COURSE SYLLABUS

OVERVIEW

The social and cultural texture of society is rapidly changing. Primarily driven by demographics, with the maturing of a large number of older adults from varying ethnic backgrounds. This course examines the attitudes and cultural values of elderly members of ethnic and minority groups. Major social and psychological theories of aging will be analyzed as they relate to the experiences of older adults from diverse cultural backgrounds. Influence of class, gender, economic resources and health on the aging process will be explored.

Older people are a very heterogeneous group, across many dimensions. Some of these dimensions include cohort, income, education, gender, sexual preference, religion, and ethnicity. However, society relegates older adults to “minority group” status. Those older adults who are members of one or more minority group(s) by reason of race, ethnicity, gender, etc., present special cases, which have not yet received much attention through research. This course examines the variability and heterogeneity among older adults on the basis of their ethnicity, gender, and sexual preference.

COURSE GOALS

At the conclusion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Identify, discuss, and analyze basic social and psychological theories of aging which influence minority older people.

2. Identify current gerontological basic research related to ethnicity and minority status;

3. Outline historical developments in ethnic and minority aging groups;
4. Identify current service issues in ethnic and minority aging;

5. Identify social factors affecting the status of ethnic and minority elderly;

6. Identify programs that address the special needs of ethnic and minority elderly in contemporary societies; and

7. Analyze current political developments, which may or have already influenced the quality of life of diverse older individuals.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

Each student is expected to undertake specific activities to complete the course. Activities and/or projects are to be the original work of each student or group of students. Activities include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Participation in class;

2. Analysis of films, slides, and videos shown in class;

3. Undertake midterm exam, complete final paper; and

3. Presentation to the class.

You will need to get a gmail account to access all course details posted on google sites.

Your assignments are due on the dates posted on the syllabus. There will not be any makeup tests or assignments.

Criteria for grading papers:

The course will be graded on attendance (29%), (31%: 11% for presentation, 20% for submitted paper), Mid-term (40%).
PRACTICAL EXERCISE

The class will be randomly divided into 6 groups on the first day of the course. The six groups comprise the six ethnic/special interest groups that we will be discussing in this class.

Group 1 = Latinos/as
Group 2 = African Americans
Group 3 = Asians
Group 4 = Pacific Islanders
Group 5 = American Indians and Alaska Natives
Group 6 = Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender

The number you are assigned is your group number. If you are not provided with a number it is your responsibility to contact the professor to obtain one by the second class of the course. Each student in the group will concentrate on a specific aspect of that group's topic.

Students assigned to one group will present together, in sequence. Each student will have a powerpoint on one of the seven topics (as defined below). Each student will select a unique topic. Students cannot share topics. This way each student will have a unique assignment: one of seven topics on one of six ethnic/special interest groups. You will also provide the professor with a hard copy of your paper during your presentation. The paper will be at least three pages single spaced with at least five references (approximately 1000 words.) Include your name, the course name and date, your topic and your group on the first page of the paper.

If you are absent for this presentation you will be required to present by yourself during another class. You will need to coordinate among the group to ensure that you are not repeating the same information. If there is duplication both submissions will be downgraded.

When you have been assigned a group number, you are required to meet as a group and decide which aspect each student will take. Each student will select one of seven topics (SEE INSTRUCTOR), students must select exclusive headings (ie no two students will cover the same topic): (For LGBT see notes at the end of each paragraph since this format needs to be modified.)

The presentation will be graded. Have a Powerpoint of your topic and present it together with the group. You will present it in the sequence presented above for each topic. Check below for class when you are expected to make the presentation.

Mid-term Exam

There will be a mid-term Exam. The exam will constitute 40% of your final grade. The exam includes all material covered in Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 (only Chapter 2 will be skipped) from the required text, Mehrotra CM, Lisa S. Wagner LS. Aging and Diversity: An Active Learning Experience, 2nd Edition.
Routledge. 2008. And questions from the required text the Souls Speaks (Class 5) and Race Paper (Class 4).

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Aging and Diversity
An Active Learning Experience, 2nd Edition
By Chandra M. Mehrotra, Lisa S. Wagner

Published December 16th 2008 by Routledge
...buy it online...

Learning resource prepared by:
Rosemary Chapin, Ph.D. Holly Nelson-Becker, Theresa Gordon, Sarah Terrebonne. School of Social Welfare University of Kansas 2002

2. The Soul Speaks, by Zara Marselian (Class 5)
This book can be obtained from SDSU Bookstore or

CLASS SCHEDULE
Class 1 22 January
Introduction
Class 2 27 January
Why should we care?
Aging and Diversity
Class 3 29 January
Age Discrimination
Class 4 3 February
Ethnicity vs Race
Class 5 5 February

Immigrants
Class 6 10 February

Demographic Context: International
Class 7 12 February

Demographic Context: USA
Class 8 17 February

Informal and Formal Care
Class 9 19 February

Psychology of Aging
Class 10 24 February

Health Beliefs, Behavior and Services
Class 11 26 February

Inequity in Health
Class 12 3 March

Work Retirement and Leisure
Programs and Services
Class 13 5 March

Religious Affiliation and Spirituality
Class 14 10 March

Midterm EXAM
Class 15 12 March

Death Dying and Bereavement
Class 16 17 March

Latino Older Adults
Class 17 19 March

African American Older Adults
Class 18 24 March

Asian Older Adults
Class 19   26 March
Pacific Islanders Older Adults

SPRING RECESS

Class 20   7 April
American Indian and Alaska Native Older Adults

Class 21   9 April
Lesbian Gay and Bi-Transsexual Older Adults

Class 22   14 April
Research and Writing

Class 23   16 April
Group Work/ Tutorial

Class 24   21 April GROUP PRESENTATION: Latino/Hispanic Older Adults

Class 25   23 April GROUP PRESENTATION: African American Older Adults

Class 26   28 April GROUP PRESENTATION: Asian Older Adults

Class 27   30 April GROUP PRESENTATION: Pacific Islanders Older Adults

Class 28   5 May GROUP PRESENTATION: American Indian/Alaska Native Older Adults

Class 29   7 May GROUP PRESENTATION: Lesbian Gay and Bi-Transsexual Older Adults