The University of Oklahoma
College of Continuing Education
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:
Social Work Gerontology

Course Number:
SWK 5173-490

Course Description:
This course provides students with an overview of the sociological aspects of aging and institutions of society that affect the older population and are affected by them. This course also assists students to develop understanding of dependent issues from the perspective of older adults and their caregivers.

This course is designed to introduce the student to the range of issues involved in the field of Social Gerontology through web-based presentation, power point lectures, discussion area interactivity, and video lectures. Units may include power point presentations, video lectures, reading assignments, assignments, and questions for student discussion group response. Students are expected to complete all readings and participate in weekly student group discussions so that the class can achieve a level of interactivity that approximates face-to-face/regular classroom participation.

Course Dates:
September 1 – December 9, 2011
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 3, 2011

Site Director:
This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or e-mail our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Laural Dinkel, MSW, LCSW
Mailing Address: 717 Gyrfalcon Dr.
Norman, OK 73072
Telephone Number: 405-872-0050
Fax Number: 405-364-9591
E-mail Address: ladinkel@cox.net
Virtual Office Hours: Contact the professor for this information.
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](http://learn.ou.edu); enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**OU E-Mail:**

All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

**Online Learning Resource Center:**

The Online Learning Resource Center of the University of Oklahoma’s College of Arts and Sciences Online Program is here to serve you and assist you with any questions, problems, or concerns you may have. For assistance go to [http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/](http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/) or contact us by telephone at: (405) 325-5854 or Email: casonline@ou.edu

**Course Objectives:**

During this course students will:
1. Identify and apply knowledge of the sociological issues and perspectives in aging;
2. Demonstrate an empathetic, subjective understanding of the experience of dependent aging.
3. Identify policies and practices of the systems in community-based, medical, and mental health practice with elders.
4. Articulate the implications for professional practice regarding the aging issues and perspectives covered in this course.

**Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:**

**Class Format:**

Units will be posted in D2L under Content. There are five units for this Course. Each Unit has 3 weeks. These Units will consist of the required reading from the texts, power point lecture presentation, video lectures and additional readings/resources compiled by the instructors. Not all units contain each of these elements. For example, some units have questions and assignments while others may have assignments only. Students will move through these units at their own pace but will be required to complete all assignments on the due dates posted on the Course Outline. This includes discussion area postings and responses as well as papers and the quizzes.

**Small Student Group Discussion Board:**

The class will be divided into small groups so that when you post to your student discussion area you will be interacting with a small group of students instead of the entire class. It is my hope that this format will encourage open discussion among group members. By **Tuesday at 7 pm** of each week you are responsible for posting your responses to the discussion questions from each unit. After reading each of your group members’ postings you will write a response to at least one other student. This response may include questions for the other student. Post this summary by **Friday at 9 pm**. These postings should reflect your thoughts, feelings, and ideas about the material presented: there are very few “right” and “wrong” answers to these questions and, as such, are meant to stimulate discussion and critical thinking. You may continue to respond freely to the postings and interact with your peers even though you have already met the minimum requirements. Please use the discussion area as an opportunity to delve more deeply into topics covered and to express your ideas in an atmosphere of open and honest communication.
Assignments:

Small Student Group Discussion Postings
500 Points Total

Small Student Group Discussion Expectations:
Opportunity for maximum interactivity is built into this course through the use of the Discussion board on D2L. Students are encouraged to email each other and the professors to clarify and discuss various aspects of the class. Discussion board postings, however, are required and will be structured so that every student both posts and responds to discussions from others. Each unit will consist of discussion questions; students will respond to these via the discussion board. In addition to posting your response to discussion questions you will be responsible for responding to your classmates’ postings each week.

100 points are possible for each of the units in which discussion questions are required (5 units x 100 = 500 possible points). These 100 points will be distributed based on both your original posts and your responses to peers. In order to earn maximum points for postings, students must present a well-written and critical analysis of the readings and questions for that unit and also must respond critically to the work of their peers. Minimal points will be assigned when students write brief responses that indicate very little critical thinking and/or little thought and attention paid to the questions and peer postings.

Ms. Becker Case Assignment:
100 Points Total

See Instructions for this assignment under Unit 1. Write one to two pages addressing her situation using the Person-Environment and Competence Theories. Analyze the environmental press and compare it to her level of competence. What suggestions might you propose? How do each of the suggestions relate to your analysis? How would you frame the problems with her?

