Aging Studies (AGE)

Courses numbered 100 to 299 = lower-division; 300 to 499 = upper-division; 500 to 799 = undergraduate/graduate.

AGE 100. Introduction to Gerontology  3 credit hours
A multidisciplinary overview of the field of aging, with attention to cultural, social, psychological, biological and economic factors which influence the circumstances of the elderly. Course includes diversity content.

AGE 150. Workshop in Gerontology  1-3 credit hours
Provides specialized instruction, using a variable format in a gerontologically relevant subject. Repeatable for credit.

AGE 404. Psychology of Aging  3 credit hours
General education advanced further study course. Cross-listed as PSY 404. An examination of the issues surrounding the adult aging process. Includes personality and intellectual change, mental health of the elderly, and the psychological issues of extending human life. Emphasizes the strengths of the elderly and prevention of psychological problems of the elderly. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

AGE 405. Sociology of Aging  3 credit hours
General education advanced further study course. Cross-listed as SOC 405. Analysis of the social dimensions of old age, including changing demographic structure and role changes and their impact on society. Prerequisite: SOC 111.

AGE 408. Biology of Aging  3 credit hours
Cross-listed as BIOL 408. An introduction to the phenomenon of aging, including a survey of age-related processes and mechanisms of senescence, emphasizing humans. Prerequisite: a basic course in biology that satisfies the general education requirements.

AGE 481. Cooperative Education  1-6 credit hours
Provides practical field experience, under academic supervision, that complements and enhances the student's academic program. Repeatable up to 6 hours. Graded Cr/NCr. Prerequisites: AGE 100 and instructor's consent.

AGE 481A. Cooperative Education  3 credit hours
Provides practical field experience, under academic supervision, that complements and enhances the student's academic program.

AGE 481N. Internship  1-3 credit hours
Provides practical field experience, under academic supervision, that complements and enhances the student's academic program.

AGE 501. Field Experience  1-6 credit hours
A supervised field experience in an agency or organization planning or providing services to older people, individually designed to enhance each student's skills and knowledge of the aging service network. Repeatable for 6 hours credit. Prerequisites: 12 hours of aging studies credit and instructor's consent.

AGE 512. Diversity and Aging  3 credit hours
General education advanced further study course. Cross-listed as ETHS 512. Introduces students to issues in aging that are unique to minority older adults. Demonstrates differences in the aging experience by race/ethnicity and addresses the differential patterns of health and illness in later life in relation to race/ethnicity, gender and culture. In addition, the student develops an appreciation for how race/ethnicity affects mental and social dimensions of life. Attention is given to the impact on the social, financial and health aspects of those who speak a language other than English. Course perspective is interdisciplinary, taking into account the physical, psychological, interpersonal, and social influences which shape our understanding of the challenges older minorities face when relocating to the United States. Course includes diversity content.

AGE 514. Anthropology of Aging  3 credit hours
Cross-listed as ANTH 514. An anthropological analysis of the latter stages of the life cycle with historical and cross-cultural perspectives.

AGE 515. Women and Aging  3 credit hours
Introduces students to issues in aging that are unique to women, to women's diverse developmental patterns, and to research methods appropriate for studying aging women and their life experiences. Topics include physical change, role transitions and adaptation from a life span perspective. Course includes diversity content.

AGE 516. Age, Work and Retirement  3 credit hours
Examines the basic implications of population aging on work life and retirement opportunities, now and in the future. Explores factors that may place individuals at risk for economic insecurity as they grow older. Topics covered include the current situation in the United States and other countries, examines the economic status of older Americans, addresses retirement policies in the private sector, social security and health care issues.

AGE 520. Family and Aging  3 credit hours
Cross-listed as SOC 520. An analysis of the families and family systems of older people. Emphasizes demographic and historical changes, widowhood, caregiving and intergenerational relationships as these relate to the family life of older people. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisite: AGE 100, SOC 111, or junior standing.

AGE 521. Images of Aging in the Media  3 credit hours
Explores the link between media and aging issues in the United States. Students examine several ways in which our experiences and beliefs about aging are influenced by mass media as well as how the media and marketing tactics influence and reflect the images of older people in society today. The theoretical and practical aspects of aging in the context of the media are addressed.

