

Psychology 3AG3 – AGING
Course Syllabus
Fall 2013

Instructor:

Oriane Landry landryo@mcmaster.ca [all email correspondence should include the course number]
Office Hours: by appointment Psychology 304

Teaching Assistants: J. Evans; M.Slugocki

Lectures: Tu, We, Fr 9:30-10:20

Room: MDCL 1105

Learning Objectives: The objective of this course is to describe, explain, and critically evaluate the psychological issues pertaining to adult development and aging. We will divide the course into three aspects:

1. Cognitive development – how do age-related cognitive changes impact the individual?
2. Socio-emotional development – how do age-related changes in social networks (including family and work) impact the individual?
3. Physical development – how do age-related physical changes impact the individual?

Required Readings:

Feldman & Landry (2013). *Discovering the Lifespan*, 1st Canadian Edition. Pearson.

*A custom edition containing only the chapters for this course is available at the bookstore.

Assessment - Your final grade will be made up of the following:

- 60% tests (3* 20%) TUES Oct 1; FRI Oct 25; Dec exam period
- 25% essay (due Nov 15)
- 15% online day activities (weekly, best 10)

Online days:

Most Tuesdays will be “online days”. Each online day you will be assigned an activity to discuss and complete with your online group (these will be created and assigned randomly on AvenueToLearn). Each student should submit an individual assignment by 11:30pm the same day. These assignments are worth a total of 15% of your grade (best 10). Missed assignments receive a grade of 0, no exceptions.

In this course we will be using AvenueToLearn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Lecture and Activity Schedule

DATE	LECTURE / ACTIVITY	READING
6-Sep	Introduction	Ch 1
10-Sep	General themes (online)	
11-Sep	The Prime of Your Life.	
13-Sep	It's all downhill from here.	
17-Sep	Does bilingualism offer an advantage? (online)	
18-Sep	Remember the good ole days...	Mod 7.2; 8.2;
20-Sep	Where did I leave my keys?	9.2
24-Sep	Brain Training? (online)	
25-Sep	Is Intelligence fixed for life?	

27-Sep	Beyond IQ: Expertise and Wisdom.	
Tues Oct 1	TEST 1 – in class	
2-Oct	Ageism	
4-Oct	Why is Grandpa such a bigot?	
8-Oct	What will 60 year old you think of 30 year old you? (online)	
9-Oct	Psychoanalytic perspectives.	
11-Oct	Who am I and how do I know?	Mod 7.3; 8.3;
15-Oct	Marriage and divorce. (online)	9.3
16-Oct	Elder abuse.	
18-Oct	Parents and Grandparents.	
22-Oct	Work, work, and more work. (online)	
23-Oct	Retirement.	
Fri Oct 25	TEST 2 – in class	
28-Oct	Why do we age? The “death gene” theory. (online)	
30-Oct	Why do we age? The “wear & tear” theory.	
1-Nov	*fall recess, no class	
5-Nov	Past expiration: late reproduction & menopause (online)	
6-Nov	Aging gracefully.	
8-Nov	Chronic conditions.	Mod 7.1; 8.1;
12-Nov	The big “C”. (online)	9.1
13-Nov	Declining Health.	
15-Nov	Dementia.	
19-Nov	From Caregiver to Cared-for. (online)	
20-Nov	What does the future hold?	
22-Nov	Independent living versus long-term care.	
26-Nov	What is optimal aging? (online)	
27-Nov	Prolonging life.	Ch 10
29-Nov	Assisted suicide.	
3-Dec	Grieving. (online)	
4-Dec	Term wrap-up, review, & discussion.	

Illness / missed class – Attendance at all lectures is emphatically recommended. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate (lecture slides will be posted, however videos shown in class will not be posted). Students should make themselves aware of the policies surrounding the McMaster Student Absence Form, and contact the Instructor as soon as possible in the event of a missed test:

<http://mcmaster.ca/msaf/>

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/associatedean/>

Missed test policy: a take-home essay test will be assigned.

Missed assignments will be forfeited.

Grading

The instructor reserves the right to alter course requirements, weighting, assignments, and the course schedule if necessary. All attempts will be made to inform students within a reasonable timeframe, using AVENUE TO LEARN or official McMaster email accounts. Students are responsible for monitoring communications in both. The instructor also reserves the right to adjust a student’s grade either up or down in light of special circumstances and/or the student’s overall performance in the course.

Students are responsible for making themselves aware of the Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office.

The following standard grading scheme will be used:

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade
A+	90-100	B	73-76.9	C-	60-62.9
A	85-89.9	B-	70-72.9	D+	57-59.9
A-	80-84.9	C+	67-69.9	D	53-56.9
B+	77-79.9	C	63-66.9	D-	50-52.9
				F	<50