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PSYX 233.50: Fundamentals of Psychology of Aging - Online

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Syllabus: PSYX 233 – Fundamentals of Psychology of Aging (Online) – Fall 2022

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Hannah Hall
- Email: hannah2.hall@umontana.edu
- Office Hours: (Via Zoom) By appointment

Required Textbook

- Symbaluk Cavanaugh, J. C., & Blanchard-Fields, F. (2019). *Adult Development and Aging* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781337559089

Course Description and Objectives

The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of issues relevant to adult development and aging. The class is taught from a biological, psychological, and social perspective. Specific topics to be covered include developmental theoretical orientations, developmental research design, physical and sensory changes, relationships, personality, memory, dementia, wisdom, death and dying, and other topics.

The required text, digital course content, and online discussion forums will be used. Online course materials and discussions will expand upon information presented in the text. Students will be graded on the timely completion and quality of required weekly assignments.

Course Assignment and Grading Criteria

Assignments for this class include quizzes, lab assignments, and discussions. Please check the attached schedule and each week's Moodle section for the assignments that are due that week. Each week will officially begin on the preceding Saturday at 12:05 am and will end the following Friday at 11:55 pm.

Quizzes: Each quiz is comprised of 20 multiple-choice items, each worth 1 point, for a total of **20 points per quiz**. All quizzes will be available for one week via Moodle and must be submitted **by 11:55pm on Friday** of the week they are due. Late quizzes will not be accepted, regardless of technical difficulties.

Each quiz is designed to test your knowledge of the reading material for the current week. Once you begin a quiz, you will be allowed **30 minutes** to complete it. The quizzes are open book, but you will not have enough time to look up every question and you are only allowed one attempt, so please read the assigned readings before attempting to complete the quizzes. It is your responsibility to choose a time and place in which you will be able to complete the quiz in one sitting. Quizzes are administered using the adaptive mode that allows multiple attempts at each question before moving on to the next question but subtracts a penalty for each wrong attempt. For example, choosing the correct answer on the first attempt would earn 1 point, second attempt would earn 0.67 points, third attempt would earn .33 points, and fourth attempt would earn 0.00 points.

Lab Assignments: Lab assignments are supplements to the required readings, quizzes, and discussions in class. These assignments require you to integrate multiple topics into a short paper (2 pgs. maximum) using a variety of sources. Labs need to be written in APA format, and the sources need to be clearly cited. More details about each of these assignments can be found in their respective Moodle sections.

There are **three lab assignments** across the semester, and they are worth **40 points each**.

Course Reflection: This is a short assignment due at the end of the course. It will ask you to briefly summarize what you found to be the most interesting from the material we covered and how those things fit into the bigger picture of human development from your point of view. It will be worth **20 points**.

Discussions: Doing well on the discussion board assignments requires consistent and detailed participation each week. Discussion prompts from the instructor will evaluate your knowledge and comprehension of that week’s material. During discussion weeks you will be required to make **1 post** in response to the discussion question of the week (personal post), and **3 posts** in response to your peers’ posts (peer responses) for a **total of 4 posts**. The discussion board will open on 12:05am on the Saturday, and you must submit your **personal post by 11:55PM on Tuesday of each week. Your 3 peer posts must be completed by 11:55PM on the Friday.**

Grades are based on **(1) “attendance”** and **(2) quality** of your posts and do not include any posts made in the “Welcome” Discussions. Full credit requires high quality and maximum frequency posts. The two charts below explain how your discussion posts are graded.

ATTENDANCE GRADING (40 points possible) / Criteria	Days	Points
Days: Students must post on the discussion forum a minimum of three separate days that week. You can post more than this of course, but the minimum is three separate days.	# Days	Points Earned
	3 days	40 points
	2 days	30 points
	1 day	20 points
	0 days	0 points
<i>Once the number of days is calculated, students are then graded based on their contributions to the class’s general discussion. So, if you post on 3 separate days that week, your starting score will be 40 points. After that, points will be deducted according to the criteria below.</i>		
Personal Post: Students must make an original post in the weekly discussion forum. Each weekly original post is due Tuesday, 11:55 pm .	Each day late	2 points lost
Peers: Students must post a response to at least 3 of their peers’ original posts. You can post to more than three of your peers, but the minimum is three. This promotes engagement with each other, rather than just responding to the prompt.	3 peers	0 points lost
	2 peers	5 points lost
	1 peer	10 points lost
	0 peers	15 points lost

Once I have calculated your final weekly “attendance” score, then I grade the quality of your posts, as explained below. Again, the following points are deducted, not added, from the final weekly “attendance” score, to yield a final weekly “Discussion” score. (Students cannot earn negative points. The lowest score is a zero.)