AGE 525. Dying, Death and Bereavement  3 credit hours
A broad overview of the psychological aspects of death and dying in our society. Topics include attitudes toward and preparation for death, the understanding of and care for terminally ill patients, funeral rituals, burial, mourning and grief practices; suicide and euthanasia. The class involves experiential learning activities such as personal preparation for death and field trips such as visiting a funeral home. These learning activities are designed to help the student be better equipped to help those who must make such preparations for themselves or loved ones.

AGE 527. Introduction to Sexuality and Aging  3 credit hours
Focuses on all aspects of sexuality and aging and the issues that arise with respect to sexual behavior as humans age. Examines human sexuality over the life course, focused on the experiences of those 65 and older and the impact of chronic disease, cognitive decline and physical disabilities on sexual attitudes and behaviors. Addresses key concerns regarding sexuality and aging, including misconceptions about sexuality and aging as well as the problems with sexuality that members of the aging population sometimes face. It also looks at solutions, treatments and techniques that can be applied to help address some of those problems. The course perspective is interdisciplinary, taking into account the physiological, psychological, interpersonal and social influences which shape our understanding of sexuality in the aged.

AGE 529. Caregiving and Aging  3 credit hours
Explores caregivers' gender roles, cost of caregiving, managing stress, respite care, finding resources, financial and legal matters, emerging caregiving trends, and long distance caregiving. Caregiving is often stressful to the caregiver. Attention is given to caring for the caregiver, informal versus formal caregiving, the importance of various services
for the health of the caregivers themselves, working with professional
caregivers, and emerging trends in caregiving.

AGE 543. Aging and Public Policy   3 credit hours
Cross-listed as SOC 543. Seminar-style course explores the impact
of an aging population on social institutions, covers the history of
American aging policies, the organization and financing of health
care for the elderly, and discusses policy analysis as an evaluation
tool for comparing public approaches to responding to the needs of an
increasingly diverse aging population. Considers the process of policy
formation, identifies key players and interest groups and contrasts
political ideologies regarding federal, state and private responsibilities
for older people. Emphasizes Social Security, the Older Americans
Act, Medicare and Medicaid as policy examples. Also looks at the
potential contributions of the older population to society (volunteer
services, provision of family care, etc.) as affecting and affected by
policy. Course includes diversity content. Prerequisite: SOC 111 or
AGE 100 or junior standing.

AGE 550. Selected Topics in Aging Studies   1-3 credit hours
Study in a specialized area of aging studies with the focus upon
preprofessional programs and current issues in the field of aging.
Emphasizing knowledge and skills in applied areas of aging studies as
they relate to an emerging area of research and application. Repeatable
up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: instructor's consent.

AGE 550O. Human Resource Management in Long-Term Care   3 credit hours
Builds a solid foundation in human resource management principles
for professionals working in long-term care. Intended for students who
need a skillset in HR management principles for an administrative
role, or who will be managing HR professionals. Key human
resources functions covered include HR’s role as a strategic partner,
employment law, recruitment, compensation and payroll, training
and development, discipline and termination, and labor relations.
Case studies, contemporary issues and discussions focus heavily on
becoming an employer of choice in a long-term care environment.

AGE 550P. Long-Term Care Management & Operations   3 credit hours
Designed to broaden the understanding of operating and managing a
long-term care community — specifically assisted living communities.
Students gain an understanding of human capital demands, cross-
functional departmental dependences, financial and budgetary
requirements, as well as the relationship between operational excellence
and quality of life for the resident.

AGE 559. Successful Aging: Theory, Research & Practice   3 credit hours
Cross-listed as PSY 559, SCWK 559, and SOC 559. Reviews current
interventions which promote successful aging. Theoretical bases of this
work in biomedical and life span/developmental psychology is featured.
Intended for students in the Colleges of Health Professions, Liberal
Arts & Sciences and Engineering. Course includes diversity content.
Prerequisite: AGE 100, or PSY 111, or SCWK 201, or SOC 111.

AGE 560. Aging Network Seminar   3 credit hours
An overview of federal, state and local programs concerned with
planning, managing or direct delivery of services to the older
population. Prerequisite: 9 hours of aging studies credit or instructor's
consent.

AGE 622. Public Health and Aging   3 credit hours
Explores the study of aging and the range of health issues that older
persons, their families, their providers and society will face in the next
decade. Presents an overview on aging from different perspectives:
demography, biology, epidemiology of disease, physical and mental
health disorders, functional capacity and disability, social aspects of
aging and ethical issues in the care of older individuals.

