

**SOCIOLOGY 3X03: Sociology of Aging****Fall, 2016****Day and Time of Classes:**

Wednesday 9:30-10:20 am

Friday 8:30-10:20 am

**Class Location:** CNH 106**Instructor:** Dr. Rachel Barken**Ext.:** 20423**Office:** Kenneth Taylor Hall 607**Office Hours:** Wed. 10:30-11:20 am, or  
upon appointment**Email Address:** barkenre@mcmaster.ca**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores key theoretical frameworks and substantive areas of research in the sociology of aging. Individual experiences of aging will be examined in relation to political and historical contexts; cultural values and beliefs; and social locations of difference (i.e., gender, class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, able-bodiedness). Topics to be explored include work and retirement, family ties, health in later life, care work, and end-of-life issues.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Possess knowledge of the main theoretical perspectives and empirical areas of investigation in the sociology of aging.
2. Critically apply theoretical perspectives to substantive issues relevant to the sociology of aging, and to the 'lived experiences' of older people.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the links between (a) experiences of aging at the individual level, (b) social institutions (e.g., healthcare, retirement, family) and (c) social relations of difference (i.e., gender, class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, able-bodiedness).
4. Demonstrate enhanced critical thinking and writing skills.

This course addresses the [University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations](#) in the following ways:

- First, aging is multi-faceted social phenomena that can be explored and understood using diverse theoretical perspectives. Students will gain knowledge of diverse theories and perspectives in the sociology of aging, thus expanding their depth and breadth of knowledge, as well as the limitations of divergent theoretical perspectives.
- Second, students will be required to critically reflect on various perspectives in the sociology of aging as well as their practical applications. In doing so, students will gain experience developing lines of argument and making sound judgments.
- Third, to succeed in this course students will be required to submit written assignments as well as complete exams that involve multiple choice and long-answer questions. In each

case, students' capacity to analyze and evaluate information and to communicate accurately and reliably in the written form will be challenged and developed.

### **COURE OUTLINE:**

Each class will involve lectures, group discussions, and individual and small group activities. A variety of assessment methods will be used, including in-class tests and written assignments. To be successful in this course, students must attend all classes and complete all assignments.

\*In class, time will be devoted to answering sample test questions. Although lecture slides will be posted on Avenue to Learn, sample test questions will *not* be included in the slides on Avenue to Learn.

### **TEXTS:**

- Required textbook: Funk, Laura. 2016. *Sociological Perspectives on Aging*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford. (available at McMaster University bookstore).
- Supplementary readings on Avenue to Learn.

All readings should be completed **before** class for the week they are assigned. Please see the attached course schedule for the reading schedule.

### **METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Weight</b>
In-class test (short and long answer)	Fri. Oct 7	15%
Film response	Due: Fri. Oct. 28	5% (pass/fail)
Life course analysis assignment 1: Reflection paper	Due: Fri. Nov. 4	20%
Life course analysis assignment 2: Final analysis	Due: Wed. Dec. 7	30%
Cumulative final exam (short and long answer)	TBA during exam period	30%

Instructions and rubrics for all assignments are posted on Avenue to Learn and will be reviewed in class. A review session will be held prior to the final exam, on Dec. 7.

### **AVENUE TO LEARN:**

I will post lecture slides (excluding sample test questions), supplementary readings, updates, and grades on Avenue to Learn. You will submit assignments via Dropbox on Avenue to Learn. You may use the discussion board to communicate with your peers regarding course content.

It is your responsibility to check Avenue to Learn prior to each class for updates or changes. To access our Avenue to Learn page, please visit <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>. If you are registered for the course you should be able to access our Avenue to Learn page. It may take up to 24 hours after you register to gain access to our Avenue to Learn page.

Students should be aware that, when they access Avenue to Learn, 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.

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

***Format for assessments:*** You are expected to use **APA style** for citations, references, and formatting all assignments. For further information on APA please consult a style guide, such as <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

All assignments should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. For all written assignments you should include a title page that states your name, the course code and date, and the name of the assignment (e.g., Film Response).

***Submission of course work:*** All written assignments must be submitted in Dropbox on Avenue to Learn. Assignments are due by 8:30 am (immediately before class) on the day they are due. Assignments that are submitted later than 8:30 am on the day they are due will be considered one day late.

When submitting your assignment in Dropbox on Avenue to Learn, the filename should include your last name and the name of the assignment (e.g., Barken\_film response).

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers. Do NOT fax assignments.

***Late penalties:*** Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day, including weekends. Assignments that are submitted more than one week after the day they are due will automatically receive a grade of zero. If you need an extension on an assignment due to illness, bereavement, etc. please submit the appropriate paperwork with the Associate Dean of Social Sciences. If approved, you will be granted an extension as necessary.

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you **MUST** visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

**Review of grades:** I will be diligent in marking all assignments fairly and accurately. Occasionally, students may disagree with the marks they receive. If this occurs I will be happy to review the mark of any assignment, if the procedure outlined below is followed:

To request a review of a mark, write a 1-page typed memo that describes in detail the nature of the perceived marking error. Submit this memo (in person only) to me in class or during office hours. You may submit requests for review no sooner than 48 hours and no later than 2 weeks after the assignments are returned to the class. Please note that when a mark is reviewed the new mark may be lower than the original.

**E-mail policy:** Please contact me via McMaster e-mail ([barkenre@mcmaster.ca](mailto:barkenre@mcmaster.ca)) with questions or concerns. You can expect to receive a reply to your email within 48 hours, excluding weekends. Please note that it is best to raise questions about course content (e.g., "I don't understand this concept") in class or during office hours. There will be ample time to do this.

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:** Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a

Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly to further discuss any needs for accommodation.

**OTHER DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (e.g., class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Tests and due dates</b>
Wed. Sept. 7 & Fri. Sept. 9	Introduction	No readings	
Wed. Sept. 14 & Fri. Sept. 16	Theoretical perspectives on aging	Funk Ch. 1	
Wed. Sept. 21 & Fri. Sept. 23	Demographic trends and ageism	Funk Ch. 2	
Wed. Sept. 28 & Fri. Sept. 30	Bodies and biomedicalization	Funk Ch. 3	
Wed. Oct. 5 & Fri. Oct. 7	Test and assignment review (Oct. 5) In-class test (Oct. 7)	No readings	Oct. 7: In-class test
Wed. Oct. 12 & Fri. Oct. 14	NO CLASS	No readings	
Wed. Oct. 19 & Fri. Oct. 21	Health and care (Oct. 19) Film: Gen Silent (Oct. 21)	Funk. Ch. 4	
Wed. Oct. 26 & Fri. Oct. 28	Health and care	Funk Ch. 4 -Aronson 2002 (posted on Avenue to Learn)	Oct. 28: Film response
Wed. Nov. 2 & Fri. Nov. 4	Work, retirement, and economic security	Funk Ch. 5	Nov. 4: Life course analysis assignment 1 (Reflection paper)
Wed. Nov. 9 & Fri. Nov. 11	Social participation and inclusion	Funk. Ch. 6	
Wed. Nov. 16 & Fri. Nov. 18	Families and aging	Funk. Ch. 7	
Wed. Nov. 23 & Fri. Nov. 25	Guest speakers: Age-friendly cities (Nov. 23) Aging in Indigenous communities (Nov. 25)	-Jacklin, Pace, & Warry 2015 -Menec et al. 2011 (posted on Avenue to Learn)	
Wed. Nov. 30 & Fri. Dec. 2	Emerging topics	Funk. Ch. 8	
Wed. Dec. 7	Review for final exam	No readings	Life course analysis assignment 2 (Final analysis)