

**ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT:  
ADULT DEVELOPMENT AND AGING**

COURSE INFO: FALL 2008  
HDFS 431e/631e  
TH 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.  
WRB 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye  
Office: SFB 207 or 523H AB  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:00 or by appointment  
Phone: 784-7010 (voice mail messages) or leave  
message with Social Work Receptionist  
at 784-6542  
E-mail: [kfrye@unr.edu](mailto:kfrye@unr.edu) (better way to reach me)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Adult development (aging) occurs in a variety of contexts. Emphasis will be placed on viewing development from a multidisciplinary, multifaceted approach. As we age, changes and/or stability are evident in a variety of processes and behaviors. We will consider various theories developed to address these issues and factors that impact the lifestyles of older adults. We will also consider alternative relationships, work issues and public policy among older adults.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Kart, C. S., & Kinney, J. M. (2001). *The realities of aging: An introduction to gerontology (6<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon Publishers.

Binstock, R. H., & George, L. K. (2006). *Handbook of aging and the social sciences (6<sup>th</sup> edition)*. San Diego: Academic Press. ISBN # 0-12-088388-0

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will develop an understanding of adult development and aging drawing from information in the course lecture, discussions, and class materials.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the materials through integration of material in course assignments.
3. Students will examine possible causes or sources of stability and change in adult development.

4. Students will gain insight into how different theoretical perspectives affect or determine research and applications that arise from them.
5. Students will gain enhanced awareness of the ways in which family, social, political, and cultural trends affect older adults.
6. Students will share perspectives and contribute to class discussions through attendance and graduate class presentations.
7. Students will learn about aging in our society through integration of course material with service learning experiences via assignments.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS (BOTH UNDERGRADUATES AND GRADUATES):

1. **Exams.** There will be one midterm and one final exam based on lecture, textbook material, videos, and class presentations (worth 100 points each). Both exams will be essay format and take the class period. Only in the case of medical emergencies and university-related business (with proper documentation) will make-up exams be allowed. Please contact Dr. Kopera-Frye for such circumstances. **(200 points)**
2. **Required Reading & Participation.** You will be expected to have completed assigned readings for class according to the days listed next to the relevant topic on the reading grid. The course syllabus provides details about dates on which specified chapters will be discussed--be ready to participate in the discussions for class. **(100 points)**
3. **Generational Interview.** Each student will be required to complete an interview with an older adult and develop a paper that integrates information presented in lecture and assigned readings with aspects of aging in the individual's life. You will be expected to integrate four additional readings beyond the required class readings. Guidelines for required questions, question development, and paper write-up details will be provided separately. **(100 points)**
4. **Class Assignments.** You will be given four assignments (2 individual, 2 group) to complete outside of class. These will involve answering questions based on the viewing of videos in class (25 points), observation in community settings such as the local senior center (25 points), and 2 group assignments involving service learning projects at community sites (20 hours individual time commitment for each, worth 75 points each). Details on each will be given to you in class ahead of time. Respective due dates and guidelines will be given separately. The first assignment will be based on answering questions after viewing the 2 videos the first day of class. The write-up of answers is due for September 4th class. **(200 points total across the 4 assignments).**

**GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY-ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENT:**

Graduate students will be required to pick a topic of their choice from the course content (2 textbooks) and prepare a one hour class lecture on that topic the day it is scheduled according to this syllabus. No extra resources need to be included, however, you will be responsible for presenting the content and leading a 15-minute discussion afterwards. I will fill in the remaining content for the class which does not get covered. For you, this will count towards your participation points.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION POLICY:**

It is the policy of this institution that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any individual in employment or in its programs or activities at The University of Nevada-Reno because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, or status as a veteran. The University of Nevada-Reno prohibits sexual harassment of any form in all aspects of employment and in its programs and activities and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual and racial or ethnic orientation in employment and admissions.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

2 Exams (100 points each)	200
1 Generational Interview	100
4 Assignments (variable points each, see above)	200
Classroom Participation	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>

The Final Grade will be based on the following distribution of points:

A = 580 - 600 points	C = 460 - 479 points
A- = 560 - 579 points	C- = 440 - 459 points
B+= 540 - 559 points	D+ = 420 - 439 points
B = 520 - 539 points	D = 400 - 419 points
B- = 500 - 519 points	D- = 380 - 399 points
C+= 480 - 499 points	F = below 380

## HDFS 431e/631e: COURSE OUTLINE:

**\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT!!!! PLEASE NOTE: ABBREVIATIONS IN READING**

**ASSIGNMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:** "R" and a number refers to chapter number in The Realities of Aging textbook whereas "H" preceding a number refers to that chapter number in the Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences

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DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
8/28	Introduction to course, syllabus, assignments, exams; Assignment #1 distributed–video questions	None
9/4	Intro to gerontology Research methods  <b>Assignment #1 due</b>	R1 & R2; H1 & H2
9/11	Aging demographics & their impact	R3, H5
9/18	Biomedical aspects of the aging process	R4, R5, H24
9/25	Health <b>Generational Interview project due</b>	R6 H14, H17
10/2	Psychological aspects of aging	R7, H18
10/9	Social aspects of aging Self & Roles	R8, R9 H7
10/16	<b>MIDTERM– above content only</b>	
10/23	Family & social support <b>Assignment #2 due</b>	R10 H4, H10
10/30	Work, leisure, & retirement Politics of aging	R12, H12 R13
11/6	Religion and aging <b>(SL Project hours completed by 11/13)</b>	R14, H16

11/13	Ethnic diversity <b>Group SL Projects Completed &amp; Reports (Assignments 3 &amp; 4)</b>	R15, H6
11/20	Long-term care <b>Group SL Projects Completed &amp; Reports (Assignments 3 &amp; 4)</b>	R17 H22
11/27	NO CLASSES—HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!!!!!	
12/4	Health care policy; Death & dying <b>Group SL Projects Completed &amp; Reports (Assignments 3 &amp; 4)</b> Last day of instruction	R18, H21 R19
12/11	<b>FINAL EXAM (Material since midterm only)</b> The final exam is scheduled, according to the University Finals Week Schedule, on <b>Thursday, 12/11, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.</b>	

SOME RESOURCES:

There are several free campus resources you may wish to take advantage of including the Academic Support Center's Tutorial Program and the Writing Center.

The Academic Support Center's Tutorial Program offers content-based assistance as well as learning skills support such as how to improve your notetaking, etc. If interested, please contact Maureen Cronin, Coordinator for the Academic Skills Programs at 784-6801 or email: [mfcronin@scs.unr.edu](mailto:mfcronin@scs.unr.edu) or stop by the Thompson Building, Suite 100 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Writing Center is available to aid with written assignments in this class and your other classes. If interested, please stop by Edmund J. Cain Hall (EJCH) room 206 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to make an appointment or call 784-6030.

Additionally, if you feel you may need special disability accommodations, please contact Mary Zabel, Disability Resource Center, Thompson Building Suite 101, or call 784-6000 or email: [mzabel@unr.edu](mailto:mzabel@unr.edu)

Please note: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

**CELL PHONES AND PAGERS ARE NOT TO BE USED DURING CLASS TIME. PLEASE TURN THEM OFF BEFORE ARRIVING TO CLASS**