Instructor Contact

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Course Description

This course is an advanced course intended to provide an overview of the government programs for older people. We will examine the current providers, services, and policies addressing the needs of older Americans, with special attention given to income maintenance, health care, community-based services, and housing. This will be accomplished by reading from the text, written statements from the instructor, term papers, and discussion on an Internet discussion board. You will be expected to access the class website at least once a week (this will be checked for ‘attendance’) and to undertake the assignments: participate in the discussion board theme for each week (and continue to participate in previous or later themes as well); do the required readings; and submit various assignments on time.

Pre-requisites

Even if there are no pre-requisites for the course, best practice is to state that information.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate detailed knowledge of the Older American Act and other public policy, and how such policy has supported and influenced care, support, and services provided to the older adult.
2. Understand and outline patterns of service use and theories of health-seeking behavior by older adults.

3. Describe and discuss the continuum of services available to both the dependent and independent older adult.

4. Describe and discuss the variety of housing and life-style options available to the older adult in both the private and institutional setting.

5. Explain future challenges for the Older American Act, Medicare, Social Security and other public policy.

6. Anticipate public policy changes that may occur in future with regard to older adults.

**Required Materials**

**Course Structure**
This is an internet-based class with teacher preparations. You will be expected to access the class website at least once a week (this will be checked for ‘attendance’) and to undertake the assignments: participate in the discussion board theme for each week (and continue to participate in previous or later themes as well); do the required readings; and submit various assignments on time.

This course is structured with weekly lectures from the instructor, plus weekly reading assignments from the required textbook and weekly required and recommended additional readings, plus weekly topics on the discussion board. Posting on the discussion board is a required and graded part of the course; and for an online class, “attendance in class” is defined as posting on the discussion board. Testing is via a midterm essay exam. Students are required to do a term paper plus an additional assignment.

All weekly instructor lectures are in a folder off the home page, as are the weekly discussion board topics, and as are any recommended readings not in the textbook. Students should submit all assignments by their due dates. The completed midterm and assignment are to be submitted via Canvas.

**Technical Support**
UIT Helpdesk
Sage Hall 130
940-565-2324
helpdesk@unt.edu

**Technical Skill Requirements**
[Canvas Guide: Getting Started as a Student](#)
Netiquette


Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1 – Benefits Check-up</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2 – Midterm</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3 – Final Paper</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 15 Discussion Forums</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

The course requirements and grading criteria are:

**Exam**: The mid-term exam covers materials in the required readings. The exam uses an essay test. The exam is open-book and open-note but not intended to be open-collaboration.

**Term paper**: A term paper is required, and will need to be between 10-15 pages in length. Your topic statement is due by September 15th, and the actual paper by December 9th. **Statements of fact, data, and opinion of others must be supported by citations**, using APA format (author, year) or (author, year: page number) for citations of quotes. Exact restatement of another’s work is quotation, should be indicated and cited (for in-text citations of quotes, include page numbers of the quotes). Overenthusiastic quotation without attribution (plagiarism) is grounds at least for severe reduction in grade. Cite sources of assertions that are not either: (1) your own opinion, or (2) widely-known or common-sense knowledge (if in doubt, cite). Tables from other sources should show citations. **Some of the sources (at least 3) should be from the peer-reviewed literature.** A reference section at the end should list only sources cited. The textbook is NOT an acceptable source in a term paper, nor is Wikipedia. Web citations are fine, but be able to defend the validity of the source; provide the URL, and note when you accessed the site. Citations of books are fine, but most books are not peer-reviewed. Other documents, particularly organizational documents, are acceptable. Citations of interviews you conduct are also acceptable. **Paper grades will depend heavily on the quality of the sources (including adequate references), and the organization and quality of the paper.** See the Guide to Papers.
**Assignments:** Students will be asked to interview 3 older adults to determine their benefits eligibility, using the benefitscheckup.org website, as instructed in the modules.

**Online Participation:** Participation on the Discussion Board is essential and constitutes attendance. Grading will be based on each student’s participation on the discussion board. The website is your major connection to the class and the instructor; and online participation through the website, specifically on the Discussion Board, is required and is 30% of your grade.

**Late Assignments:** I will not accept late assignments.

**Policies**

**Academic Integrity:** [https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/academic-integrity](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/academic-integrity)

**ADA Policy**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://disability.unt.edu/](http://disability.unt.edu/). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses**

**Federal Regulation**


The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance
education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

By the end of this module, students will be able to:

Discuss existing legislation with respect to social programs including the Older Americans Act, Social Security, Medicare (SSA Title 18), Medicaid (SSA Title 19).
Propose new legislation Or propose amendments to existing legislation.
Explain the network of aging services and best practices for gaining access to services.
Explain how current programs are funded and the associated controversies.