

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**SOC 4550: Sociology of Aging**  
**Spring, 2023, MWF 9:30-10:50, Wooten Hall, Room 116**

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**Office Hours: by appointment**

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## **I. Learning Objectives**

- A. to understand how aging has been viewed over time
- B. to gain knowledge of social, psychological, and biological aspects of aging
- C. to gain knowledge of aging and its relationship to politics, family, sexuality
- D. to understand the use and evolution of assisted-living, nursing homes, and health services
- E. to understand social security, Medicare, Medicaid, and health insurance for the Aged
- F. to gain knowledge of government and non-profit services for the elderly

## **II. Learning Components**

- A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following book is required reading (available on Amazon.com and at UNT bookstore):

Required:

Hillier, Susan and George Barrow (2014). Aging, the Individual, and Society. Boston, Mass.: Cengage.

- B. Class time: will be focused on the objectives through class lectures, discussions, videos, and when it can be arranged professionals speaking to the class

## **III. Course Policies**

- A. Class Attendance: regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. Students can gain extra credit points by attending class (see below). Students will not be penalized for missing class unless a student misses more than half of the scheduled classes. In this case, the student will have three points subtracted from his/her final semester score (average of four tests). Students will likewise be penalized if they come to class late or leave class early for more than half of the scheduled classes since these disrupt the class (if this is unavoidable, please speak with me). Students who miss no or only a few classes during the semester may be given much leeway in grading (e.g., a grade of 88 might be moved up to a 90 and an "A").
- B. Academic integrity: as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean.

- C. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior (including continual texting during class) will not receive extra credit for class attendance and may be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)
- D. Special Needs: UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. I strongly encourage you to use this service particularly if you are struggling through a difficult time in your life. It certainly can't hurt and it may help a great deal (the Dept of Psychology also offers counseling services). For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See Dr. Yeatts and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- E. Cell Phones, texting, and not giving attention: you should know that many professors and instructors find it insulting when a student in class is constantly texting or using his/her phone or otherwise focused on other things than class. Consequently, if the time comes that the student wants some "leeway" in her/his grade, and the student has constantly not paid attention during class, no leeway will be given and *points could be removed*.
- F. Laptops may not be used in class unless the student sits in the front row or a location where other students are not distracted. Unfortunately, past experience shows that some students with laptops use them for purposes other than the class and this, in turn, distracts students around them.
- G. UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to my webpage ([www.yeatts.us](http://www.yeatts.us)) for contingency plans for covering course materials.
- H. Grading: final grades will be based on the following:
1. Four (4) tests will be given worth 25% each of your final grade. The tests are cumulative only to the extent that it may be difficult to understand one chapter without having read and understood the previous chapters. The format may include one or all of the following: multiple choice, true/false questions and discussion questions.

You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of a test so **do not ask to use the restroom** in the middle of a test (unfortunately a few of us would use this as an opportunity to review our notes in the middle of taking the test).

2. Test Dates:

Feb. 14 (Tuesday)	Test 1	25%
March 9 (Thursday)	Test 2	25%
April 11 (Tuesday)	Test 3	25%
May (11 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday, 8:30-10:00am)	Test 4 (during exam week)	25%

3. Make-up Tests: students will lose one letter grade but will be allowed to makeup a test within one week from the original exam day. The test score will be reduced by one letter grade unless there is documentation or other means of verifying an illness or other serious situation or the student has missed no classes. If you have multiple tests on the same day, let me know in advance of the test and we can reschedule your test.
4. Class Participation: Those who contribute meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas may receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade (unless the student has missed a lot of class). For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90. Similarly, those who attend all (or almost all) classes may receive extra points.
5. Extra Credit Opportunity: Please see “**Opportunity for Extra Credit**” below for details.

I. How to Study for Tests:

1. Read carefully and give thought to the assigned chapters to be covered on the test (ideally keep up weekly; there are not a lot of pages to read but there is a lot of information and thought provoking ideas within the pages).
2. Learn the major concepts and ideas presented in the chapters.
3. Learn the information provided during class and on Power Point slides provided on Dr. Yeatts’ webpage ([www.yeatts.us](http://www.yeatts.us)).
4. **Study guide questions/possible discussion questions** will be placed on Dr. Yeatts’ web page ([www.yeatts.us](http://www.yeatts.us)) before the test is given.

**IV. Schedule of Class Topics and Reading Assignments**

Week 1 (January 17):

Overview of class  
Chapter 1: Aging in America  
youtube: experience of being old

Week 2 (January 26):

Chapter 4: Physical Health and Well-Being  
Pages 141-153 found in Chapter 5 (functional and organic mental disorders)

Week 3 (February 2):

Chapter 6: Friends, Family, and Community

Week 4 (February 7)

Chapter 6 continued: Friends, Family and Community

**Test 1 on Chapters 1, 4, 6, some pages from 5 and PowerPoint slides (February 14, Tuesday)  
(all PowerPoint slides shown in class will be provided before the test on Dr. Yeatts' webpage;  
films listed in the syllabus may or may not be shown depending on time available)**

Week 5 (February 16):

Chapter 7: Intimacy and Sexuality

Week 6 (February 23):

Chapter 10: Living Environments

Week 7 (March 2):

Chapter 11: The Oldest-Old and Caregiving

**Test 2, Week 8, on Chapters 7, 10, 11 and PowerPoints (March 9, Thursday)  
(all PowerPoint slides shown in class will be provided before the test on Dr. Yeatts' webpage;  
films listed in the syllabus may or may not be shown depending on time available)**

**Week 9: SPRING BREAK (March 13 – 19)**

Week 10 (March 21)

Chapter 14: Death and Dying

Week 11 (March 28)

Chapter 15: Politics, Policies, Programs

Week 12 (April 4):

Chapter 12: Special Problems (e.g., crime, elder abuse, fraud, alcoholism, drug abuse)

**Test 3 on Chapters 14, 15, and 12 (April 11, Tuesday)**

**(all PowerPoint slides shown in class will be provided before the test on Dr. Yeatts' webpage;  
films listed in the syllabus may or may not be shown depending on time available)**

Week 13 (April 13)

Chapter 8: Work and Leisure

Week 14 (April 20)

Chapter 9: Finances and Lifestyles

Week 15 (April 27)

Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid (extension of Chapters 8 and 9)

**Test 4 on Chapters 8 and 9 and PowerPoint slides: taken on Exam Day for our class day/time (May 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 8:30-10:00am)**

### **Opportunity for Extra Credit Points**

A student will obtain an extra credit point for each class period when s/he: (1) attends class, (2) comes to class on time, (3) stays for the entire class period, and (4) is engaged in the class (reading your phone or doing other work during class will result in no extra point that day). Extra credit points accumulated will be added to the student's next test score. A student who does not miss class may accumulate up to 8 points to be added to his/her next test grade (e.g., a test score of  $82 + 8 = 90 = A$ ).

**Covid Related Information:** UNTs Student Health Center does Covid testing if you would like to get tested. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also encourages you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

**\*\*\*If our class is moved on line, we will keep everything as it is currently planned but, instead of meeting in class, we will meet through zoom (meeting id: 9404537257). Students who log in to the class and are visible will receive an extra point for that day. The tests will be given on line through canvas.**