

Gerontology (GERN)

GERN 300 THE JOURNEY OF ADULTHOOD (3)

Introduces the study of aging from biological, psychological, sociological, and environmental perspectives. Aging is presented as a normal state of development with both positive and negative aspects. Specific issues discussed include: health care, housing, income maintenance, and advocacy. Satisfies GE Area E (The Integrated Person).

GERN 317 EMOTIONS AND ADULT LIFE (4)

Emphasizes the social context and social development of emotional responses throughout adulthood. Analyzes the reciprocal relations between social definitions and subjective feelings in connection with life events throughout adulthood. Addresses both basic emotions, such as fear, anger, pleasure, and excitement, and more complex emotions, such as love, jealousy, grief, sympathy, pride, shame, and despair. Cross-listed as SOCI 317. Satisfies GE Area E (The Integrated Person).

GERN 319 AGING AND SOCIETY (4)

Examination of aging throughout adulthood. Analysis of theories of aging, their foundations in social science theory, and their policy implications. Exploration of the meanings and consequences of increasing longevity for society and the individual, with emphasis on the social psychological implications for women, minorities, and those who are poor. Satisfies GE Area D1 (Individual and Society). Cross-listed as SOCI 319.

GERN 332 DEATH AND AMERICAN CULTURE (4)

The relation of cultural values to practices, attitudes, and views about death. Application of sociological and psychological theories to topics on death and dying, such as death conceptions, terminal care, suicide, war, and grief. Emphasis on the social psychology of dying, caregiving, grieving, and being suicidal. Cross-listed as SOCI 332.

GERN 399 STUDENT-INITIATED COURSE (1-4)

A course designed by an advanced student, approved by the gerontology program, and taught by the student under the supervision of his/her faculty sponsor. Consult the Schedule of Classes for topic to be studied.

GERN 408 TRANSITIONS IN ADULT DEVELOPMENT (4)

This course explores how women and men experience and shape the transitions that occur as they mature socially and psychologically. Inquiry includes normative life cycle transitions as well as unexpected, unusual, or "off-time" transitions and develops understandings of how these transitions shape the development of an individual through adulthood and later life. Cross-listed as PSY 408. Prerequisite: junior-level standing.

GERN 421 PSYCHOLOGY OF AGING (4)

Analysis of psychological development as a lifelong process. Examination of theories of psychological growth in later life. Exploration of the role of memory for learning and psychological functioning. Study of issues in mental health in adulthood. Cross-listed as PSY 421. Prerequisite: Junior-level standing or instructor permission.

GERN 422 LIVING AND DYING (4)

Explores personal values and attitudes about life and death and seeks to understand them in relation to our own psychology and to the larger social context. Topics of separation and loss, loss as a transformative process, aging, the dying process, bereavement, suicide, homicide, near-death experiences, mythology, and immortality will be addressed. Cross-listed as PSY 422. Prerequisite: Junior-level standing.

GERN 438 PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DISABILITY (3-4)

This course is designed to give participants a better understanding of people with disabilities and an awareness of how society regards them. The disabilities addressed range from traumatic physical injuries through progressive diseases and conditions to mental retardation, alcoholism and emotional disabilities. The class is appropriate for anyone interested in disability, whether for personal or professional reasons. Cross-listed with PSY 438.

GERN 482 TEACHING INTERNSHIP (1-4)

Students learn the skills of organization and communication of psychological theory and research under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Prerequisites: GERN 300 and consent of instructor.

GERN 490 INTERNSHIP SEMINAR (1)

In this optional seminar, students report on the progress of their internships and discuss institutional procedures and interactional processes particular to their intern sites. Case and data management techniques will be discussed. The seminar allows opportunity for group problem-solving, objective analysis of internship issues, and enhancement of professional networks. Prerequisites: concurrent enrollment in GERN 499 and consent of instructor.

GERN 493 NARRATIVE: THEORIES AND METHODS (4)

The course examines the role of narrative, or life storying, in human development research. Students will develop a protocol, conduct research in the community using interview methodologies appropriate to the narrative perspective, analyze transcriptions for theoretical and life themes, and develop a final project based on the analysis of the data. Cross-listed as PSY 493.

GERN 495 SPECIAL STUDIES (1-4)

Students may propose to participate in independent projects or continuing research with the approval and guidance of the faculty member. The special study may extend for more than one semester. May be repeated for credit.

GERN 499 GERONTOLOGY PRACTICUM (1-4)

Field experience in an agency or organizational setting in which the student combines work with academic preparation in programs concerned with aging and/or health. A-F or Cr/NC. May be repeated for credit.

GERN 500 SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES IN AGING (2-4)

Analysis of the aging process and its social implications. Selected issues provide exploration of relationships between psychological and social development in later life. Developmental, historical, cultural, psychological, and policy perspectives may be offered. Consult Schedule of Classes for specific topic. Cross-listed as PSY 500. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor. May be repeated for credit.

GERN 515 GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR (1-4)

Intensive review of literature in specific areas of concentration. Emphasis is on individual student's research interests. Includes research design and implementation. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

GERN 561 POLITICS OF HEALTH AND AGING (4)

An examination of U.S. state and local health care and aging policy and administration. Cross-listed as POLS 509.

GERN 582 TEACHING COLLEGE GERONTOLOGY (1-4)

Practical experience of supervised teaching in a college gerontology classroom. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

GERN 583 GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT (1-4)

Students learn advanced research methods and practical research skills under the supervision of a faculty member. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

GERN 595 SPECIAL STUDIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (1-4)

Students should formulate plans for a project and present them to a faculty member for sponsorship. Special forms for this purpose are available in the department office. Prerequisites: graduate standing and consent of instructor.