

Psychology 353**Psychology of Aging****Summer 2015**

Instructor: Nancy J Smith, PhD
Phone: 403- 239--0255
Office: Admin 155A
Office Hours: TBA

Lecture Location: PF 118
Lecture Days/Time: MWF 12:30 to 2:20

Course Description and Goals

Upon completion of this course you should have a good understanding of the psychological, biological, and sociological perspectives to the aging process. One main objective of this course is to acquire a class atmosphere that fosters discussions on the aging process. Aside from having an increased knowledge of the aging process, it is anticipated that by the end of the course you will have increased your ability to think about aging issues in a critical manner. It is also anticipated that this course will exercise your reasoning skills in an insightful and logical manner. This course also examines theory and research related to psychological processes during adulthood and aging. Topics may include life-span developmental theories and methods; biological processes; sensory, perceptual and cognitive processes; personality and social processes; life transitions, mental health issues; and dying.

Prerequisites

Psych 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

Required Text

[Adult Development and Aging: Biopsychosocial Perspectives, Canadian Edition](#)

by Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Stacey B. Whitbourne, Candace Konnert
December 2014, ©2015

ISBN 978-1-119-04542-7 Loose-leaf version available in bookstore.

An E-Text version can also be purchased through the bookstore: ISBN 978-1-119-04892-3

Lectures are intended to highlight and supplement the material in each chapter. Students are encouraged to ask questions and/or provide comments during the lectures as class discussions enhance learning. Students are responsible for the material covered in all lectures, videos, and textbook readings. Please note that you are encouraged to make arrangements with another student for class information that you may have missed due to absenteeism.

Evaluation

Performance in the course (grades) will be evaluated on the basis of one mid-term examination, a final examination, and one written thought piece assignment.

Important Note: Students must complete all assignments and examinations to receive a passing grade in the course.

Examinations:

Both examinations are non-cumulative and multiple choice. All exams will cover 1) assigned material in the textbook as well as the content of 2) lectures and films and videos shown in class and 3) supplementary readings for each chapter (URLs to be listed in lecture notes with some downloaded versions posted on D2L. The exam schedule that follows provides specific information regarding the material to be covered by each exam. As well, lecture outlines (including a list of relevant video material), supplementary readings and video guiding questions will be posted on the course D2L site. If you miss class, you are encouraged to obtain class notes from another student. Study aids (e.g., class notes) and laptops/iPads/smartphones will not be permitted during the exams.

Exam	Relevant Chapters	% of final grade	Date Given
Midterm	Chap. 1-6	40	M July 27
Final	Chap. 7-14	45	TBD by Registrar

Assignment--Personal Insights into Aging: This minimum 5-page written assignment, worth 15% of your grade, will require you to identify and discuss 5 new insights gained from this course that overturn your old assumptions about what you can expect personally as you, or close family members, age. These reports are to be prepared using readings from the textbook and must not include outside references. Format details and the grading rubric will be explained in class and posted on the course D2Lsite.

Late papers will lose 10% of the assignment grade per day late, including weekends.

You are expected to hand in the printed assignment in class on the due date. **If you cannot attend class that day, you must notify the instructor** and then 1) drop off the assignment into the Green Box outside A275 before 4:30 pm of the due date class. OR 2,) with permission, e-mail in your assignment, by midnight on the due date as a Word.docx file attachment

If illness or other circumstances beyond your control make it difficult to complete the assignment on time, you are expected to advise the instructor of this before the due date has passed and provide an official medical or employer-written excuse. Faxed assignments will not be accepted.

Assignment	Relevant Chapters	% of final grade	Date Due
New Personal Insights into Aging	All Chapters	15	M August 10

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades in 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic /Activity	Text Chapter
R July 2	Summer Term Lecture begins.	
F July 3	<i>Themes and Issues in Adult Development and Aging</i>	Chap. 1
M July 6	<i>Models of Development: Nature and Nurture</i>	Chap. 2
W July 8	Last day to add/drop or swap summer courses. Finish Chap. 2	Chap. 2
F July 10	<i>The Study of Adult Development and Aging: Research Methods</i>	Chap. 3
M July 13	<i>Physical Changes</i>	Chap. 4
W July 15	Finish Chap. 4	Chap. 4
F July 17	<i>Health and Prevention</i>	Chap. 5
M July 20	Finish Chap. 5	Chap. 5
W July 22	<i>Basic Cognitive Functions</i>	Chap. 6
F July 24	Finish Chap. 6	Chap. 6
M July 27	Midterm Exam on Ch. 1-6 <i>Higher Cognitive Functions</i>	Chap. 7
W July 29	Finish Chap 7 <i>Personality</i>	Chap. 7 Chap. 8
F July 31	<i>Relationships</i>	Chap. 9
M August 3	University Closed Heritage Day	
W August 5	<i>Work, Retirement and Leisure patterns</i>	Chap. 10
F August 7	<i>Mental Health Issues and Treatment</i>	Chap. 11
M August 10	<i>Long-Term Care</i> Assignment due	Chap. 12
W August 12	Guest Lecturer <i>Death and Dying</i>	Chap. 13
F August 14	Summer Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw. <i>Successful Aging</i>	Chapter 14
W August 19	Final Exam on Ch. 7-14	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two (2) credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open time slots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is August 14th, 2015.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no “W” notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** and the last day for registration/change of registration is **August 8, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **August 14th, 2015**.