

**Lakehead University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 3515 WDE Gerontology 3515 WDE Social Work 3515 WDE
Life Course Studies**

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**Winter Semester: 2024
Phone: 807-343-8010 ext. 8966
Office Hours: Monday 11.00-2.00**

Should you need any assistance or have a question I am only an email away and happy to help/answer questions. Please note: I check and respond to emails during my working hours of Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. I will not regularly see or respond to emails outside of these hours.

Course Description

Sociology of Life Course will examine the social aspects of aging from birth to old age: including the differences in experiences due to age, historical periods, sequencing and timing of life events, social change, cultural constructions, interdependence of individual lives and the social milieu the individual lives in, methods for the sociological study of lives, and the role of theory in shaping intellectual understanding. Life Course provides an overview of the sociological approach to the study of lives focusing on the paths and turning points that socially situate individual lives.

While this course will touch upon older adults, the focus of this course will be on the earlier years of life. Exploration of childhood, teenagers, young adulthood, and middle adulthood will be accomplished using theoretical perspectives to examine life transitions. Substantive topics include: life course development, theories, challenges to the life course model, normative and non-normative shifts, childhood, youth and identity formation, dating, leaving home, early adulthood, entering the labour force, getting married, having children, middle adulthood, and later adulthood.

Important Note: This is a web course. This means the whole course is online. You will find a weekly lecture which includes the discussion questions you are to answer and links which you are to open and read or videos to watch. The exams are written online, in the course D2L site. In a web course there are no zoom lectures, we do not meet in-person, and lectures are not taped.

Required Texts

Green, Lorraine. 2017. Understanding the Life Course Sociological and Psychological Perspectives. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press. This is the second addition of the book.

Additional readings are posted on the Life Course Studies 3515 D2L site.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the importance of examining social life from Life Course Perspective.
2. Recognize the impact of age, historical periods, and the sequence and timing of events on the Life Course of individuals and groups.
3. Explain Life Course from a theoretical perspective.
4. Explain how innovation impacts Life Course.
5. Improve research skills.
6. Develop critical thought in relation to Life Course.
7. Understand methods used to study Life Course.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to regularly check the D2L site and actively participate in group discussions. As well, reading assignments are to be completed for the date they are assigned. The reading list is attached to this syllabus. This course is designed to be interactive and group discussion is a central component of the course.

The reading list is attached to this syllabus. The in-class midterm examination is listed below. The final examination is scheduled by the registrar. It is your responsibility to check the examination schedule posted by the registrar.

All times for this course are Thunder Bay time, Eastern Daylight Time.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Mid-term Examination	20%	February 12, 2024
Research Assignment	30%	April 2, 2024
Participation	35%	Throughout the Semester
Final Examination	<u>15%</u> 100%	Set by Registrar

Late assignments and rescheduling of examinations must be accompanied by a note from a medical doctor or counsellor. Please refer to [Lakehead University Calendar](#).

Lectures

Each week is designed to be a 3-hour class, not including weekly readings, assignments, or studying for examinations. The three hours is to go over the lecture material, clicking on and reading the links provided, searching for information when requested to do so, watch any videos listed, answer group questions, etc.

Examinations

Examinations will incorporate lectures, class discussions, films and assigned readings. Examinations are not cumulative. Examinations are designed, in such a way, those who have carefully read the required readings, carefully read the links, watched the videos, understood the lectures, fully addressed the discussion questions, and worked to clearly understand course material, should have no trouble answering the questions.

To be clear: You must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course examinations. The exams are to be completed solely, without collaboration with any other person.

The February midterm examination is at 6.00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time. Everyone will write the midterm and final examinations at the same time. The examination times are firm. The final examination is set by the registrar.

Please note: Time for all students, for the midterm, begins at 6.00 pm and if the exam, for example, is one hour in length, no questions registered after 7.00 pm will be graded. If you have a registered accommodation, for example, to have an additional 30 minutes, your time will be adjusted and you will have until 7.30 to finish the exam. Any posts after 7.30 will not be graded.