QUALITY GRADING / Criteria	Descriptor	Points
<p>Students must make thoughtful posts that reflect an appropriate application of emerging knowledge and vocabulary in the topic area. Each post must add value to the discussion and be related to the required readings for the week. Below are additional details of how quality is graded.</p> <p>Note: This is a rough average of all your posts for that week. For example, if the majority of your posts are “superior” you would receive a superior grade for that week’s discussion.</p>	Superior	0 points lost
	Above Average	5 points lost
	Average	10 points lost
	Below Average	15 points lost
	Unacceptable	20 points lost

Superior: Your contributions demonstrate a complete mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/or show strong analysis and reflection on topics and other student’s posts. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other student postings and are responding accordingly, bringing out interesting interpretations. You know the facts and are able to analyze them, apply them to real life scenarios and handle conceptual ideas. It is highly unlikely that you could get full credit in less than two paragraphs.

Above Average: Your responses build on the ideas of other participants and dig deeper into assignment questions or issues. When you make intelligent posts during the week, including some good critique of the course material, then you have demonstrated you have an understanding of the material, are reading posts of your colleagues, and are contributing to the class. Your posts demonstrate confidence with the materials, but may be just a bit off target in one area or another.

Average: You have meaningful interaction with other participants' postings. Posts that state, “I agree” or “I disagree” and include a detailed explanation of what is disagreed or agreed upon and why, or introduce a perspective or concept that adds to the discussion. However, you may have rambling, lengthy posts with no clear point, your writing has a lack of clarity and comprehension, or there are considerable typos and grammatical errors.

Below Average: You answer questions asked by me or other students but do not expand upon your response or you answer questions based only on your opinion, rather than on research or proper evidence. Your posts are unusually short (one paragraph or less) and you fail to demonstrate a clear working knowledge of the material covered for the week.

Unacceptable: You will receive little credit in the week's discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments, without adding any new thought to the discussion. At the low end of the spectrum, no participation gets a "0." If you are not in the discussion, you do not earn any points. Comments such as “I agree” or other one-sentence responses will result in zero points. Copying and pasting from a website without providing your own substantial insight is also an unacceptable post- even if you have properly cited your sources. This assignment is an assessment of your understanding of the information covered in this class. Copying and pasting from websites does not demonstrate a working knowledge of the material.

Special Note: I check very carefully for plagiarism in the discussion posts. If you have plagiarized, you will get a zero for the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course. If you engage in demeaning, discriminatory, or aggressive behavior within your posts, you will get a zero for the assignment. Please be kind and considerate in approaching these discussion topics.

Course Grading

Your final grade for the course will consist of scores on weekly quizzes, discussion posts, and lab exercises. Your final grade is the percentage of the total points earned divided by total possible points. There is no course curve in this class.

The following chart breaks down the points for each assignment type.

Criteria	Points
Quizzes (14 each, at 20 pts ea)	280 points possible
Discussion Posts (5 each, at 40 pts ea)	200 points possible
Lab Exercises (3 each, at 40 points each)	120 points possible
Reflection	20 possible points
Total Points	620 points possible

The following chart shows the Grade scale for the Final Course grade.

Final Course Grade	# Points	Percentage
A	558 – 620	90% or higher
B	496 - 557	80% – 89.99%
C	434 - 495	70% – 79.99%
D	372 - 433	60% – 69.99%
F	0 – 372	59.99% and below

Course Policies

General Behavior: Students must engage in proper “netiquette.” Netiquette or “network etiquette” is a professional and mannerly way of communicating with others in the online medium. Failure to engage in proper netiquette will result in earning a zero for each assignment where an incident has occurred.

Announcements: Students are responsible for reading all announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements. Announcements are posted in the announcements section of the course or are directly emailed to the students.

Technology Policies: Please contact [UM Online](#) if you experience technical difficulties. Though I would love to be able to help, I am not qualified to do so. *Critical Note: I do not allow technical issues or not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work.* To ensure your own protection, please keep technical support contact information available offline and please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week! To access technical support (and save their contact information offline) please click on the "Tech Support" link to the left of the page. Have a technology alternative in case you have computer difficulties (e.g., campus computers, public library, computer at work, friend’s computer).

Assignment Due Dates, Late Work, and Make-up Work: Assignments are due every week on **Friday by 11:55 pm MST**. Please be sure to start your assignments early enough to complete them by the time the

week closes. As a rule, I do not accept late work or allow make up work, except for one “freebie.” No reason is required to take advantage of this opportunity, and it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor to make this happen. Students have 24 hours to make up the work from the time I send the make-up assignment email, and students are not permitted to use the “freebie” at any time during finals week. However, students cannot, under any circumstance, make up the discussion posts assignment. Due to the interactive nature of this assignment, students must be engaged in this process throughout the week each week in order to receive credit. To make up missed assignments it is mandatory that you 1) notify your instructor before assignment deadline and 2) provide proper documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Remember, prior notification is mandatory.

Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code](#). Plagiarism is a serious offense. This course requires students to adhere to APA format when citing, paraphrasing, or referencing sources. If you have plagiarized, either intentionally or accidentally, you will receive a zero on the assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course.

Disabilities and Special Learning Needs: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Office for Disability Equality](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the Office for Disability Equality (ODE), please contact the Office for Disability Equality in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate modification.

