The University of Tennessee
College of Social Work
SW 566 Social & Cultural Aspects of Aging
(3 Credit Hours)

Summer 2015
Online

Prerequisite(s): 510, 512, 513, 517, 519, 520, 522, 537, 538, 539

Instructor Information
Instructor: Marcela Wentzel Ph.D.
Office: Virtual
Phone:
Email: mwentze2@utk.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Code of Conduct
It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct Code that is in the College of Social Work MSSW Handbook (www.esw.utk.edu). Students are also expected to sign and adhere to the Social Work Field Placement Code of Conduct.

The Honor Statement
An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity. (Hilltopics).

University Civility Statement
Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: http://civility.utk.edu/

Disability
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact The University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services at 2227 Dunford Hall (865) 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.
Dimensions of Diversity

The College of Social Work and the University of Tennessee welcome and honor all people. In accordance with the U.S. Council on Social Work Education and the U.S. National Association of Social Workers, the College of Social Work defines “the dimensions of diversity as the intersectionality of multiple factors, including” age, class, color, culture, mental or physical disability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, national origin, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. The College values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and academic freedom and integrity. A person’s diverse life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. The College of Social Work promotes social justice and social change, and strives to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.

Course Description

This course is a concentration elective course. This course examines the social and cultural aspects of aging with special emphasis on diversity and social policies. This course critically examines the effect of social issues and policies on multicultural client systems, organizations, agencies and communities.

Course Rationale

Due to improvements in health awareness and medical technology, as well as demographic changes, the number of older people in the U.S. and most other countries is increasing rapidly. This trend has profoundly changed society in the past quarter-century and will continue to do so well into the next century. As a result, interest in the aging process has grown considerably within the last 25 years. The rapid increase of older persons will require an enormous increase in the number of professionals trained and competent to work with older adults and their families. This course will examine social and cultural aspects of aging, with special emphasis on issues of diversity along with social policies and practices that may perpetuate oppression, discrimination and social injustice.

Course Competencies: By the completion of this course, students are expected to be able to demonstrate competency to:

1) Identify and evaluate social theories and culturally related perspectives on aging and caregiving. *Diversity 3, Diversity 4, Critical Thinking 1 & 3, Practice 3 (Content: Social Theories of Aging. For example: Role Theory, Activity Theory, Disengagement Theory, Continuity Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, Age Stratification Theory, Social Exchange Theory, Life Course Perspective)*

3) Recognize multi-cultural issues among older adults and assess barriers to culturally relevant service delivery for client systems *Diversity 1-3, Practice 1, Values & Ethics 2,* (Content: Elders of Color, Gender Discrepancies, GLBT Elders, Elder Immigrants, Intergenerational Issues)

4) Analyze ethical and resolve ethical dilemmas encountered in social work practice with older adults and their families that may arise in practice. *Values & Ethics 1-3, Practice 1* (Content: GLBT Elders, Elder Immigrants, Health & Social Service Utilization, Gender Differences in Aging, Caregiving, Abuse, Neglect, Self-Neglect, Assisted Suicide, Advanced Directives)

**Course Format**
This course will be offered using an **online** education format and supported through the use of Blackboard. The class will meet collectively for **mandatory** LIVE sessions five times during the semester: July 9 at 6-7pm (CST); July 16 at 6-7pm (CST); July 23 at 6-7pm , July 30 at 6-7pm (CST) and August 6 at 6-7PM (CST). Students can expect to spend **at least** six to eight hours per week on class related tasks that may include, but are not limited to: reading assigned materials; participating in discussion boards; viewing online resources such as videos or websites; and other assignments. Students are responsible for **actively** participating in all assigned tasks on an ongoing basis.