Please note: Should you have questions about your examination you can call me during office hours.

Research Poster Assignment

You are to choose an innovation, it can be from any historical era, and explain how the innovation impacted on some aspect of the life course. For example, the drive-in movie theatre was invented in 1933 and by the 1970s and 1980s thousands had closed with the advent of television and multiplex theatres. While in operation drive-in movie theatres were popular as a form of family entertainment and a dating venue for teenagers. Today, the nostalgia of drive-in movies, by the baby boomers, has created a resurgence of this form of entertainment. Alternatively, you might choose a policy that changed the life course for numerous people. For example, during World War II, the need for women workers, in Canada, led to the establishment of day care centres. The war's end led to a closure of these day care centres. These day care centres impacted the life course of those who utilized them and societal views of childcare. What impact did these day care centres have on the life course: working women, the children who attended them, what did their closure mean to the individuals who utilized them and to our view of working women and childcare?

You must cite the sources you use in the body of your poster. Posters without citations will receive a grade of zero. ASA citations are in brackets, appearing after a cited source and include: the authors' name, date of publication, and page number. You are required to have a minimum of 6 academic sources. We will discuss this assignment in detail during the library zoom session.

The research projects will be posted for the entire class to read. There will be time devoted to reading the posters, posing questions, and answering questions. Research Projects are to be posted by 9.00 am on April 2, 2024. Posters posted after 9.00 am April 2 and before 9.00 am on April 3, 2024, will be docked 5 late marks. Should you submit your poster any time after 9.00 am and before 6.00 pm on April 3, 2024, you will be docked 10 late marks. **No posters will be accepted after 6.00 pm on April 3, 2024.**

Posters must be submitted in a readable format. Posters not in a readable format will be treated as late posters, with marks docked until they are readable. Should the poster not be resubmitted in a readable format by April 3, 2024, at 6.00 pm, there will be no grade assigned.

There will be a forum set up to post your poster. Classmates can ask questions or make comments simply by hitting reply under your posting and you can make your response in the same way. Responding in this way keeps all questions/comments/responses in one place, which makes it easier for all concerned. You can post your poster beginning March 30, 2024. Comments to posters can begin on April 2, 2024, at any time. Questions/comments must be made prior to Monday, April 8, 2024, at 2.00 pm.

Remember to post your poster in the open poster forum specifically designed for posters. You also need to post your poster in assignments. The poster will be graded in the assignment folder and only you can see the comments and grade in the assignment folder.

Google has a number of sites that tell you how to design a poster. Type in academic posters and you will find a number of examples. **If you were handing in a hardcopy of the poster, it would be on standard Bristol board, which is 22 X 28 inches; this is the size your poster is to be. You will be creating your poster online, based on the instructions found in content. You are to use the site posted in the link or google docs to create your poster. There is an example, crafted by former Graduate Assistant, Ms. Michaela Turner to help you. The headings are there as an example, you do not have to use them.**

You are to use a minimum of 6 academic sources in your poster.

The following link discusses peer reviewed sources.

[Distinguish between Popular and Scholarly Journals](#)

You are to use the American Sociological Association (ASA) style guide when formatting your poster. You must cite all your sources, a reference page is not citing sources, they must be cited in the poster.

To be clear: you must cite direct quotes, paraphrasing, any idea or thought not your own, including any information taken from online sources. The citations are to appear in the body of the poster, for example, (Smith 1942:86). Each citation includes the author, date, and page. All sources are to appear in the reference page. Failure to cite all sources is plagiarism.

Posters without citations will receive a grade of zero.

Please note: The reference page can be submitted as a separate document.

Participation

Participation is a significant part of your overall mark. Your participation mark is based on your contribution to group discussions and asking questions/making comments and answering questions/comments on the poster assignment. This entails fulsome responses to group discussions/poster questions/comments; stating “I agree” or “I disagree” without adding why you agree or disagree is not considered a fulsome discussion. Repeating what a group member has said in discussion posts/questions/comments is not a fulsome discussion. Participation means engaging with the material. You are to answer each discussion question in each lecture. While you certainly can agree or disagree with a post, you need to outline your rationale for doing so. Critical thinking is not about opinions. Critical thinking is rational, unbiased, evidence-based thought.

