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COURSE INFORMATION

AGER 2250 / Images of Aging in Film and Literature

Professor/Instructor Contact Information

Wendy Mincer, BAAS, MS, MA, LPC, NCC, PhD Candidate (aka Professor, or Wendy, I will respond to both)

Office Hours: online only, email or Zoom, (Zooms will need to be in the mornings before 11 AM or in the evening after 7 PM)

Please Message me through the course link or email me to set up a time.

Office Location: You can leave anything in Chilton Hall 238

Office Phone: 940-369-7889 (Leave message)

Email: Please use the MESSAGE area in the course first. If you don't have access to the course, then email me at wendy.mincer2@unt.edu

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

AGER 2250-001 / Images of Aging in Film and Literature

Course Description: This course explores our impressions of old age and our attitudes towards the elderly as they are expressed in feature-length Films and short fiction. The analysis of cinematic and literary portrayals of older persons will enable you to recognize stereotypical views of aging and to appreciate the variety of human experience that characterizes the last decades of life. Through discussions of weekly gerontological theories, peer-reviewed research, and concepts, you will learn their meanings and applications as we compare them to the films and literature as well as to real-life examples.

Course Structure

The class will meet once a week in which we will cover a single module. Each module will cover a different life course theory or social aspect of aging. A film will be assigned in each module correlating with that week's lecture. The only exception to this will be the last 2-3 modules in which Team Presentations will be conducted.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course nor is a book required. All information and needed materials will be provided in class. There will be no recordings in class allowed on weeks we have a film. All the student needs to bring is a pen or pencil.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to (numbered in order of presentation):

This course is designed to help students achieve the following Course Objectives (CO). Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Evaluate the dominant themes associated with aging in contemporary films and short stories. (CO1, BL5)
- 2) Validate the accuracy of the public images of aging offered in film and literature. (CO2, BL4)
- 3) Hypothesize how views of older persons can be shaped by cinematic portrayals of old age. (CO3, BL4)
- 4) Formulate the meaning of old age by using basic social, psychological, and gerontological concepts. (CO4, BL5)
- 5) Demonstrate key aspects of the aging process with appropriate examples from film and literature. (CO5, BL3)
- 6) Compare changes in recent decades of the way aging has been presented in motion pictures. (CO6, BL4)
- 7) Critique images of aging in the media as compared to images taking place in the real world. (CO7, BL5)
- 8) Formulate positive and negative aspects of later life and aging. (CO8, BL6)
- 9) Explain personal thoughts about aging, old age, and older people. (CO9, BL2)

NOTE: Each Course Objective (CO) has been associated with the appropriate level of intellectual behavior Bloom's Taxonomy has identified as important in the learning process. The level of Bloom's taxonomy associated with the objective is indicated as "Bloom's Level" (BL). This taxonomy (or classification system) identifies six levels of cognitive complexity: BL1 = remembering; BL2 = understanding; BL3 = applying; BL4 = analyzing; BL5 = evaluating; BL6 = creating. For more information about Bloom's Taxonomy go to https://jf20.wikispaces.com/file/view/Bloom's+Revised+Taxonomy-Digital+Style.pdf (Links to an external site.)

Materials

No textbook is required

About the Professor

My name is Wendy Mincer, and I will be teaching this class for the Fall 2022 semester. I have a bachelor's and master's degree in Gerontology from UNT, with concentrations in Mental Health Counseling for Older Adults, Neuroscience and Aging, Palliative and Hospice Care, End of Life Planning, Assisted Living Transition, Senescence, Substance Use, Senior Exercise Program Design, and Bereavement and Grief. I am a consultant with the Area Agency on Aging in Dallas and Ft. Worth, and a supervisor for the *Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives (PEARLS)* which educates older adults about what depression is (and is not), and helps them develop the skills they need for self-sufficiency and more active lives. I am a former board member for Adult Children of Aging Parents (ACAP) in NC and will soon be embarking on starting a chapter in Texas, most likely in Collin County.

I am a Master Trainer for the Stanford University Diabetes, Chronic Pain, Caregivers, HIV/AIDS, Matter of Balance and Stress-Busters Self-Management Programs since 2014.

I next attended Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina and received a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor (*LPC*). I specialize in personality disorders, PTSD and CPTSD, trauma, ADHD, anxiety, and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

I was asked to join the Gerontology Ph.D. program at UNT and returned to Texas. I eventually transitioned to Rehabilitation and my PhD is on healthcare provider's perspectives on assessment and diagnosis for the treatment and prevention of opioid use disorder (OUD) among rural Native Americans.

