440. Prerequisites: Graduate status or consent of the instructor. Focuses on the variety of solutions encountered in different sociocultural contexts for dealing with the problems, challenges and opportunities of growing old. It is organized around topics that are of concern to both anthropology and social gerontology: the status of the aged, intergenerational relations, aging in modernizing societies, ethnic dimensions of aging in complex societies, health in later life, death and dying. Both in-depth case studies and cross-cultural comparisons are examined in an effort to arrive at a culturally informed assessment of factors affecting aging and the aged in the United States.

GERON 5450 Research Methods and Analysis II: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: GERON 5420 or equivalent. An advanced course focused on the framing and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to advance gerontological knowledge, theory, and evidence-based practice. Students learn to use and interpret various statistical procedures for analyzing qualitative and quantitative data (including bivariate and multivariate analyses). Students apply various analytic techniques using computer software applications.

GERON 5610 Mechanisms Of Aging I: The Aging Body: 1 semester hour
Same as SOC WK 5610 and PSYCH 5610. Prerequisites: Graduate standing and BIOL 1102 or equivalent. (MSW students normally take all foundation courses prior to enrolling in this course.) Introduces students with a social science/humanities background to the normal changes in the biology and chemistry of the aging human body and how these changes affect behavior.

GERON 5611 Mechanisms Of Aging II: The Aging Brain: 1 semester hour
Same as SOC WK 5611 and PSYCH 5611. Prerequisites: GERON 5610 or SOC WK 5610 or PSYCH 5610 or equivalent, or consent of instructor. (MSW students normally take all foundation courses prior to enrolling in this course.) Introduces students with a social science/humanities background a basic introduction to the biology and chemistry of the aging human brain and how these changes affect behavior.

GERON 5612 Mechanisms Of Aging III: Diseases Of Aging: 1 semester hour
Same as SOC WK 5612 and PSYCH 5612. Prerequisites: GERON 5610 and GERON 5611 or SOC WK 5610 and SOC WK 5611 or PSYCH 5610 and PSYCH 5611 or equivalent, or consent of instructor. (MSW students normally take all foundation courses prior to enrolling in this course.) Provides students with a social sciences/humanities background with information on how diseases associated with aging exacerbate the effects of aging on the human body, mind, and behavior.

GERON 5620 Dying, Grief & Death in Older Adulthood: 3 semester hours
Same as SOC WK 5620. Prerequisite: Six hours of graduate level gerontology, psychology, counseling and/or social work coursework, or special approval from the instructor. Undergraduates in their senior year may also request approval for entry from the Director of Gerontology. For those planning to work with older adults in counseling, healthcare, hospice, and/or community support settings. Will examine trajectories to death in older age, the dying process, influences of medical and aging-related conditions, euthanasia and suicide, life extension and longevity, personal beliefs and existential responses, how individuals and families cope, ethical concerns, and strategies for supportive intervention. Topics are addressed from clinical, supportive care, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

GERON 6120 Theory and Practice with Older Adults: 3 semester hours
Same as SOC WK 6120. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing. Examines the relationship of moral and ethic values in aging and how that differs from younger adult populations; how ethnicity, gender, social class, and sexual orientation interact with age and create special intervention issues; discussion of ethical and value issues (e.g. client autonomy, rationing of health care); examination of family and community resources in providing care; and interventions with physically or mentally disabled elders and elders in residential settings.

GERON 6130 Interviewing Older Adults And Life Review: 3 semester hours
Same as SOC WK 6130. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing. This course combines training in interviewing techniques with video editing/production. Students will learn how to conduct life review interviews with older adults, and then take these skills into the community by interviewing older adults living in various settings. Students will learn the use of a digital video camera and edit video clips on the computer. Student-conducted interviews will be viewed by the instructor and classmates, issues associated with aging will be discussed, and constructive feedback provided. Some of the video clips developed in the course will become part of an educational video clip library.

GERON 6441 Aging And Health Behavior: 3 semester hours
Same as PSYCH 6441. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. This course examines sociocultural influences on health care practices of older adults. The role of social support and other social resources in the health behavior of older adults is emphasized. Topics include self care decisions, formal service utilization, family caregiving, and planned interventions for older adults.