Consult the Writing Policy for guidelines.
Review the Grading Rubric located in Unit 1
Place the paper, with your name on it, in the Drop Box named for the assignment.
Consult the Course Outline for due date.

Interview Assignment:
200 Points Total

See Instructions for this assignment under Unit 2. This is a three to five page paper.

Consult the Writing Policy for guidelines.
Review the Grading Rubric located in Unit 2
Place the paper, with your name on it, in the Drop Box named for the assignment.
Consult the Course Outline for due date.

Public Policy Assignment:
100 Points Total

See Instructions for this assignment under Unit 4. This is a four to five page paper. Include a Reference page. Use at least four resources, not including your textbook.

Consult the Writing Policy for guidelines.
Review the Grading Rubric located in Unit 4
Place the paper, with your name on it, in the Drop Box named for the assignment.
Consult the Course Outline for due date.
Caregiver Assignment:
100 Points Total
See Instructions for this assignment under Unit 5. This is a four to five page paper.

Consult the Writing Policy for guidelines.
Review the Grading Rubric located in Unit 5
Place the paper, with your name on it, in the Drop Box named for the assignment.
Consult the Course Outline for due date.

Quizzes:
500 Points Total
Each unit has a quiz worth 100 points each. The quiz will be available for a week. The student may take the quiz anytime during this period.

Consult the Course Outline for the available dates.

Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Grading will be based on a point system. There are 1500 total points possible for the course. Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1500 to 1350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1349 to 1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1199 to 1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1049 to 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>899 to 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Policy for Late Work:
Please contact the professor for his/her policy on late work.

Attendance Policy:
In addition to interaction via Desire2Learn and E-mail contact, students are required to contact the instructor via E-mail or telephone BEFORE the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Desire2Learn, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, e-mail, or fax as needed.

Incomplete Grade Policy:
A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: http://webapps.ou.edu/it/ or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).
Procedures for Completion of Course Evaluation:

Upon completion of the course students should go to the Advanced Programs Distance Learning webpage, http://www.goou.ou.edu/distance_learn.html. Students should click on the applicable semester link under “Course Evaluations” which will direct them to the evaluation. The evaluation will take approximately five minutes to complete. Completion of the online evaluation is an important tool allowing Advanced Programs to gain information and student feedback for improvement of courses.

Your responses will be kept confidential. They will be reviewed by the department and only supplied to the professor once grades for the course have been submitted.

Important information you should know about online courses:

- To sign on to Desire2Learn (D2L), log in using your 4+4 and your OU network password (note that this is the same 4+4 and password that you use to access your OU email). Once you are logged in, please look for “My Courses,” locate your course and click on it. Remember to check your course site on D2L every day.

- Students enrolled in online courses may be required to take the CAS student orientation in Desire 2 Learn. To take the orientation, sign-on to D2L and then click on “Self Registration” at the top left corner of the page. Information about and instructions for the orientation can be found at http://casweb.ou.edu/olr/public/students/orientation.htm

- If the course is using a course website, you will find a link for the website on the first page of this syllabus. Please click on this link to start your course.

- Course Materials are available at Follett/AP Bookstore. On this syllabus you will find a link to the Follett Bookstore.

- If you need to drop or withdraw from a course, please contact your Site Director. You can drop a course without a penalty up to the add/drop date. You can drop a course after the add/drop date through the first day of class with a penalty. There will be a 25% penalty if you drop 16-29 days before the start of class, 50% penalty if you drop between 15 days before and the start of the class, or 100% penalty if you drop on the first day of class or later.

- After the class has started, you can only withdraw from the course with the professor’s permission; you will not receive a refund for your tuition. You can only drop without a penalty after the add/drop date by providing proper documentation and receiving approval from the Advanced Programs Theater Director. Provide this documentation to your Site Director.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Laurel Dinkel, MSW, LCSW

Education

• MSW University of Kentucky
• BA Psychology University of Kansas

Current Positions

• Director, CEO and Clinician, Elder Counseling & Clinical Services
• Associate Graduate Faculty, Kansas State University
• Adjunct Instructor, Kansas State University
• Advanced Programs professor since 2011

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

• SWK 5173 Social Work Gerontology
• Mental Health and Aging, Kansas State University