**LIVE session participation**
Participation in LIVE online sessions is **mandatory**. Students are required to communicate to the professor as early as possible if a session is to be missed. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend sessions, as these are critical to your education. **A 1-point reduction to the final grade will occur for EACH LIVE session missed.**

**Assigned Readings**
Assessment of Long Term Care Facilities

The purpose of this assignment is to allow students to assess the physical and social environment of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. In doing so, students will demonstrate mastery of their ability to identify, recognize and discuss social challenges faced by elder living in these environments and the implications for social work practice (Course Competency 2). Students will conduct an assessment of one nursing home and one assisted living facility using instruments provided by the instructor. These instruments can be found at the end of the course syllabus. In addition to completing the assessment instruments, students will write a one page summary of their reactions. The summary will include an assessment of each facility’s strengths and weaknesses along with the student’s recommendations on how social workers could enhance the quality of life for residents of these facilities.

Facility Assessment papers are due at **MIDNIGHT (CST) July 16 and NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT TIME.** All assessments must be submitted via blackboard. No assessments will be accepted by email.

Interview – Older Adult

The purpose of this assignment is to allow students to demonstrate mastery of course competencies 1-4 based on an interview with an older adult and application of knowledge acquired through course materials. Students are to interview an older adult at a local senior center who is a different gender and race/ethnicity from themselves. Based on this interview students will write a paper summarizing the following points.

A) Productive Aging: How would you explain the social connectedness of the older adult interviewed? What are his/her dreams and challenges and how do they compare to the AARP Report?

B) Poverty & Aging: How did the older adult’s income change after retirement? What is his/her knowledge of health and social programs? To what extent does this individual use health and social programs? How does the older adult’s situation compare with state and national statistics covered?

C) Marriage & Family: What is the older adult’s current relationship with his/her family? In what way have these relationships changed over the his/her life?

D) End of Life: What is the older adult’s current end of life wishes? Has he/she taken steps to create advanced directives? Why does he/she think this is/is not important? How does the older adult’s end of life wishes compare to the cultural perspectives on death?

E) Social Theory: What social theory,do you think best explains the older adult’s approach to aging and why? Support your decision with concrete examples.

F) Implications for Practice: What are the social challenges facing this individual and the implication of those challenges for social work practice?

G) Ethical Issues: What possible ethical issues could be encountered in practice with this individual and his/her family and how would you resolve them?

. Grades will be assigned based on the thoroughness and accuracy of student responses. Application of course materials and mastery of course competencies must be clearly evident and will factor into the student’s score. The elder interview is due on July 23rd **at MIDNIGHT (CST). NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** All interviews must be submitted via blackboard. No interviews will be accepted via email. Use the headings provided (points A-G).
Grading Scale
The final grade for this course will be determined as follows:
- Facility Assessments: 40 points
- Elder Interview: 40 points
- Discussion Board and Participation: 20 points

Course Outline

Class 1 – Social Theories & Cultural Perspectives on Aging –

Tasks:
- Read Text Chapter 8 *Social Theories of Aging*
- Read text Chapter 9 *The Importance of Social Supports*
- Read Text, Chapter 10, *Opportunities and Challenges of Informal Caregiving*
- View Video: Life in Ikaria
- Read Family Caregiver Alliance (n.d.), Selected Caregiver Statistics
- Read Gray et al. (2009), Ethnic differences in beliefs regarding Alzheimer disease among dementia family caregivers

Course Competencies/Content:

*CC 1 & 3 /Social Theories of Aging, Role Theory, Activity Theory, Disengagement Theory, Continuity Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, Age Stratification Theory, Social Exchange Theory, Life Course Perspective, Elders of Color*

*CC 2, 3 & 4 /Content: Family Caregiving, Elders of Color, Intergenerational Issues*

Class 2 Resilience of Elders of Color and Older Women

Tasks:
- Read Text, Chapter 14, *The Resilience of Elders of Color*
- Read Text Chapter 15, *The Resilience of Older Women*
- Read Rank & Williams (2010), A life course approach to understanding poverty among older American adults
- Review: AARP (2010), Older Americans in Poverty: A Snapshot
Course Competencies/Content:

CC 2, 3 & 4/Content: Poverty, Social Security, Elder Immigrants, Health Care & Social Service Utilization, Poverty & Elders of Color, Poverty & Gender Discrepancies

Class 3 Living Arrangements

Tasks:
Read Text, Chapter 11, Living Arrangements & Social Interactions
Read WHO (2007), Global Age Friendly Cities Guide
Read Gonyea et al (2010), The complexities of elder homelessness
Read: AARP (2010), Home Modifications to Promote Independent Living
Read Ball et al (2009), Pathways to Assisted Living

Course Competencies/Content:

CC 2, 3 & 4/Content: Poverty, Health Care & Social Service Utilization, Poverty & Elders of Color, Poverty & Gender Discrepancies, Homelessness

CC 2/Content: Elder-Friendly Communities, Universal Design

Class 4 – End of Life –

Tasks:
Read Text, Chapter 13, Death, Dying & Bereavement
Read Text, Chapter 12, Productive Aging: Paid and Unpaid Roles & Activities
Listen to University of Buffalo (2008) interview with Dr. Waldrop, End of Life Care for our Nation’s Elderly (Parts 1, 2, & 3)
Read Carr (2011), Racial differences in end-of-life planning
Randy Pausch Last Lecture

Course Competencies/Content:

CC 2, 3 & 4/Content: Death & Dying, Grief & Bereavement, Suicide, Assisted Suicide, Advanced Directives
Class 5 – Productive Aging

Tasks:

Explore the following three aging related websites:

- Parkinson Voice Project
- Pioneer Network
- Poetic Salvation

Course Competencies/Content:


CC 2/Content: Social Connectedness, Employment, Volunteering
Assisted Living Assessment

Facility Name: ____________________________  City: __________________
Facility Contact Person: ______________________  Job Title: __________________
Date of Visit: _________________________  Time of Tour: _______________________
Phone Number (    )

Instructions: Call the facility in advance to schedule an appointment for a tour of the facility. To guide your observations and discussion at the facility, familiarize yourself with the content of the checklist prior to touring the facility. After completing the Assisted Living Assessment and the Skilled Nursing Facility Assessment, return in a file as yourlastname.facility.

Section I: Facility observations
Based on your observations, rate facility characteristics using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Outstanding</th>
<th>3 Very Good</th>
<th>2 Good</th>
<th>1 Poor</th>
<th>0 Unacceptable</th>
<th>X Didn’t Observe or Notice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Community well designed for res needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Adequate common areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Noise - Noise level is pleasant, comfortable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cleanliness – facility clean, well-maintained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Environment encourages independence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Floor plans easy to follow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Doorways, flooring accommodates wheelchairs &amp; walkers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Assistive technology available to residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Staff treat residents with dignity, respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Units</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Private &amp;/or semi-private rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Homelike with personal belongings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Security of resident units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Emergency response system</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Enough space for wheelchair use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Accessible, private bathrooms</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<p>| Activities |          |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16.</th>
<th>Res engaged in individual/group activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Overall sense of community among res</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dining**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18.</th>
<th>Environment allows res. to socialize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Residents able to reach items on table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Tables are at an appropriate height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Staff assist residents as needed with meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Residents can chose when &amp; where they want to eat meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Menus choices are available at meals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section II: Short Answers**

**Briefly answer the following questions based on your observations and brief interviews, as available, with staff, residents, and their families.**

1. What does it cost to reside in the facility? What is included in that cost? What additional services can be purchased and what is the cost of those services? What financial assistance, if any, is available to cover the cost?

2. Does the facility have a resident council? If so, how often does it meet and what is its role in the facility?

3. What type of training do employees receive (new employee orientation and ongoing continuing education) and how often is training provided?

4. Does the facility have a special unit for residents with dementia? If so, what differences, if any, did you observe between the environment on the dementia unit and other areas of the facility?

   If you are able to speak directly with a resident and direct care staff member, please consider the following optional questions.

