

## **Houston Graduate School of Theology**

COU/PC 642 Aging and Elder Care

Spring 2018, Tuesday, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

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*Houston Graduate School of Theology equips women and men to be ministers and messengers of God's mission of reconciliation through academic excellence, personal transformation, and leadership development.*

### **I. Course Description**

A study of the psychological and sociological aspects of aging and ways to use community resources and programs in the counseling of senior adults, and their nuclear and extended families, with emphasis on appropriate therapeutic interventions relevant to the unique challenges to this age group.

### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Answer questions regarding theories of aging with appropriate attention to how they are used in a therapeutic environment by engaging an older person in a geriatric interview. MAC-1, MAC-2, MDiv-2
- B. Explain implications of psychological changes in the body as human age, and the impact those changes have on our psychological perspective, our learning and memory abilities, sexuality, and motivation by reflecting in several papers on the decades of aging. MAC-1, MAC-3, MDiv 2
- C. Define how recent research surrounding aging has influenced the field of geriatric psychotherapy and elder care by completing a research paper on integrating research and psychotherapy in an aging population.
- D. Integrate a biblical approach to contemporary counseling, psychological issues, and theories regarding aging and elder care through a reflective paper on *The Spirituality of Caregiving*. MAC-5
- E. Integrate theories, experiences, and scripture to form a theological model of the counseling process and spiritual care in later life as reflected in a class project on the topic. MAC-1, MDiv-2

### **III. Texts**

Narboe, N. (2017). *Aging: An apprenticeship*. Red Notebook Press: Portland, Oregon. ISBN 978-0-692-75399

Nouwen, H. J. M. (2011). *A spirituality of caregiving*. The Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust. ISBN 978-0-8358-1045-6.

#### IV. Student Workload Expectations

Class	Attendance.	45 hours
Reading	Aging: An apprenticeship	40 hours
	The spirituality of caregiving	15 hours
Report Writing	Five essays	25 hours
Interview	Geriatric Interview	5 hours

<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>130 hours</b>
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#### Course Requirements:

Four, five-page essays on the following: From *Aging: the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s*: What are the key features of these decades? Each worth 15 points.

A five-page essay, APA style of *The Spirituality of Caregiving*: What are the essential features of Nouwen's work? 10 points.

A five-page APA style research paper on integrating research on aging and psychotherapy. 10 points.

A Geriatric Interview of someone 65 or older: 20 points

Total points: 100

#### V. Grading Scale

A 98-100

A- 94-97

B+ 92-93

B 89-91

B 86-88

C+ 84-85

C 80-83

C- 75-78

D 74-70

F 0-69

#### VI. Policies

##### Classroom-related Academic Policies

- A. Regular attendance and regular submission of assignments on due dates in the syllabus is expected. The following guidelines have been approved for inclusion in all HGST syllabi and reflect standards for all courses:

Fall/Spring semester 15-session course – 3-absence maximum

Summer term 8-session course – 1-absence maximum (equals 4 hours).

6-session hybrid – 1-absence maximum

4-session hybrid – 0-absence maximum

- If a student reaches the designated number of absences, the student will no longer be allowed to stay in the class. The student does have the opportunity to appeal to the Academic Dean and should assume responsibility for scheduling that meeting as soon as possible.
- B. Work is expected on the due date. Late papers will receive no less than a one-letter grade reduction.
- C. Turnitin.com
1. All written assignments are subject to required submission to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to check for originality and style. The assignments that are required for submission will be described in the syllabus.
  2. Students will create an account at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). After doing so, the student will join the course page with the code and password supplied by the instructor. A list of assignments and due dates will be available on the course page.
  3. Students will submit assignments by the due date and time and will be required to submit the assignments in a hard copy format as well.
- D. Electronic Equipment Usage in Classrooms  
It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptop computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Therefore, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.
- E. *Please review the Academic Catalog for policies regarding Incompletes and Plagiarism. For more information on HGST and area Library Services, please download the Library Handbook from the HGST website.*

## VII. Notes for Writing Assignments

For MAC students: APA formatting is accepted as prescribed in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6<sup>th</sup> edition*.

All students shall utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student **not** use presentation or report binders or folders. She prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.

Critical, or formal, writing differs from colloquial writing or spoken English at several points. The student should note the following guidelines for critical writing. The instructor expects students to follow these guidelines strictly for academic-style assignments. Failure to do so will be penalized.

- Avoid first- or second-person references, both singular and plural (“I,” “we,” or “you”). Keep the written projects objective and professional. The student must remember that imperative forms are second person.
- Never use contractions.
- Avoid passive voice construction (i.e., the student should write “God chose Joshua” rather than “Joshua was chosen by God.”). Some exceptions are necessary, but limiting the use of passive voice is a good policy.

- Be sure that number and tense always agree (i.e., Do not write in one place that “Brueggemann argues . . .” and at another place “Brueggemann argued . . .”). Subject-verb agreement is imperative.
- Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Spellcheck!
- Grammar check works as well!
- All pronouns should have clear antecedents. Avoiding “it is” and “there is” in the paper removes much of the ambiguity of pronoun usage.
- Sentence fragments are unacceptable. Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate.

### VIII. Readings

Note: All readings will be discussed in class; students are encouraged to take notes to be utilized in their essays.

January 16, 2018	Course introduction & assignments	Begin Reading; Aging: An apprenticeship
January 23, 2018	The 50s	Reading from Aging
January 30, 2018	The 50s	Reading from Aging
February 6, 2018	The 60s	Reading from Aging Essay on 50s due
February 13, 2018	The 60s	Reading from Aging
February 20, 2018	The 70s	Reading from Aging Essay on 60s due
February 27, 2018	The 70s	Reading from Aging
March 6, 2018	Integrate theories, experiences, and scripture to form a theological model of the counseling process and spiritual care in later life as reflected in a class project on the topic. MAC-1, MDiv-2	Geriatric Interview Essay on 70s due  Class will participate in an action research culminating in a written statement.
March 12-18, 2018	Spring Break	No Class
March 20, 2018	The 80s	Reading from Aging
March 27, 2018	The Spirituality of Caregiving	Geriatric Interview Due
April 3, 2018	The Spirituality of Caregiving	Read: Henri Nouwen’s book Essay on 80s due
April 10, 2018	Elder Care Needs	Instructor PPT
April 17, 2018	The Psychology of Aging	Instructor PPT
April 24, 2018	The 90s	Reading from Aging Essay on Nouwen’s book is due
May 1, 2018	Course Review	Reflections

**IX. Bibliography** - Required textbooks constitute the bibliography for this course. The instructor will provide articles and handouts at certain times in the course.