

GERONTOLOGY (GER)

GER 3315 - Psychosocial Aspects of Aging - 4 cr.

Provides an overview of the aging individual within a social context. The focus is on characteristics of today's older adult cohort, psychological processes in late life, the social context in which older adults live, and society's response to older adults. Topics include: demographics, stereotypes and attitudes, research methods, theories of development, sensing and responding to the environment, cognitive processes, mental disorders and treatments, death and dying, sexuality, intimate relationships, family relationships, caregiving, employment and retirement, finances, Social Security, Medicare, living environments, ethnicity, gender, social programs, and political power of the older cohort.

Equivalent Course: PSY 3315

GER 3316 - Health and Functioning in Late Life - 4 cr.

Overview of the basic principles and concepts of the normal aging process, including the realities of physical aging and common health deviations. Theories of aging, physiological changes in the older adult, and common chronic diseases are explored. Health promotion, preventive action and the healthcare system for the older adult are components of the course content.

GER 3424 - Mental Health and Aging - 2 cr.

Dedicated to understanding and enhancing the mental and emotional well-being of individuals aged 65 and above. The course achieves this through a comprehensive exploration of social determinants, identifying factors contributing to mental health, describing symptoms and effective treatments for prevalent mental health concerns, and fostering awareness of aging-related values through reflective practices and self-regulation.

Prerequisite Courses: GER 3315 or PSY 3315 or PSY 2208

Equivalent Course: PSY 3424

GER 3777 - Topics in Gerontology - 1-4 cr.

Courses not a part of the regular gerontology curriculum but taught at upper-division level because of special need, interest or opportunity.

GER 4444 - Research in Gerontology - 1-2 cr.

Students either (a) initiate and implement empirical research in an area of special interest or (b) participate in an ongoing empirical research project developed by a faculty member. For student-initiated projects, the student develops the research proposal, conducts the research and reports the research in standard APA format. For faculty-initiated research, students work one-on-one with the faculty member or as part of his/her research team of students. Activities may include doing library research, developing measures, collecting data, analyzing data and writing portions of research reports using APA style.

Prerequisite Courses: consent of supervising faculty member and gerontology program director.

GER 4555 - Gerontology Fieldwork Project - 1-6 cr.

Provides first-hand experience in the field of aging services. Students engage in fieldwork with or advocating for older adults in a community setting. Students must work with a faculty advisor, typically the gerontology program director, to: (a) write a proposal including objectives and strategies for meeting objectives, (b) write a paper in which gerontological concepts are applied to fieldwork experience, and (c) participate in an oral presentation. Evaluation is by the faculty advisor, a faculty reader, and the on-site supervisor.

Prerequisite Courses: 3 gerontology courses and consent of gerontology program director.

GER 4556 - Professional Application of Gerontology - 0,1 cr.

Intended for gerontology minor/certificate students who opt to do their fieldwork as part of supervised field experiences required by their majors. In addition to the fieldwork requirements for the majors, students must work with a faculty advisor, typically the gerontology program director, to: (a) write a proposal including objectives and strategies for meeting objectives, (b) write a paper in which gerontological concepts are applied to fieldwork experience, and (c) participate in an oral presentation. Evaluation is by the faculty advisor, a faculty reader, and the on-site supervisor.

Prerequisite Courses: 3 gerontology courses and consent of gerontology program director.

GER 4999 - Independent Study - 0-4 cr.

Independent study in Gerontology.

GER 5556 - Professional Application of Gerontology - 0 cr.

Intended for gerontology minor/certificate students who opt to do their Gerontology Directed Applied Project (GERO-DAP) fieldwork as part of supervised field experiences required by their majors. In addition to the fieldwork requirements for the majors, students must work with a faculty advisor, typically the gerontology program director, to: (a) write the GERO-DAP proposal including objectives and how the objectives will be met, (b) write the GERO-DAP final paper, and (c) participate in the oral exam. Evaluation is by the faculty advisor, a faculty reader, and the on-site supervisor.

Prerequisite Courses: 3 gerontology courses and consent of gerontology program director

GER 5999 - Independent Study - 0-8 cr.

Independent Study.