AGE 660. Administrator-in-Training Long-Term Care
Practicum   3-6 credit hours
An academic long-term care administrator training program. Develops
a professional competency and personal code of ethics for the field of
long-term care administration. Gives students the practical experience
required by the state of Kansas in order to sit for the state and national
nursing home administrator licensure examination. The required text is
the study guide for the national exam. It is the student's responsibility
to work through the study materials and seek guidance from their
preceptor regarding questions over the material. The 480-clock-hour
practicum is completed in a licensed long-term care facility under the
guidance of an approved preceptor. Repeatable for a total of 6 hours
credit. Prerequisite: instructor's consent.

AGE 663. Economic Insecurity   3 credit hours
Cross-listed as ECON 663. Personal economic insecurity, such as
unemployment, old age, health care, disablement and erratic economic
fluctuations. Includes costs and benefits of government action to
aid in meeting such insecurities. Course includes diversity content.
Prerequisites: ECON 202 or instructor's consent, and junior standing.

AGE 702. Research Methods   3 credit hours
Cross-listed as PADM 702. Acquaints students with applied public
policy research methods. Emphasizes locating, collecting, appraising
and using both primary and secondary sources of data of the type used
in policy, planning and administrative research. Students must complete
several short research projects. Fulfills the university's professional and
scholarly integrity training requirement covering research misconduct,
publication practices and responsible authorship, conflict of interest and
commitment, ethical issues in data acquisition, management, sharing
and ownership.

AGE 710. Systems in Long-Term Care   3 credit hours
Analyzes long-term care in the U.S. as a response to chronic illness
and disability emphasizing the diversity of long-term care systems
and addressing the needs of persons of all ages. Addresses system
and organizational aspects that affect organizational outcomes and
quality of long-term care services. Considers long-term care policy and
management issues. It explicitly applies a trajectory model of chronic
illness, conceptualizing formal long-term care services as one series of
responses to chronic illness and disability.

AGE 715. Adult Development and Aging   3 credit hours
Explores theory and research related to the development of adults and
to the aging process. Using an interactive, interdisciplinary perspective,
the course examines the process of change, transition, growth and
development across the adult life span. Prerequisite: AGE 798 or 6
hours of aging studies.

AGE 717. Health Communications and Aging   3 credit hours
A multidisciplinary, empirically-based consideration of emotions,
behaviors, beliefs and attitudes related to aging and the process of
communicating with older adults. Topics include: approaches to
communication and aging, current evidence about communication
and the aging population, interpersonal and intergenerational
communication, mass communication and aging, health and health care
interactions (patient-physician communication, etc.), older adults and
technology, and cultural change. Students develop applied skills and
critical thinking. Applications to public health are explored throughout
the course.

AGE 720. Independent Readings   1-3 credit hours
Supervised study of special topics and problems relating to older adults.
Repeatable up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: program consent.
AGE 765. The Medicare System  3 credit hours  
Designed to explore the many intricacies of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Emphasizes the application of course material to the development of the student's understanding of how these two programs affect the use of medical services among covered populations. Course format includes lecture, group and individual examination of the literature, and analysis of case studies.

AGE 780. Physical Dimensions of Aging  3 credit hours  
Cross-listed as HPS 780. Designed to assist the student in developing an understanding of the complex physiological changes that accompany advancing age and the effects of physical activity on these factors. In addition, the student develops an appreciation for how functional consequences affect mental and social dimensions of life. Attention is given to sensory, motor, cognitive and psychological changes. Special emphasis is placed on factors associated with the preparation, implementation and evaluation of research projects involving older adult populations.

AGE 781. Cooperative Education  3-6 credit hours  
Provides practical field experience, under academic supervision, that is suitable for graduate credit and complements and enhances the student's academic program. Repeatable up to 6 hours. These 3 to 6 hours may meet degree requirements (if approved by the academic adviser) in place of AGE 810. AGE 781 is graded Cr/NCr, while AGE 810 is letter graded. Prerequisites: 12 hours of aging studies and instructor's consent.

AGE 798. Interprofessional Perspectives on Aging  3 credit hours  
Introduction to the advanced study of the process of aging from a multidisciplinary point of view. Not open to students with an undergraduate major or minor in aging studies. Prerequisite: admission to Graduate School.