GERON 6443 Health Care Policy: 3 semester hours
Same as P P ADM 6430, POL SCI 6443, and SOC WK 6443. Prerequisites: Graduate level standing or consent of instructor. Survey course examining current issues in health policy that face the nation. Policies are placed in a historical context to show how issues have been influenced by different political and economic conditions. Secondary consequences and limitations of current trends in health policy are explored.

GERON 6444 Seminar In Public Policy And Aging: 3 semester hours
Same as P P ADM 6444, and POL SCI 6444. The study of specialized issues and methods related to federal, state, and local policies that affect the elderly. Potential policy areas to be covered include: housing, taxation, mental health, transportation, etc. May be repeated for credit, provided the subject matter is different.
GERON 6449 Issues In Retirement: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate standing. This course examines macro and micro issues of retirement in the United States—its processes, causes, and consequences—in relation to economic market conditions, demographic changes, and programs and policies that are targeted to support the elderly (e.g., Social Security). It also examines issues relating to older women and retirement.

GERON 6450 Gerontological Assessment: 3 semester hours
Same as SOC WK 6450. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. This course provides an overview of psychosocial assessment with older adults and their family caregivers. Major areas of gerontological assessment practice are considered, including dementia, mood disorders, suicide, grief, alcoholism, elder abuse/neglect, family caregiving, and interdisciplinary team issues.

GERON 6460 Long Term Care Administration: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Graduate Standing. This course provides an overview of long term care programs and services for older adults. Administrative issues are reviewed, including patient services, state licensure requirements, human resource management, and reimbursement practices. Characteristics of well-functioning facilities are addressed, as well as consultation with families during the placement decision process.

GERON 6470 Epidemiology of Aging: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Graduate Standing. This course reviews the distribution and determinants of health-related conditions and functional concerns in older populations. An emphasis is placed on key concepts and methodological considerations for conducting epidemiological studies. Students learn about the epidemiology of selected diseases, syndromes and conditions common to older age, including various trajectories of physical and cognitive decline. Also discussed are the roles that epidemiological data play in the development of interventions to control and prevent age-related disease and inform public health decision-making and evidence-based geriatric practice.

GERON 6490 Directed Study: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor. Designed to give the student an opportunity to pursue a more in-depth study of a problem area in gerontology than is normally covered in more formal courses. May be repeated for a total of six credit hours.

GERON 6495 Practicum In Gerontology: 3 semester hours
This course provides supervised work experience in an agency that serves older adults. Students are required to complete a minimum of 150 clock hours at the practicum site.

GERON 6496 Advanced Practicum In Gerontology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: GERON 6495 and consent of instructor. This course provides advanced practicum experience beyond GERON 6495. Students must complete a minimum of 150 clock hours of supervised field work (service or research) with older adults.

GERON 6497 Interdisciplinary Geriatric Care: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. Same as VIS SCI 6497. Interdisciplinary approaches that address the medical, social, instrumental and functional needs of older adults will be examined. Information about geriatric care management and social issues affecting the well-being of older adults will be provided. Clinical, theoretical, and educational perspectives will be presented.

GERON 6498 Advanced Seminar In Gerontology: 3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Graduate standing. This course will provide in-depth analysis of specialized topics in gerontology which are not covered in required courses. (Course may be repeated for a maximum of nine credits, assuming topics are different.).

GERON 6499 Topics In Gerontology: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Analysis of a current problem in gerontology. (Course may be repeated for maximum of five credits, assuming topics are different.).

GERON 6500 Practicum in Geronotological Research: 3 semester hours
Prerequisites: GERON 6495 and consent of the instructor. A supervised social science research experience involving a combination of two or more of the following activities: literature review, hypothesis generation, study design and proposal, IRB application, participant recruitment, data collection, data management, data analysis, and report/article generation.

GERON 6510 Directed Research in Aging: 1-3 semester hours
Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor. Designed to give the student an opportunity to explore a question of interest from a qualitative and/or quantitative research perspective. This supervised experience may include one or more of the following activities (depending on enrolled hours): literature review, hypothesis generation, study design and proposal, IRB application, participant recruitment, data collection, data management, data analysis, and report/article generation.