



COURSE TITLE/SECTION: SOCW 7336/24001: Issues in aging

TIME: Monday 9:00-12:00 noon

FACULTY: W. A. Achenbaum

E-mail: achenbaum@uh.edu

Phone: 713-743-8070

I. Course

A. Catalog Description

Cr. 3 (3-0). This course provides an overview of the aging population, the service delivery systems, challenges and opportunities facing older adults and key issues in aging.

B. Purpose

This course will examine the changing demographics of older adults in the United States and provide an overview of key issues that impact service delivery including an understanding of the unique needs of older adults, the aging process, resiliency, diversity, influence of policies, and financial and legal issues.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define key and significant trends in the demographics of the aging population;
2. Develop a working knowledge of the policies, systemic issues, and forces shaping the service delivery system for the aging population as well as barriers to services;
3. Describe the normal and abnormal aging process and the range of physical and mental health needs along the functional continuum;
4. Analyze the implications of political forces and importance of continuing Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as social supports for older adults;

5. Explore the role of family and the impact of aging on family caregivers;
6. Identify the influence of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender and sexual orientation on the process of aging and service delivery; and
7. Define the role of gerontological social workers as providers and advocates for the aging population across diverse settings.

III. Course Structure

SOCW 7336/24001 through readings, class discussions and three written assignments will present gerontology as opportunity for social workers to apply theory in real-life (and death) situations with a diverse and increasingly significant segment of our population.

IV. Textbooks

H. R. Moody, AGING, 6th ed. (Pine Forge Press, 2010)

Tillie Olsen and Leo Tolstoy, THE RIDDLE OF LIFE AND DEATH (Feminist Press, 2007).

V. Course Requirements

- A. Students will keep up with readings in order to participate
- B. There are three written assignments. The first two entail a synthesis (4-5 pages in length) of a week's reading between February 7 and 21 AND between March 21 and April 4. The second paper, 10-15 pages in length, can be of the student's choice subject to my approval. Group papers are permissible.
- C. There will be no mid-term or final examination.

VI. Evaluation and Grading

- A. **GENERAL:** In accordance with GCSW policies, two absences (granted before class) are permitted. Excessive absences, excused or not, will adversely affect grades. Given the subject matter, all of us should exercise care to respect diversity of backgrounds and opinions. Questioning ideas is fine; derogating people is not. Essential to learning is establishing a level of trust.
- B. **EVALUATION:** Class participation counts 30%, each of the syntheses is worth 15%; the final paper is worth 40%.

C. GRADES: Incompletes, in accordance with UH policy, will be given only in instances that, for reasons beyond a student's control, a temporary and conditional grade is warranted. Students are responsible for informing me immediately the reasons for being unable to complete an assignment. Unfinished assignments must be completed early within the next term. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete unfinished assignments. A grade of "I" cannot be changed to a grade of "W," but within a year of its granting will automatically revert to an "F" or a "U."

The following grading scale has been accepted at GCSW:

A = 96-100%	C+=76-78.9
A-=92-95.9	C =72-75.9
B+=88-91.9	C-=68-71.9
B =84-87.9	D =64-67.9
B-=80-83.9	

D. PLAGIARISM: To avoid any confusion concerning plagiarism, please consult and use the University Policy on Student Dishonesty in the UH Student Handbook and adhere to the APA style manual. The contents of ALL papers in GCSW must adhere to APA format, with due credit given to any authors whose ideas (on line or in print) you incorporate in your work as your work. Direct quotations—using at least four words from specific author(s) must be set in quotation marks or set aside as an indented quotation. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense: Anyone incorporating another person's ideas or words without appropriate citation will receive an F in this course. Other actions may be taken by the College to suspend or expel a student found to be dishonest.

E. ACCOMMODATIONS: Whenever possible and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Students must contact the UH Center for DisABILITIES. For information call 713.743.5400 or go on line, <http://www.uh.edu/csd/>

F. OFFICE HOURS: I will be in room 333 from 7 to 11 on Tuesday mornings. For an appointment at another time, call me at 3-8070 or email achenbaum@uh.edu

CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE

January 24	Introduction
January 31	Olsen, "Tell me a riddle"
February 7	Moody, 1 (First assignment, 4-5 pages, summarizing points of convergence or divergence in week's reading due today, Feb. 14, or Feb 21)
February 14	Moody, 2
February 21	Moody, 3
February 28	Aging Policy 101 with Tziona Regev & Andy Achenbaum
March 7	Moody, 4
March 14	Spring Break
March 21	Moody, 5 (Second assignment due on or before April 4)
March 26	Moody, 6
April 4	Moody, 7
April 11	Moody, 8
April 18	Moody, 9
April 25	Moody, 10
May 2	Moody, 11
May 6	Term paper due. Negotiate with instructor a paper topic that stirs your imagination. Do a literature review. How does this topic relate to other things you know in gerontology and in social work? What work do you want to know. The paper should be 10-15 pages in length; it is due in my office by Friday noon.