If you are concerned you will be repeating what a group member has posted you might want to answer the question offline, cut and paste it into the discussion forum, and then comment on what your group members have said.

Each of you is assigned to a discussion group forum and will work with your group throughout the course. Discussion forums can only be viewed by the members of the group and me. Respectfulness of answers is to be practiced. You do not have to agree with your classmates, you can respectfully disagree. Academia is about discourse and critical thought.

Each question, in each lecture and the questions/comments/responses on posters will be marked out of 4 possible marks, following the list below. Your answers should not only reflect that you have read the material/watched the videos in question, but have thought about and further analysed it. Additionally, you should read the responses of your peers to avoid repeating or copying their answers, as well as to further your group discussion regarding that question.

- 0 Marks: No answer or answer reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of the question or content being asked about.
- 1 Mark: Answer reveals you have read the relevant material and provided an answer.
- 2 Marks: Answer shows an understanding of the material being asked about and appropriately addresses the question.
- 3 Marks: Answer illustrates a full understanding of the material and the question, as well as the capacity to engage with the discussion beyond merely answering the question.
- 4 Marks: Answer proves that you have not only understood the material and question, but are able to deeply discuss the sociological relevance provoked by the question and the material.

Discussions are not marked for length, only for content. While each post is read and graded, those who post before 2.00 pm, each Tuesday, can expect a comment on at least one post.

Interaction is an important part of learning and working together collegially. While you will not lose marks for not responding to group members discussion posts, you are encouraged to interact with group members. Thoughtful, fulsome responses are duly noted and it can be the case with the information provided, in the response to a group member's post, it clarifies your original answer moving the mark from a 0 to 1, or 1 to 2, or 2 to 3, or 3 to 4. As well, I have been known to use responses to group members to occasionally assign bonus marks.

Discussion posts for lectures open at 8.00 am on Monday. The last posts for discussion questions need to be made by 2.00 pm on Thursday. Discussion posts will close each week on Thursday at 2.00 pm. The following week's lecture will open each Thursday at 2.00 pm for those who want to read ahead. The poster forum will open, for discussion, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 8.00 am and will close on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 2.00 pm.

Reading posters and making comments/asking questions and responding to questions/comments asked of your poster is a peer review process and part of the participation grade. While you are to read all the posters, you are to select at least 10 of your classmates' poster assignments to read in-depth and ask questions/make comments on these. As well, you are to answer questions/comments asked of your poster. Please ask questions/make comments of the posters of your group members before examining the posters of those in other groups. Doing so ensures everyone has questions/comments to address and everyone's work is read in-depth by some classmates. Respectfulness is expected when asking questions/making comments or responding to questions/comments. Questions/comments/responses are to be fulsome. Saying nice colours is not a fulsome comment. There are no readings assigned for the week April 2 to April 5; the focus of the week will be on reading and discussing the posters.

The participation grades will be calculated weekly and I will post the total participation grades, to that point, in myinfo, once a month, so you know how you are doing. As the grade will change, if you want to track your participation, record the grade when the participation mark is posted.

Office Hours

I will be in my office for office hours once a week, beginning the first week of classes, to meet via telephone or in-person. Should you have questions about course material, the assignment, grades, or other course related material please call.

Please Note: As the course is online, I am online often and happy to answer questions. Participation grades and questions regarding examinations will be addressed over the phone or in-person, during office hours.

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. An ASA guide is posted in content.

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.

Please use Lakehead Email to converse with me lforbes@lakeheadu.ca . Any notices I send will be through your Lakehead Email account.

The Following is Lakehead University's Policy for Students Engaged in Remote Learning at Lakehead University.

(1) Academic Integrity

A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity ("[The Code](#)") - and, in particular, sections 26 and 83 through 85. Non-compliance with the Code will NOT be tolerated in this course and the Code will be adhered to in terms of disciplinary action. The Code provides a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity.

