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PSYX 233.01: Fundamentals of the Psychology of Aging

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Psychology 233 – Fundamentals of the Psychology of Aging

Spring 2018

Course Location and Time

Social Sciences 352

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:20

Instructor Information

Instructor: James Michael Brennan

Office: Skaggs Bldg. 360

Email: jamesmichael.brennan@umontana.edu (the best way to contact me)

Office hours: M 9:30-11 AM, TR 12:30-2 PM

Course 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, etc. Students are expected to think critically about the issues and to actively participate in class discussions. The format of the course will rely on both lecture and discussion.

In order to accomplish this objective, it is expected that students will exhibit professional behavior throughout the course. This includes, for example, student attendance, preparedness, and active participation and involvement in class. Students not exhibiting professional behavior may be asked to leave.

Recommended Text

Cavangaugh, J.C., & Blanchard-Fields, F. (2011/2015). *Adult development and aging* (7th or 8th ed.). CT: Cengage Learning.

Grading

Your final course grade will be based upon 250 total possible points that will be distributed as follows:

4 Exams (50 points each): 200

5 In-class Activities (10 points each): 50

Course grading will be based on the following point scale:

A = 225-250 (90-100%)

B+ = 213-224 (85-89%)

B = 200-212 (80-84%)

C+ = 188-199

C = 175-187 (70-79%)

D = 150-198 (60-69%)

F = 0-149 (0-59%)

Exams

Four exams will be given during the semester, each worth 50 points. The exams will test your knowledge of topics covered by the course text and information from the lectures.

- Exam format: Multiple choice. **(NCS 50/50 blue/green scantron forms are needed for tests)**
- Exam make-up policy: When possible, give prior notice of a missed exam. Be prepared to provide reasonable evidence and documentation for missing an exam. Make-up exams may be in a different format than the original exam.
- Missed exam: If you miss an exam and do not make arrangements for a make-up exam, you will receive a zero as your grade for that exam.

In-Class Assignments

A variety of in-class assignments will be given throughout the semester. These assignments will vary depending on the topic discussed in class that day. For example, students may be asked to reflect upon a particular issue in aging and turn in a brief written response. Assignments are designed to increase students' ability to apply concepts from class. There are no make-ups for in-class assignments (except in the case of a documentable emergency/medical situation or university sanctioned activity) but there will be a variety of opportunities to earn these points. If you need to make up an assignment, you must let me know immediately and you must complete the work within one week after the missed assignment was due (unless an illness/emergency prevents you from doing so).

Extra Credit

A number of extra, bonus points will be awarded for attendance and in-class activities.

Course Guidelines and Policies

Disability Modifications

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

Attendance

Attendance in class is expected. Regular participation in class discussions and engagement in lecture material is necessary to do well in this class. Material tested on key terms quizzes and exams will primarily come from lecture material. You will also need to work with your final project group in class throughout the semester and your attendance will factor into your final grade on the project. Please come to class on time and stay for the entire period. You are responsible for all announcements made in class.

Cell Phones/Laptops

Cell phones are to be turned off during class, please. You are welcome to use your laptop to take notes; other activities can pose a distraction to your classmates – please refrain from using laptops for anything other than note taking/class activities.

Courtesy

Courtesy is expected. Come to class on time and stay for the entire session. If you have an emergency and must arrive or depart late or early, please do so quietly. Be respectful of the instructor and classmates, do not be a distraction to others. Please familiarize yourself with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Course Withdrawal

February 9th is the last day to drop classes with an add/drop form, without the Dean's signature. After that date, no petitions to drop the course will be signed and no Incompletes will be given except in documentable emergency situations.

Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus if necessary.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Material
Jan. 23	Course Overview	
Jan. 25	Studying Adult Development and Aging	Chapter 1
Jan. 30	Neuroscience	Chapter 2
Feb. 1-6	Physical Changes	Chapter 3
Feb. 8-13	Longevity, Health, and Functioning In-Class Activity #1	Chapter 4
Thursday, Feb. 15	EXAM 1	Chapters 1-4
Feb. 20-22	Person-Environment Interactions In-Class Activity #2	Chapter 5
Feb. 27-Mar. 1	Attention and Memory	Chapter 6
Mar. 6-8	Intelligence	Chapter 7
Mar. 13-15	Social Cognition	Chapter 8
Tuesday, Mar. 20	EXAM 2	Chapters 5-8
Mar. 22	Personality In-Class Activity #3	Chapter 9
Mar. 27-29	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Apr. 3-5	Mental Health/Disorders In-Class Activity #4	Chapter 10
Apr. 10-12	Relationships	Chapter 11
Tuesday, Apr. 17	Exam 3	Chapters 9-11
Apr. 19-24	Work, Leisure, Retirement	Chapter 12
Apr. 26	Dying and Bereavement	Chapter 13
May 1	Successful Aging In-Class Activity #5	Chapter 14
May 3	Exam Review and Catchup Day	
Thursday, May 10 at 8:00 am	Final Exam	Chapters 12-14