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PSYX 233.50: Fundamentals of the Psychology of Aging

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Syllabus – Fundamentals of Psychology of Aging (Online) – Spring 2022

PSYX 233, Section 50, CRN 31283

Instructor Information

Instructor: Amy Violante

Email: amy.violante@umontana.edu

Office: Skaggs 368

Office hours: By appointment – please email to set up a meeting

Required Textbook

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

Course Description

The primary purpose of this course is to provide 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 that pertain to adult development.

Course Assignments

Assignments for this class include quizzes, lab assignments, discussion forums, and a course reflection. Please check the attached schedule and each week's Moodle section for the assignment that is due that week. Each week will officially begin on the preceding Saturday at 12:05 am and will end the following Friday at 11:50 pm (Mountain Time). For example, our first week will begin Saturday, January 15th at 12:05 am, and it will end Friday, January 21st at 11:50 pm. That means the materials (slides, assignment details, etc.) needed for that week will be made available to you at the start of that period, and the assignments for that week need to be completed within that timeframe.

Quizzes

Quizzes will have 20 questions each, and they will test your knowledge of the material for the current week. Students are allowed one timed 30-minute attempt for each open-book quiz. 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. That means 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. Please study the assigned material for that week before attempting the quiz as they must be completed within the allotted time.

Lab Assignments

Lab assignments require you to integrate multiple class topics into a short paper using a variety of sources. These essays need to be written in APA format, and the sources need to be clearly cited. Comprehension and integration will be the main criteria of these papers and it is expected that this will

be accomplished in less than 2 pages. More details about each of these assignments can be found in their respective Moodle sections.

Course Reflection

This is a short assignment due at the end of finals week. It will ask you to briefly summarize what you found to be the most interesting about the material we covered and how those things fit into the bigger picture of human development from your point of view and in your words. Details for this assignment can be found in the Finals Week section on Moodle.

Discussion Forums

Doing well on the discussion assignments requires consistent and detailed participation. Discussion prompts from the instructor will evaluate your knowledge and comprehension of that week’s material. You are expected to respond to this prompt with an original post and also to interact with your peers by responding to their original posts. Your grade will be based on “attendance” (i.e., when, where, and how often you post) as well as the quality of your posts. Full credit requires high quality and maximum frequency posts. The three charts below explain how your discussion posts are graded. Hang onto your hats, it gets a little complicated.

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 50 points. After that, points will be deducted according to the criteria below.</i>		
Original Post: Students must make an original post in the weekly discussion forum. Each weekly original post is due Tuesday, 11:50 pm.	Each day late	2 points lost
Peers: Students must post a response to at least three 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 the “attendance” score is calculated up to this point, your post will be graded for quality. Again, the following points are deducted from, not added to, your weekly discussion’s total score. FYI, your weekly discussion score cannot be lower than 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 can 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 material, then you have demonstrated you understand 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’ posts. 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 may lack of clarity and comprehension, or there are considerable typos and grammatical errors.

Below Average: You answer questions asked by others 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 discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments, without adding any new thought to the discussion. 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 will check for plagiarism in the discussion posts. If you have plagiarized, you will get a zero for the entire semester. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course. If you engage in demeaning or aggressive behavior within your posts, you will get a zero for the assignment. Honesty is always appreciated, but please be kind and considerate in approaching these discussion topics.

Course Grading

Assignment Type	# of Each	Points Each	Points Possible
Quizzes	14	20	280
Discussion Forums	5	40	200
Lab Assignments	3	40	120
Course Reflection	1	20	20
Total Possible Points			620

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

Course Policies & Guidelines

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 all announcements made, which may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements. Announcements will be posted on Moodle or directly emailed to students.

Technology Policies

Please contact [UM Online](#) if you experience technical difficulties. *Critical note: I do not allow technical issues or not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work.* To ensure your protection, please keep technical support contact information available offline and please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week! 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 11:50 pm Mountain Time. Students cannot, under any circumstance, make up the discussion forum assignments. Due to the interactive nature of this assignment, students must be engaged in this process throughout the week 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.

Disability Accommodations

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.

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.

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.

Incompletes

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing "incomplete" grades after one year has passed since the "I" was granted.

Academic Honesty

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](#).

Course Schedule

Note: Schedule is subject to change. Please check Moodle regularly for any announcements or changes.

Week/Dates	Topic	Reading	Assignment	Quiz
			<i>Due Friday, 11:50pm</i>	
Week 1 1/15 – 1/21	Intro to Psychology & Aging	Syllabus & PDF on Moodle	Introduction Discussion*	Syllabus Quiz*
Week 2 1/22 – 1/28	Adult Development & Aging	Chapter 1		Quiz 1
Week 3 1/29 – 2/4	Neuroscience	Chapter 2	Discussion 1	Quiz 2
Week 4 2/5 – 2/11	Physical Changes	Chapter 3	Lab Assignment 1	Quiz 3
Week 5 2/12 – 2/18	Longevity, Health, & Functioning	Chapter 4		Quiz 4
Week 6 2/19 – 2/25	Person-Environment Interactions	Chapter 5	Discussion 2	Quiz 5
Week 7 2/26 – 3/4	Attention & Memory	Chapter 6		Quiz 6
Week 8 3/5 – 3/11	Intelligence, Reasoning, Creativity, & Wisdom	Chapter 7	Lab Assignment 2	Quiz 7
Week 9 3/12 – 3/18	Social Cognition	Chapter 8	Discussion 3	Quiz 8
Week 10 3/19 – 3/25	<i>Spring Break</i>			
Week 11 3/26 – 4/1	Personality	Chapter 9		Quiz 9
Week 12 4/2 – 4/8	Clinical Assessment, Mental Health, & Mental Disorders	Chapter 10	Discussion 4	Quiz 10
Week 13 4/9 – 4/15	Relationships	Chapter 11	Lab Assignment 3	Quiz 11
Week 14 4/16 – 4/22	Work, Leisure, & Retirement	Chapter 12		Quiz 12
Week 15 4/23 – 4/29	Dying & Bereavement	Chapter 13	Discussion 5	Quiz 13
Week 16 4/30 – 5/6	Healthy Aging	Chapter 14	Article Summaries*	Quiz 14
Finals Week 5/7 – 5/13	Reflection		Course Reflection	

*Extra Credit Opportunities

You will have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 20 Extra Credit points throughout the semester. The Syllabus Quiz and Introduction Discussion (5 possible points each) will be due at the end of Week 1 (Friday, January 21 at 11:50pm). The Article Summaries (5 possible points each) will be due at the end of Week 16 (Friday, May 6 at 11:50pm). Please see Moodle for additional details for each assignment.