Minnesota State University Moorhead

WS 308: Social Gerontology

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course introduces students to the field of social gerontology for providing an overview of the significant sociological perspectives, social issues, and empirical social science research pertaining to the phenomenon of aging in society. The main goal of the course is to foster an understanding of aging as a process that is characteristic of both individuals and societies through a focus on social factors that shape the individual's experience of aging and the consequences of an aging population for social institutions. Same as SOC 308.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 04/26/2005 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The life course perspective on aging: demographics of aging societies; theories of aging; influences on the life course, including social class and life history, and social institutions and policies; biology of aging; psychology of aging.
2. Aging, health care, and society: opportunities and challenges of an aging society; epidemiology of aging; economics of health care; long-term care; self-determined death.
3. Social and economic outlook for an aging society: varieties of the aging experience by social class, race and ethnicity, and sex; economic status of older Americans; retirement; public policy on aging.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will be able to assess and analyze the major theories of social aging.
2. Students will be able to describe and analyze the changing demographic trends and the political economy issues facing aging societies.
3. Students will be able to describe how the broader societal context affects the nature of family relationships, community involvement, and the experiences of retirement and widowhood among the elderly.
4. Students will be able to explain and analyze the current issues in health and social service delivery for care of the elderly.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted