Introduction to the Study of Aging  
Gerontology M140 (224-540-200)  
Psychology M140 (328-510-200)  
Social Welfare M140 (319-540-200)  

Fall Quarter 2008  

Instructor and Office Hours: Professor Larry L. Butcher; Department of Psychology, UCLA; 8623 Franz Hall; Office Hours: TR 10:00-10:45 AM or by appointment. E = butcher@psych.ucla.edu. Guest experts in gerontology will lecture as needed.

Classroom and Time: Haines Hall 220, TR 11:00 AM -12:15 PM.

Course Description: Broadly conceived, aging refers to developmental changes occurring at the end stages of life, albeit with a time course seemingly slower than that during childhood and early adulthood. Some of the alterations that occur represent improvement; others are detrimental. Major goals of this class will be (1) to chart, analyze, and evaluate the impact of the human aging process on our anatomy and physiology, psychology, sociology, economics, and policy strategies and (2) to explore ways in which positive changes can be maximally utilized and the impact of detrimental alterations minimized.


Evaluation: One midterm and one final examination will be given. Both examinations will be objective (i.e., multiple choice, true-false) and will be computer scored. The midterm will represent 30% of the final grade (60 questions) and the final 45% (90 questions). The final will stress the second half of the class, but some questions, approximately 15%, will address the first half of the quarter as well. No make-up examinations will be given. Examinations will only be given at their scheduled times. 

An important part of the class, 25% of the final grade, will be performance in debate sessions on specialized, but controversial, topics in gerontology. This debate series will commence after the midterm examination and will continue until the end of class. Topics, conceivably subject to change, are listed below.

Important Dates: Classes start Thursday, 25 September 2008. Tuesday, November 11 and Thursday, November 27, are holidays. Midterm examination: Thursday, 23 October 2008, 11:00 AM-12:15 PM, 118 Haines Hall. Final examination: Thursday, 4 December 2008, 11:00 AM-12:15 PM, 118 Haines Hall.
<table>
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<th>WEEK OF</th>
<th>TOPIC AND TEXT READINGS</th>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Introduction: terminology, methodology, and trends (pp. 1-66)</td>
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| September 29 | Theories of aging (pp. 67-74)  
Diseases and chronic conditions in aging (pp. 114-170) |
| October 6 | Physical changes that accompany aging, continued. |
| October 13 | Learning, memory, and speed of behavior as a function of aging (pp. 171-207)  
Love, intimacy, and sexuality (pp. 271-300) |
| October 20 | Intellect, personality, and mental health (pp. 208-270)  
MIDTERM EXAMINATION  
Thursday (October 23), 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM. |
| October 27 | Will future elderly persons experience more years of disability? (review pp. 115-124)  
Is aging more problematic for women than for men? (pp. 639-670) |
| November 3 | Are the elderly benefiting at the expense of younger Americans? (pp. 674-715)  
Should older persons have the right to commit suicide? (review pp. 234-235) |
| November 10 | Should family members be paid to provide care to elderly relatives? (pp. 333-384) |
| November 17 | Do the elderly really have political clout? (pp 518-525)  
Will elder abuse increase in the 21st century? (pp. 407-414) |
| November 24 | Should elder individuals over the age of 75 have their driver’s licenses revoked? (review pp. 144-146) |
| December 2 | Will tomorrow’s elderly be better off? (pp. 474-518, 525-538)  
FINAL EXAMINATION  
Thursday (December 4), 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM. |

For information concerning the Gerontology Minor see: www.gerontol.bol.ucla.edu.