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AHHS 420.01: Geriatric Health Issues

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HS 420: **Geriatric Health Problems**
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3 credits
Spring 2014

Course Description: This course will present a review of normal aspects of aging, common health problems associated with aging, and common pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments of these problems in older persons. Students will complete 44 hours of online modules for the 3-credit course.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify normal changes of aging associated with biological systems.
2. Describe normal psychosocial aspects of aging.
3. Identify pertinent aspects of health promotion as related to aging.
4. Describe nutritional issues associated with aging.
5. Identify and discuss end-of-life issues.
6. For selected body systems, describe common pathologies of aging, usual signs and symptoms, alternative signs and symptoms in the elderly, usual non-pharmacological and pharmacological treatments, adaptation of treatments in the elderly, psychosocial issues associated with the health problems, and special rural or ethnic issues associated with these problems.

Teaching Strategies: The modules were developed by the Montana Geriatric Center using various experts in aging throughout the state. The modules vary in length and take 2 to 4 hours to complete. Each module consists of text; in addition each contains web site readings, case studies and discussion questions. In addition to reading the modules, students must complete a pre-test and a post-test over the material (up to an hour's time is allowed for each test) and must participate in online class discussion. Each student must post a primary response to the discussion question for that module, and must respond to one or more of their classmates' posts.

Required Readings: Each module includes text and website readings. Additional articles can be made available through electronic reserve.

Assessment: There will be a 20 (2 hour modules) or 40 (4 hour modules) point quiz over each module for a total of 200 points possible on the quizzes. Students will take each quiz initially as a pre-test for no score and will take the same quiz after studying the module for the actual points. Discussion questions worth five points each will be posted for each 2-hour module and each case study for a total of 85 points possible; each student needs to select one question per module and post a well developed one paragraph response. Students also need to post a reply to another student's response to get full credit. Graduate students must complete two additional online modules in their chosen area of study, select a topic from those modules, and write a 4 to 6 page paper on the contributions that his or her discipline can make to the care of the elderly in that area. The paper must be referenced to the health care literature.

Class Meetings: During those weeks designated as Catch Up Week, the students and instructor will meet face to face in the classroom as needed, for a review of the modules covered since the last class meeting. The class meetings will be held at a time to be arranged with the students.

Grading:

90-100% - A, 80-89 – B, 70-79 – C, 60-69 – D, <60 – F

Schedule of Modules:

Week of:

January 27	Biology of Aging – 2 hours Health Promotion and Aging – 2 hours
February 3	Psychosocial Aspects of Aging – 2 hours End of Life Issues – 2 hours
February 10	Catch Up Week
February 17	Nutrition of Aging – 2 hours Patients as Partners – 2 hours
February 24	Late Life Depression – 2 hours Screening for Depression – 2 hours
March 3	Catch Up Week
March 10	Cognitive Decline and Dementia – 2 hours Screening for Cognitive Impairment – 2 hours
March 17	Respiratory Disorders – 4 hours Respiratory Case Study – 2 hours
March 24	Catch Up Week
March 31	Spring Break
April 7	Overview of Geriatric Health Screening – 2 hours Screening for Diabetes – 2 hours
April 14	Screening for Lipid Disorders – 2 hours Screening for Osteoporosis – 2 hours
April 21	Catch Up Week
April 28	Cancer in the Elderly – 4 hours Oncology Case Study – 2 hours
May 5	Endocrine Disorders – 4 hours Endocrine Case Study – 2 hours
May 12	Finals Week