
Psychology 457	Social & Clinical Aspects of Aging	Winter 2015
Instructor:	Candace Konnert, Ph.D.	Lecture Location: SH 284
Phone:	403-220 4976	Lecture Days/Time: MWF 1:00-1:50
Email:	konnert@ucalgary.ca	Teaching Assistant: Ana Petrovic-Poljak, M.Sc., Admin 235D 403 220 4975 apetrovi@ucalgary.ca
Office:	Admin 235C	
Office Hours:	By appointment	

Course Description and Goals

The first half of this course will investigate transitions in the later years of life from a stress and coping framework. There will be specific attention given to successful aging, both from a theoretical and practical perspective. What does it mean to age successfully and what can be done at both an individual and societal level to enhance the aging process? The second half of this course will review the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of specific mental health problems among older adults. Most importantly, course content will address the question, what can be done to prevent mental health problems in later life? Throughout the course there will an emphasis on diversity among older adults, and on critically evaluating topical and controversial issues that are related to older adults and society at large. Note that this course is not meant to be an introduction to the psychology of aging but will build on the content from Psychology 353 (or the equivalent course).

Prerequisites

Psychology 312: Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Psychology 353: Psychology of Aging

Required Text

There is no text for the course. Weekly readings (primarily journal articles) will be available on D2L. Please note that the lectures will elaborate on the assigned material or will cover related topics in more detail. On some topics the lectures will be the only source of information, thus regular attendance is important for success in the course.

Evaluation (% of final grade)

- Midterm (30%): short answers based on lectures and readings. Date of exam: March 2
- Final (40%): short answers and essay questions based on lectures and readings. The final exam will not be cumulative and will be scheduled by the Registrar.
- Readings analysis and discussion questions (10%): Due date is determined by students' last names, as follows: Jan 28 (A-D), Feb 11 (E-K), Mar 11 (L-P), Mar 25 (Q-Z). In this written

assignment, students will be required to critically analyze the readings presented in the preceding 2-3 weeks and provide 2-3 discussion questions related to those readings.

- Case conceptualization (20%): Due April 13. Students will be given information about an older client and will be asked to formulate the case within a specific framework that will be presented in class.

Further information on the written assignments will be made available in class and on D2L.

Paper copies of the readings analysis and discussion questions and the case conceptualization are to be submitted in person in class on the date they are due. If you cannot turn the papers in to me in class, put them in the green box outside of the Psychology Department Office (Admin. 255). Papers deposited in the green box by 4:30 PM will be stamped with that day's date. Papers submitted after 4:30 PM will be stamped with the following day's date. (Papers submitted after 4:30 PM on Friday will be stamped on Monday, or, if Monday is a statutory holiday, on Tuesday.)

In addition, students must post the discussion questions (but not the readings analysis) to D2L on the date they are due so that your student colleagues can read and reflect on them, and participate in class discussions based on what you have written. Please note that these are due on a Wednesday and the expectation is that students in the class will have looked at these questions on D2L by the following Monday in order to facilitate class discussion.

All assignments are due on the date indicated. Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day (including weekends) up to a maximum of 35% (7 days), at which point, late assignments will no longer be accepted. **Extensions will be given only in exceptional circumstances and must be granted by the instructor on or prior to the due date. Extensions may require supporting documentation.**

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+	83-85%	C+	72-75%	D+	59-62%
A	90-95%	B	79-82%	C	67-71%	D	55-58%
A-	86-89%	B-	76-78%	C-	63-66%	F	0-54%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

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 (Readings TBA)

Date	Topic/Due dates
Jan 12	Winter term lectures begin.
Jan 12-16	Successful aging
Jan 19-23	Diversity/methodological approaches
Jan 23	Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.
Jan 26-30	Health and wellness
Jan 28	Readings analysis and discussion questions due (last names A-D)
Jan 26	Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
Jan 30	Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.
Feb 2-6	Stress and coping framework: Transitions I
Feb 9-13	Transitions II
Feb 11	Readings analysis and discussion questions due (last names E-K)
Feb 16-20	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).
Feb 16	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.

Feb 23-27	Social support, intrapersonal processes
Mar 2	Midterm
Mar 4-6	Overview of mental health and aging
Mar 9-13	Contextual framework/assessment
Mar 11	Readings analysis and discussion questions due (last names L-P)
Mar 16-20	Mental health problems: Cognitive disorders
Mar 23-27	Mental health problems: Affective disorders
Mar 25	Readings analysis and discussion questions (last names Q-Z)
Mar 30-Apr 3	Individual intervention
<i>Apr 3</i>	<i>Good Friday University Closed</i>
Apr 6-10	Intervention with multigenerational families, caregiving
Apr 13	Case conceptualization due
Apr 13-15	Social determinants of mental wellness/prevention
<i>Apr 15</i>	<i>Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>
<i>Apr 18-29</i>	<i>Winter Term Final Examinations.</i>

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 255), 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 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 timeslots. 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 **April 15, 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

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

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** is **January 23rd, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 26th, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15th, 2015**.