Course No. & Title: HUSV 101 ID8W1, Intro to Gerontology

Semester and Term: FALL 2017  
Day and Dates: Saturdays, 9/2/2017 – 10/21/2017  
Time: 9am – 12pm  
Campus Location: Bridgeport  

Course Description:  
The Introduction to Gerontology is an interdisciplinary overview of the implications of aging in the United States. This course is designed to familiarize the student who is seeking a career in the study of Gerontology. The student will have an understanding of Gerontology through the exploration of topics in: psychology, sociology, economics, cultural groups, governmental programs, and the living environment of our aging population.

Instructor & contact information:  
D. Coviello, MS RN LMH, PC, LADC  
Phone: 203-232-8748  
Email: dicoviel@bridgeport.edu

Required Textbook:  


To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at ubcampusstore.com

Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and techniques in the areas of:

* A comprehensive study of Gerontology in the American Society  
* Theoretical pioneers in the study of adult development and social gerontology  
* Facts vs. Myths as it relates to the aging population  
* The psychological, sociological, and biological functions of the aging  
* Stereotypes, stigma, and prejudice in the workforce  
* The Art of Retirement: finances, supplements, and living environments  
* Policies, Programs, and the Political Movements in support of the aging population  
* Understand Elisabeth Kubler-Ross: “5” different Stages of Dying  
* Societal changes both good and bad and how they affect aging
Writing Instructions:

- Cover Page: Your Name, Date, & Title of Paper
- The paper must be typed (APA format)—hand written papers will not be accepted
- All resources must be cited and listed on a separate reference page.

Session #1

Chapter 1: Aging In America
Chapter 2: Stereotypes and Images
Chapter 3: Social and Psychological Theories in Later Life

1st Assignment Due (Submit through TURNITIN on Canvas any problems see me)

Explain how the growing proportion of older adults in the United States may affect the nation economically, politically, residentially, and culturally.

Session #2

Chapter 4: Physical Health and Wellbeing
Chapter 6: Friends Family and Community
Chapter 7: Intimacy and Sexuality

Discussion on different types of physical ailments please refer to canvas where you will find a summary of some common illnesses

2nd Assignment Due (Submit through TURNITIN)


Session #3

Chapter 5: Mental Health, Understand the difference between organic and functional disorders

Assignment 3 (Submit through TURNITIN)
Why does the WHO designate the mentally ill older adult the most underserved population in the world? What can be done about this? Take Quiz on Mental Health

**Session #4**

Chapter 8 Work and Leisure. Retirement early or later? Medicare

**Assignment 4 (Submit on Canvas)**

Explore job sites for part-time and full-time jobs that would be appropriate for an older worker. Consider you have a client that is 58 years old and worked in a company doing chemical research. He now comes to you for assistance. He cannot find employment in his field as companies do not want to hire someone his age. He needs to work to support his wife and his grandchildren whom he is raising. What can be done for this individual where can he be guided to look for jobs. What can he now do to also create some security for the future? Is it to late?

**Session #5**

Chapter 9: Finances and Lifestyles. Pensions, Social Security, Investments

**5th Assignment Due (Submit through Canvas)**

Visit the Social Security Website www.ssa.gov explore their retirement planner. What did you find out that may apply to you? Quiz

Chapter 10: Living Environments

What are the various Living Environments available to the elderly? (Do not include Nursing Homes or Hospice)

**Assignment 6 Interview Due**

**Interview**

Interview someone aged 65 or older. If you do not know someone in this age range, go to a local senior center, senior housing, or ask a relative. Tell them the purpose of the interview. DO NOT BE DECEITFUL OR MISLEAD THEM IN ANY WAY! Identify yourself as a UB student and inform them that this interview will be the basis for a paper you will be submitting to a class. Assure them that their names will be kept confidential and that you will identify them in the paper as Ms. T or Mr. Y. You should also assure them that any identifying information such as their jobs, family information and other facts would be quoted without identifying information.
For example if they worked for a specific company as CEO, you would indicate that they were CEO of Company X.

Some suggested questions are listed below; however, please feel free to ask your own questions. You do not need to ask all of them. Think of this as a conversation where you get to know someone.

Ask them about their life history. Where were they born? What was it like growing up compared to life today? What they are proud of about their lives. Ask about how they feel about their aging, how aging has affected their day-to-day activities. What are the good things about aging and what are the challenges? Have they experienced age discrimination? Are they treated more respectfully?

The interview should be 3-5 pages in length and must be written as a narrative. Papers submitted in a question and answer format will be penalized. (15% of grade).

Session #6
Chapter 11: The Oldest Old and Caregiving; Abuse and Neglect

Assignment 7 (Submit on canvas) Quiz

Discuss with family members in your family their expectations for caregiving. How would this be paid for? Would you be able to take over immediately if a crisis occurred in your family?

Session #7
Chapter 12 Special Problems
Chapter 13 Women and Ethnic Groups

Assignment 8 (Submit on Canvas through TURNITIN)

Seek out information on minority elder status and discuss

Session #8
Chapter 14: Death and Dying. Kubler –Ross
Chapter 15: Politics, Policies and Programs
Final Quiz will be in class

*Please remember as your Professor I am here not only to educate, but to assist you in your journey to attaining your degree. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to ask.

**Grading Criteria:**

- Attendance/Participation: 20%
- Assignments/Quizes: 45%
- Interview: 15%
- Midterm and Final exam: 20% (each)

*Assignments that are not turned in the night they are due will automatically receive half credit. If they are not received by midnight of the due date they will not be accepted.

**Letter Grading Scale:**

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