

Lakehead University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 3513FA/Gerontology 3513FA
Sociology of Aging

Dr. Laurie Forbes

Office: UC 0034

Phone: 343-8966

E-mail: lforbes@lakeheadu.ca

Fall Semester: 2010

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 10.00-11.30

Classes are held in: AT 1005

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3.30-4.30

Course Description

Sociology of Aging provides an analytical framework for understanding the interplay between human lives and changing social structures. This course is designed to provide students with an overview of sociology of aging. Topics covered will include: aging as a social process, aging societies, societal views of aging, myths surrounding aging, social aging, social change and aging, understanding age and aging, leisure, seniors groups, meaning, work and retirement, pensions, social security, older workers, intergenerational contact and kinship, family support, fictive kin, community, personal relationships, ethnicity, ageism, theory, research, environment, health care, elder care, and death and dying.

Required Texts

Graham, Janice, E., and Peter H. Stephenson, eds. 2010. *Contesting Aging and Loss*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

There are a number of articles on reserve in the library. The titles and dates they are to be read by are included in the reading schedule for this semester.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend class regularly and actively participate in class discussions. As well, reading assignments are to be completed for the date they are assigned. The reading list is attached to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to ensure you know the date and time of the December examination. The in-class midterm examination is listed below and is held in class, during a regularly scheduled class. The December examination is posted by the registrar and the schedule for this can be found online.

The due date of your assignment is listed below. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments are penalized at the rate of 5 marks a day.

No Assignments will be handed in electronically.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Mid-term Examination	25%	October 19, 2010
Research Project	30%	November 23, 2010
Participation	10%	Throughout the course
Final Examination	<u>35%</u>	Set by the registrar
	100%	

Examinations

Examinations will incorporate lectures, class discussions, films and assigned readings.

Research Project

The media is a prevalent influence in North America and has a significant effect on the manner in which we view aging and old age. This assignment is designed to examine the media's portrayal of aging. For this assignment you will conduct content analysis on a media source of your choice. Your analysis will focus on aging and its presentation in the media you are investigating. You will incorporate theory, research, and a literature review in your paper. We will discuss this assignment in detail in class.

Your paper is to be 6 to 8 pages in length, double-spaced, and 12 font.

Participation

Your participation mark is based on your contribution to class discussions.

Office Hours

There are two regularly scheduled office hours each week. Office hours are set to provide students the opportunity to stop by if they have questions, concerns, or would just like to say hello.

Please Note: I do try to answer e-mail in a timely fashion. I do guarantee a response during my regularly scheduled office hours. I do not discuss marks through e-mail.

American Sociological Association (ASA)

All assignments in the Department of Sociology are to follow the ASA (American Sociological Association) style guide. The guide can be accessed on the web. Type in ASA Style Guide and a number of examples will be available for you to choose from.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the Lakehead University Calendar.

Medical or Compassionate Consideration

Should you require academic consideration for medical or compassionate reasons, you will need a note from a physician or counsellor. Please refer to the current Lakehead University Calendar for detailed information.

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Fall Semester 2010

Tuesday, September 14

Welcome to Sociology of Aging
Introductions
Course Outline

Thursday, September 16

Lecture: Aging Societies
Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Preface and Introduction

Tuesday, September 21

Lecture: Aging Societies
Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapter 1

Thursday, September 23

Lecture: Dynamics of Population Aging
Reading: Moody, Harry R. 2010. *Aging Concepts and Controversies*. 6th ed. Pp.429-437. Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press. On Reserve in the library.

Tuesday, September 28

Lecture: Understanding Age and Aging
Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapter 2

Thursday, September 30

Lecture: Understanding Age and Aging
Reading: Yarnal, Mackay, Careen, Garry Chick, and Deborah L. Kerstetter. 2008. "I Did Not Have Time to Play Growing Up... So This is My Play Time. It's the Best Thing I Have Ever Done For Myself": What is Play to Older Women?" *Leisure Sciences* 30: 235-252. This is an e-journal that can be downloaded from the library.

Tuesday, October 5

Lecture: Theory
Reading: Cox, Harold, G. 2005. Later Life The Realities of Aging. 6th ed. Pp. 38-63. New Jersey: Pearson. On Reserve in the library.

Thursday, October 7

Lecture: Researching Aging
Lecture: Discuss the Research Project
Reading: Balso and Lewis Chapter 8: Indirect or Nonreactive Methods Pp. 180-194. On Reserve in the library.

Tuesday, October 12

Lecture: Work and Retirement

Reading: Katz, Stephen and Debbie Laliberte-Rudman. 2005. "Exemplars of Retirement: Identity and Agency Between Lifestyle and Social Movement." Pp. 140-160. in *Cultural Aging Life Course, Lifestyle, and Senior Worlds*. edited by Stephen Katz. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press. On Reserve in the library.

Thursday, October 14

Lecture: Work and Retirement

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Tuesday, October 19

Midterm Examination

Thursday, October 21

Lecture: Intergenerational Contact, Kinship, and Personal Relationships

Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapter 3

Tuesday, October 26

Lecture: Intergenerational Contact, Kinship, and Personal Relationships

Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapter 4

Thursday, October 28

Lecture: Intergenerational Contact, Kinship, and Personal Relationships

Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapter 5

Tuesday, November 2

Lecture: Ageism, Meanings of Ageing and Old Age: Discursive Contexts, Social Attitudes and Personal Identities

Reading: Roszak, Theodore. 2009. *The Making of An Elder Culture Reflections on the Future of America's Most Audacious Generation*. Pp. 253-277. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers. On Reserve in the Library.

Thursday, November 4

Lecture: Ageism, Meanings of Ageing and Old Age: Discursive Contexts, Social Attitudes and Personal Identities

Reading: Cox, Harold. 2011. Annual Editions. Pp. 36-39. 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill Companies, Inc. On Reserve in the library.

Tuesday, November 9

Lecture: Environment and Aging

Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapter 6

Thursday, November 11

Lecture: Environment and Aging

Reading: Counts, Dorothy Ayers and David R. Counts. 2004. *Over the Next Hill An Ethnography of RVing Seniors in North America*. 2nd ed. Pp. 185-217. Toronto: Broadview Press. On Reserve in the Library.

Tuesday, November 16

Lecture: Health Care and Elder Care

Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapters 7 and 8

Thursday, November 18

Lecture: Death and Dying

Reading: DeSpelder, Lynne Ann and Albert Lee Strickland. 2005. *The Last Dance Encountering Death and Dying*. Pp. 218-265. Boston: McGraw Hill. On Reserve in the library.

Tuesday, November 23

Lecture: Social Protection: Incomes, Poverty and the Pension Systems

Reading: Katz, Stephen and Debbie Laliberte-Rudman. 2005. "Exemplars of Retirement: Identity and Agency Between Lifestyle and Social Movement." Pp. 140-160. in *Cultural Aging Life Course, Lifestyle, and Senior Worlds*. edited by Stephen Katz. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press. On Reserve in the library.

Research Project is Due

Thursday, November 25

Lecture: Retirement and Work

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Tuesday, November 30

Lecture: Social Change

Reading: Contesting Aging and Loss Chapter 9

Thursday, December 2

Catch-up Class