

**MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Welcomes You To:**

**GRO 120
Gerontology
3 Credit and 3 Contact Hours
Room PS 1**

TERM: Spring 2006

Course Description

This course covers the psychological, social, and physical aspects of aging. Emphasis is placed on the factors that promote mental and physical well-being. Upon completion, students should be able to recognize the aging process and its psychological, social, and physical aspects.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Instructor Information

Instructor	Jackie Wemple
Office Location:	Room 155, Gwaltney Hall
Telephone Number:	828-765-7351 ext. # 238
E-mail Address:	jwemple@mayland.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment

Course Information

Course Meets: **Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00-9:20am
Criminal Justice Building Classroom**

Required Text(s): **Gerontological Social Work: Knowledge, Settings and Special Populations, Schnieder, Kropf, Kisor, 2nd edition**

LRC Resources: **None**

Required supplies: **None**

Course Objectives/Competencies:

1. Explain the societal impact of the demography of aging.
2. Describe the basic aspects of individual aging.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of different theories of aging.
4. Explain the cultural factors that define how older people are perceived.
5. Develop knowledge of housing options, employment opportunities, attitudes towards retirement, and social support systems available to older persons.
6. Experience personally some limitations of the aging process

Attendance Policy/Tardiness/Make-Up Work:

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class meetings. Two or more unexcused absences will result in a letter grade reduction at semester end. Students are expected to be on time and to remain in class until class end. Three tardies or early dismissals will equal one unexcused absence. **Students are requested to contact the instructor prior to any absence.** Make-up tests or work will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Grading Criteria/Tests/Projects:

3 Exams at 20% each.....	60%
Comp Final.....	30%
Class attendance and participation.....	10%
Total	100%

Volunteer Experience

A career in the field of Gerontology can be both rewarding and demanding. In the view of your instructor, direct exposure to this field is an invaluable educational experience to Human Service workers. As a result, students may choose to volunteer 8-10 hours during this semester in one of the local agencies serving the older adult population (i.e. Brian Center, Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, etc.). Keep a journal of the tasks you perform, an interview with the agency social worker, and your personal thoughts each day you volunteer. Compose a 3 page paper describing your overall impression of this experience and present an in-service to the class. Include information as to how this experience changed (or did not change) your view of Gerontology.

This paper and its class presentation will stand in lieu of the comprehensive final exam. It should be type written, grammatically correct, and in Times New Roman or Arial (12 point font). **Completed papers are due April 24.** Please notify your instructor by **March 27** if you plan to do a Volunteer project.

Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100**
- B = 80-89**
- C = 70-79**
- D = 60-69**
- F = Below 60**

Inclement Weather Procedures:

On snow days, please follow the Mayland Community College Inclement Weather Policy. If class is cancelled, students are still responsible for any assigned reading.

Academic Standards/Student Expectations/Ethics:

Students will maintain behavior consistent with a good learning environment. Academic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating or collaborating on a test, or submitting the academic work of another as one's own, is prohibited and may result in failing the course.

Withdrawal Dates: Spring 2007

End of Unconditional Withdrawal
End of Conditional Withdrawal

Tuesday, February 13
Tuesday, March 27

The following Administrative Withdrawal statement: If a student has not been in contact with the instructor and has not attended class for a consecutive two-week period, an administrative withdrawal will be submitted by the instructor.

The following ADA statement: Any student requesting special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center, which will document the disability. A counselor will then help determine which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.

Course Outline/Weekly Topics***Part I Knowledge***

Week 1 (January 9 -11) Effective Practice with Elderly Clients

January 8 -12 Drop/Add Period

Week 2 (January 16 - 18) The Myths and Facts of Aging

Week 3 (January 23 - 25) Social Problems and Policies and the Elderly

Week 4 (January 30 - Feb 1) Test #1 (Chapters 1,2,3)

Week 5 (February 6 - 8) The Research Process and the Elderly

February 13 End of Unconditional Withdrawal

Week 6 (February 13 - 15) Case Management for Gerontological Social Workers

Week 7 (February 20)
(February 22) Speaker: Case Manager from DSS
Test # 2 (Chapters 4 and 5)

Part II Service Settings

Week 8 (Feb 27 - March 1) Home Health and Community Services

(March 5 - 9) SPRING BREAK—AT LAST!

Week 10 (March 13 - 15) Hospital Discharge Planning
Speaker: Kathi Graham, Discharge Planner

Week 11 (March 20)
(March 22) Nursing Homes
Speaker: Janice Chapman, Long Term Care SW

Week 12 (March 27) Test # 3 (Chapters 6,7,8)

Part III Special Populations

(March 29) Older Persons of Color: Asian / Pacific Islander Americans,
African Americans, Hispanic Americans and American Indians

Week 13 (April 3)
(April 5) Community Agency Visitation Day (TBA)
College closed

Week 14 (April 10 - 12) Lesbian and Gay Elders: An Invisible Minority

Week 15 (April 17 - 19) Disability and Aging

Week 16 (April 24 - 26) **In-Service Presentations**

Week 17 (May 2) Review for Comprehensive Final Exam and study groups

Week 18 (May 4) Comprehensive Final

May 9 Wrap-up

****the above syllabus is subjected to change at the discretion of the instructor**