I also see around 35 private clients a week via Telehealth. So responses to your emails and grading will be done in the evening, hence the weird office hours and times.

I have 2 Afghan Hounds (dogs), brother and sister, named Daenerys Targaryen, Mother of Dragons (Dani) and Mance Rayder, King beyond the Wall (Mance). I was reading Game of Thrones when I got them. They eat *everything*, love coffee, and get stuff off of the refrigerator. I love fish and maintain 4 large aquariums. I have a 7-year-old Cichlid named Mr. Big, because he ate a tank of fish (I did not know he was a Cichlid, nor did the person who gave him to me). He was a baby. Obviously by his name, not so much now. Favorites are Angels, Bala Sharks, Loaches and Plecos. They are so cool, and I like to get lost in and waste time watching them be fish and do fish things.

My favorite places are Madrid, Venice, and Portugal. I love coffee (black) and will always have it with me. ALWAYS! Favorite food is anything Asian. And I am a culture freak, love how others live, think, present, and practice their history.

That's probably too much information but wanted to give you a feel of being in the community I hope this class will be. Of course, I am going to ask you to tell me about you...

Obviously, I am interested in aging-related issues, and I hope through this class you will have a better understanding of aging in all facets, through how it is portrayed in literature, social media and attitudes and beliefs. I plan to make this class interesting and fun, and my goals are for each of you to walk away with a different belief about aging, than you came in with.

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I WILL TAKE ATTENDANCE. If I have to show up, so do you. You must be invested in your education and making the commitment to do so benefits you. This class will help you interact with the older members of your family, and older adults in general.

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Provide a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Using presentation and graphics programs

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130 Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

• Sunday: noon-midnight

• Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight

• Friday: 8am-8pm • Saturday: 9am-5pm Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-toface, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use "I" statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual's experiences.

- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as "YELLING!"
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using "text-talk" unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these <u>Engagement Guidelines</u> (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Requirements

List all required assignments and graded activities for the course, along with a short description and the points possible. Best practice is to clearly indicate both points and percentages if you are using both in the course. Here is a table example below:

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Attendance – 50 points per class	150 points	15%
Quizzes x 3 – 100 points each	150 points	15%
Midterm – Rough Draft	200 points	20%
Final – Final Paper	200 points	20%
Group Presentation	300 points	30%
Team Assignments x 3 = 50 points each	150 points	15%
Total Points Possible	1000 points	115%

Grading

Include the grading scale (A-F) along with the point totals/percentages you will use to calculate the final grade. For example:

A = 900-1000

B = 800-899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 500-599

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

Course Policies

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Course Materials for Remote Instruction

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change, or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone – faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [list specific software, supplies, equipment or system requirements needed for the course]. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn

Class Participation

Include your classroom participation policy here.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted unless prearranged or is a sanctioned UNT event in which 48 hour notification is required.

Examination Policy

Tests will be administered in class and will not be open book or note. No electronics will be tolerated during tests.

Assignment Policy

All assignments and due dates can be found on the assignment timeline sheet in Module 1. All dates are subject to change and students will be notified at the earliest known date of change. The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should

immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

I will provide as much feedback as possible and in a timely manner to the student. I am here to provide a safe academic learning experience for all students.

• I will notify the student of grade change within 48 hours. I will also respond to all email and inquiries within 48 hours unless outside unknown circumstances prevent this.

Syllabus Change Policy

Changes to the syllabus are open to the instructor and students will be notified immediately of any change made.

• <u>MathLab</u> (<u>https://math.unt.edu/mathlab</u>)

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

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Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (noreply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the <u>Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website</u> (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

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.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See <u>UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification</u>, <u>Privacy</u>, and <u>Notification and Distance Education Courses</u> (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission. Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically Delivered Courses

- 1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
- 2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
- 3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-andwellness-center)

- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- <u>UNT Psychiatric Services</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- <u>Individual Counseling</u> (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and inperson. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can <u>add your pronouns to your Canvas account</u> so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- What are pronouns and why are they important?
- o How do I use pronouns?
- o How do I share my pronouns?
- How do I ask for another person's pronouns?
- o How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)

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• <u>UNT Food Pantry</u> (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- <u>UNT Libraries</u> (<u>https://library.unt.edu/</u>)
- Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)