5. As an employee, if you could improve or change one thing about this facility what would that be?
6. From a resident’s perspective, what is the best thing and the worst thing about living in the facility?

7. From a resident’s perspective, why did you choose this facility?

Section III. Student assessment and narrative
Provide a one to two page assessment of your visit to the assisted living facility addressing the following components: a) your overall impression of the facility; b) characteristics of the facility that encouraged residents independence; c) characteristics that inhibited resident independence; and d) suggestions for how the social workers could enhance the quality of life for residents in this environment.
Skilled Nursing Facility Assessment

**Facility Name:** ______________________________________  **City:** __________________

Facility Contact Person: _____________________________  **Job Title:** __________________

Date of Visit: __________________________ Time of Tour: ______________________

**Phone Number: (___)**

Instructions: **Call the facility in advance to schedule an appointment for a tour of the facility. Complete Section I, the Offsite Preparation prior to visiting the facility. To guide your observations and discussion at the facility, familiarize yourself with the content of the checklist prior to touring the facility.**

**Section I: Offsite preparation**

Go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) On the home page, click on *Find Nursing Homes.* This takes you to the Nursing Home Compare website hosted by Medicare.gov. Search for survey data from the facility you plan to visit by name, zip code, city, county, or state. Click on the name of the facility you visited. Then select *Health Inspections.* What was the total number of deficiencies your facility received during its most recent inspection?

__________

Use the space below to summarize the deficiency that resulted in the greatest harm to residents and the deficiency that affected the most residents. Pay particular attention to the deficient area during your visit.

Select the *Nursing Home Staffing* tab. What are the CNA hours per resident per day?

__________

Select the *Quality Measures* tab. What percent of their residents show depressive symptoms? _____ Is this number above or below the national average? ______

**Section II: Facility observations**

Based on your observations, rate facility characteristics using the following scale:

- 4 Outstanding
- 3 Very Good
- 2 Good
- 1 Poor
- 0 Unacceptable
- X Didn’t Observe or Notice
<table>
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<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Odors - Facility is free of unpleasant odors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Noise - Noise level is pleasant, comfortable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cleanliness – facility clean, well-maintained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Environment encourages independence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Residents appear clean, well groomed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Personal Privacy – Res not exposed during personal care activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Assistive technology available to residents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Private space available for family visits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resident Rooms</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Homelike with personal belongings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Call bells located within resident reach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Enough space for wheelchair use</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Accessible, private bathrooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff to Resident Interactions</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Staff knock before entering res. rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Staff treat residents with dignity, respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Staff promptly respond to call bells</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Staff attentive to residents in distress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Group activities occur as scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Residents in group activities are engaged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Residents in rooms engaged in activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Overall sense of community among res</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Activity space &amp; furnishings appropriate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dining</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>22. Environment allows res. to socialize</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Section III: Short Answer

**Briefly answer the following questions based on your observations and brief interviews with staff, residents, and their families.**

1. What does it cost to reside in the facility? What is included in that cost? What additional services can be purchased and what is the cost of those services? What financial assistance, if any, is available to cover the cost?
2. Does the facility have a resident council? If so, how often does it meet and what is its role in the facility?

3. How are roommates assigned in the facility and how are disputes among roommates handled?

4. Does the facility have a special unit for residents with dementia? If so, what differences, if any, did you observe between the environment on the dementia unit and other areas of the facility?

If you are able to speak directly with a resident and a direct care staff member, please consider the following optional questions.

5. As an employee, if you could improve or change one thing about this facility what would that be?

6. From a resident’s perspective, what is the best thing and the worst thing about living in the facility?

7. From a resident’s perspective, why did you choose this facility?

Section IV. Student assessment and narrative
In the space below provide a one to two page assessment of your visit to the skilled nursing facility addressing the following components: a) your overall impression of the facility; b) characteristics of the facility that encouraged residents independence; c) characteristics that inhibited resident independence; and d) suggestions for how social workers could enhance the quality of life for residents in this environment.