

Introduction to Gerontology GERS 1301

Description: This course is an overview of the social, psychological and biological changes that accompany aging and the implications of these changes for the individual as well as for the larger society.

Outcomes: Students will be able to develop an appreciation for, and become familiar with the multi-disciplinary aspect of theory, research and practice in gerontology; understand both social and personal attitudes and responses to aging in American society, in social work, and in themselves; to grasp the position and trends of the older segment of the population with respect to the population as a whole, to identify the issues entailed by such trends, and to discuss the place of social work and the social worker in dealing with such trends; become familiar with studies and practice issues concerning older populations at risk: women, blacks, Hispanic, native American, and other ethnic groups, the aged in developing countries, gay and lesbian elderly, the old-old, etc.; acknowledge the process of normal aging and be able to critically appraise research with respect to physiological and cognitive functioning in the later years; and, be familiar with mental disorders in the later years and issues in assessment of such disorders.