Cultural, Religious, and Ceremonial Leave Policy: Please notify me ahead of time if you will be absent from class for religious or ceremonial observances. UM policy states that cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student’s customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor.

Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: It is my intent to create a space where students from diverse backgrounds are respected, and everyone’s opinion is valued. I am committed to providing content and discussions that are respectful and inclusive of all (including gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, religion, culture, perspective, and other background characteristics). Your suggestions on how to improve this course so that it is more inclusive are encouraged and appreciated.

Grades of Incomplete: Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Dropping/Adding/Changing Grade Option: Please refer to the Registrar’s [Drop/Add Policy](#) and the [Official Dates & Deadlines Calendar](#) all questions related to dropping or adding or changing grade option for a course. I do not allow students to change from traditional grading to credit/no credit once the deadline for doing so has passed.

Course Schedule

Note: Schedule is subject to change at instructor’s discretion. Please check Moodle regularly for any announcements, changes, or extra credit opportunities.

Units	Readings	Quizzes & Discussions	Lab Assignments
Week 1 (8/27 – 9/2): Intro to Course	Syllabus	<i>Introduction Discussion (Optional)</i>	None
Week 2 (9/3 – 9/9) • Adult Development & Aging	Chapter 1	Quiz #1 – Chapter 1 Due by Friday (9/9) 11:55pm	None
Week 3 (9/10 – 9/16) • Neuroscience	Chapter 2	Quiz #2 – Ch. 2 Due by Friday (9/16) 11:55pm Discussion 1 • 1 Personal post by 11:55 Tues (9/13) • 3 Peer Responses 11:55PM Fri (9/16)	None
Week 4 (9/17 – 9/23) • Physical Changes	Chapter 3	Quiz #3 – Ch. 3 Due by Friday (9/23) 11:55pm	Lab #1 <i>Due by 11:55PM FRI 9/23</i>
Week 5 (9/24 – 9/30) • Longevity, Health, & Functioning	Chapter 4	Quiz #4 – Ch. 4 Due by Friday (9/30) 11:55pm	None
Week 6 (10/1 – 10/7) • Person-Environment Interactions	Chapter 5	Quiz #5 – Ch. 5 Due by Friday (10/7) 11:55pm Discussion 2 • 1 Personal post by 11:55 Tues (10/4) • 3 Peer Responses 11:55PM Fri (10/7)	None
Week 7 (10/8 – 10/14) • Attention & Memory	Chapter 6	Quiz #6 – Ch. 6 Due by Friday (10/14) 11:55pm	None
Week 8 (10/15 – 10/21) • Intelligence, Reasoning, Creativity, & Wisdom	Chapter 7	Quiz #7 – Ch. 7 Due by Friday (10/21) 11:55pm	Lab #2 <i>Due by 11:55PM FRI 10/21</i>
Week 9 (10/22 – 10/28) • Social Cognition	Chapter 8	Quiz #8 – Ch. 8 Due by Friday (10/28) 11:55pm Discussion 3 • 1 Personal post by 11:55 Tues (10/25) • 3 peer responses 11:55PM Fri (10/28)	None
Week 10 (10/29 – 11/4)	Chapter 9	Quiz #9 – Ch. 9 Due by Friday (11/4) 11:55pm	None

Units	Readings	Quizzes & Discussions	Lab Assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality 			
<p>Week 11 (11/5 – 11/12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Assessment, Mental Health, & Mental Disorders 	Chapter 10	<p>Quiz #10 – Ch. 10 <i>Due by Saturday (11/12) 11:55pm</i></p> <p>Discussion 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Personal post by 11:55 Wed (11/9) • 3 peer responses 11:55PM Sat (11/12) • <i>Change in schedule for Election Day & Veteran’s Day</i> 	None
<p>Week 12 (11/12 – 11/18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships 	Chapter 11	<p>Quiz #11 – Ch. 11 <i>Due by Friday (11/18) 11:55pm</i></p>	<p>Lab #3 <i>Due by 11:55PM FRI 11/18</i></p>
<p>Week 13 (11/19 – 11/23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work, Leisure, & Retirement 	Chapter 12	<p>Quiz #12 – Ch. 12 <i>Due by Wed. (11/23) 11:55pm- THANKSGIVING BREAK</i></p>	None
<p>Week 14 (11/26 – 12/2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dying & Bereavement 	Chapter 13	<p>Quiz #13 – Ch. 13 <i>Due by Friday (12/2) 11:55pm</i></p> <p>Discussion 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Personal post by 11:55 Tues (11/29) • 3 peer responses 11:55PM Fri (12/2) 	None
<p>Week 15 (12/3 – 12/9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Aging 	Chapter 14	<p>Quiz #14 – Ch. 14 <i>Due by Friday (12/9) 11:55pm</i></p>	<p>Course Reflection Opens: 12/3</p>
<p>FINALS WEEK (12/10 – 12/16)</p>		<p>Course Reflection Due</p>	<p>Final Course Reflection Closes: 12/13</p>