(2) Copyright Compliance:

I understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which I am given access in this course (the "course materials"), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law:

- (1) I may access and download the course materials only for my own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and
- (2) I am not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor.

I further understand and agree that, if I infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in

academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

(3) Exam/Assignment Integrity:

I understand and agree that:

(1) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.

(2) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam.

I further understand and agree that, if I violate either of these two rules, or if I provide any false or misleading information about my completion of course assignments or exams, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

(4) GenAI Use Prohibited

Generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI or GenAI) is a category of AI systems capable of generating text, images, or other media in response to prompts. These systems include ChatGPT and its variant Bing (built by OpenAI) and Bard (built by Google) among several others. Other Generative AI models include artificial intelligence art systems such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and DALL-E.

Any use of GenAI systems to produce assignments for this course is not permitted. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity ("Use of Unauthorized Materials").

Winter Semester 2024 Reading and Lecture Schedule

Week: 1: Monday, Jan. 8 to Thursday, Jan. 11

Welcome to Life Course Studies

Introductions, Course Outline

Lecture 1: Introduction to Life Course Studies

Reading: Green Introduction

Reading: Green Chapter 1

Week: 2: Monday, Jan. 15 to Thursday, Jan. 18

Lecture 2: Understanding the Life Course

Reading: Giele and Elder Life Course Research Development of a Field

Reading: Cain Life Course and Social Structure

Week: 3: Monday, Jan. 22 to Thursday, Jan. 25

Lecture 3: Childhood

Reading: Green Chapter 2

Reading: Green Chapter 3

Week: 4: Monday, Jan. 29 to Thursday, Feb. 1

Lecture 4: Childhood

Reading: Wall Back to Nature: Escaping the City, Ordering the Wild

Lecture 5: Youth

Reading: Green Chapter 4

Week: 5: Monday, Feb. 5 to Thursday, Feb. 8

Lecture 6: Youth

Reading: Tilleczek Toward Contemporary Youth Studies

Reading: Mishna and Van Wert Defining and Determining the Frequency and Effects of Bullying

Week: 6: Monday, Feb. 12 to Thursday, Feb. 15

Midterm Examination Monday, February 12 at 6.00 pm Eastern Standard Time

Zoom Library Session with Librarian, Debra Gold Wednesday, February 14, at 10.00 am.

Week: 7: Monday, Feb. 19 to Thursday, Feb. 22

Family Day and Study Week No classes

Week: 8: Monday, Feb. 26 to Thursday, Feb. 29

Lecture 7: Life Course Methods and Theory

Reading: O'Rand The Craft of Life Course Studies

Reading: Gecas Self-Agency and the Life. Course

Week: 9: Monday, Mar. 4 to Thursday, Mar. 7

Lecture 8: Early Adulthood

Reading: Green Chapter 5

Week: 10: Monday, Mar. 11 to Thursday, Mar. 14

Lecture 9: Middle Adulthood

Reading: Green Chapter 6

Reading: Yoshihama Application of the Life History Calendar Approach.

Week: 11: Monday, Mar. 18 to Thursday, Mar. 21

Lecture 10: Old Age

Reading: Green Chapter 7

Week: 12: Monday, Mar. 25 to Thursday, Mar. 28

Lecture 11: Challenges associated with Normative and Non-normative Shifts

Reading: Guerrero, Andersen, and Afifi Ending Relationships Disengagement and Termination

Lecture 12: Death, Dying, Grief and Loss

Reading: Green Chapter 8

Week: 13: Tuesday, Apr. 2 to Monday, Apr. 8

Posters are due at 9.00 am, Tuesday April 2.

This week will be spent reviewing the posters and asking and answering questions on the posters.

Please note: as you have all the course material available to you, there will be no reviews. You might want to create your study notes as you go through each unit.

Please note: It is up to you to determine the 3 hours you want to devote to the class each week. The discussion forums are open each Monday morning, at 8.00 am and close Thursday at 2.00 pm.

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