Undergraduate Lower-Division Courses

AGE 100 Introduction to Aging Studies (3). A multidisciplinary overview of the field of aging, with attention to cultural, social, psychological, biological, and economic factors which influence the circumstances of the older adult.

Undergraduate Upper-Division Courses

AGE 404 Psychology of Aging (3). Cross-listed as PSY 404. An examination of the issues surrounding the adult aging process. Includes personality and intellectual change, mental health of the older adult, and the psychological issues of extending human life. Emphasizes the strengths of the older adult and prevention of psychological problems of the older adult. Prerequisite: PSY 111.

AGE 481 Cooperative Education (1–3). Provides practical field experience, under academic supervision, that complements and enhances the student's academic program. Repeatable up to 6 hours. Offered Cr/NCr only. Prerequisites: AGE 100 and instructor's consent.

Courses for Graduate/Undergraduate Credit

AGE 501 Field Experience (3–6). A supervised field experience in an agency or organization planning or providing services to older people, individually designed to enhance each student's skills and knowledge of the aging service network. Repeatable for 6 hours credit. Prerequisites: 12 hours of gerontology credit and instructor's consent.

AGE 512 Diversity and Aging (3). Cross-listed as ETHS 512. Addresses the needs of students interested in (1) providing services to; (2) exploring the "issues" of; (3) becoming familiar with the rights of; (4) learning the legal procedures for resolving specific problems of; and (5) offering practical solutions for the difficulties encountered by ethnic older persons.

AGE 513 Sociology of Aging (3). Cross-listed as SOC 513. Analysis of the social dimensions of old age, including changing demographic structure and role changes and their impact on society. Prerequisite: SOC 111.
AGE 515 Women and Aging (3). Cross-listed as WOM St 580. Introduces students to issues in aging that are unique to women, to women's diverse developmental patterns, and to research methods appropriate for studying aging women and their life experiences. Topics include physical change, role transitions, and adaptation from a lifespan perspective.

AGE 516 Age, Work, and Retirement. Examines the basic implications of population aging on work life and retirement opportunities, now and in the future. Explores factors that may place individuals at-risk of economic insecurity as they grow older. Topics covered include the current situation in the United States and other countries, examines the economic status of older Americans, addresses retirement policies in the private sector, social security, and health care issues.

AGE 518 Biology of Aging (3). Cross-listed as BIOL 518. An introduction to the phenomenon of aging, including a survey of age-related processes and mechanisms of senescence, emphasizing humans. Students earning graduate credit produce a term paper based on the technical literature on a Prerequisite: a basic course in biology that satisfies the general education requirements.

AGE 521 Images of Aging in the Media (3). This course explores the link between media and aging issues in the United States. Students will examine several ways in which our experiences and beliefs about aging are influenced by mass media as well as how the media and marketing tactics influence and reflect the images of older people in society today. The theoretical and practical aspects of aging in the context of the media will be addressed.

AGE 525 Death and Dying (3). This course offers a broad overview of the psychological aspects of death and dying in our society. Topics include attitudes toward and preparation for death; the understanding of and care for terminally ill patients; funeral rituals; burial, mourning and grief practices; suicide and euthanasia. The class involves experiential learning activities such as personal preparation for death and field trips such as visiting a funeral home. These learning activities are designed to help the student be better equipped to help those who must make such preparations for themselves or loved ones.

AGE 527 Sexuality and Aging (3). This course will focus on all aspects of sexuality and aging and the issues that arise with respect to sexual behavior as humans’ age. The course will examine human sexuality over the life course, focused on the experiences of those 65 and older and the impact of chronic disease, cognitive decline and physical disabilities on sexual attitudes and behaviors. The course will address key concerns regarding sexuality and aging, including misconceptions about sexuality and aging as well as the problems with sexuality that members of the aging population sometimes face. It also looks at solutions, treatments and techniques that can be applied to help address some of those problems. The course perspective will be interdisciplinary, taking into account the physiological, psychological, interpersonal and social influences which shape our understanding of sexuality in the aged.

AGE 529 Caregiving and Aging (3). This course explores caregivers gender roles, cost of caregiving, managing stress, respite care, finding resources, financial and legal matters, emerging caregiving trends, and long distance caregiving. Caregiving is often stressful to the caregiver. Attention is given to caring for the caregiver, informal versus formal caregiving, the importance of various services for the health of the caregivers themselves, working with professional caregivers, and emerging trends in caregiving.

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AGE 550 Selected Topics in Aging Studies (1–6). Study in a specialized area of gerontology with the focus upon Preprofessional programs and current issues in the field of aging. Emphasizing knowledge and skills in applied areas of gerontology as they relate to an emerging area of research and application. Repeatable up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: instructor's consent. Example of a course under AGE 550, Research Experience.

AGE 560 The Aging Network (3). An overview of federal, state, and local programs concerned with planning, managing, or direct delivery of services to the older population. Prerequisite: 9 hours of gerontology credit or instructor's consent.

AGE 622 Public Health and Aging (3). This course explores the study of aging and the range of health issues that older persons, their families, their providers and society will face in the next decade. The materials and course instruction present an overview on aging from different perspectives: demography, biology, epidemiology of disease, physical and mental health disorders, functional capacity and disability, social aspects of aging and ethical issues in the care of older individuals.

AGE 660 Administrator-in-Training (AIT) Practicum (6). Needs for health services will increase dramatically in future because of the rising increase in the older adult population. A broad range of services, including long-term care, is required to address the health care needs of the older population. The Administrator-in-Training (AIT) Practicum is an academic long term care administrator training program. The purpose of the AIT is the development of a professional competency and personal code of ethics for the field of long-term care administration. This practicum gives students the practical experience required by the State of Kansas in order to sit for the state & national nursing home administrator licensure examination. The required text above is your guide to studying for the national exam, it is the student's responsibility to work through the study materials and seek guidance from their preceptor regarding questions over the material. The 480 clock hour practicum is completed in a licensed long term care facility, under the guidance of an approved preceptor. Prerequisite: Instructor’s consent.

AGE 717 Health Communications and Aging (3). There are many facets of communication and aging. This course is a multidisciplinary, empirically-based consideration of emotions, behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes related to aging and the process of communicating with older adults. Topics include: approached to communication and aging, current evidence about communication and the aging population, interpersonal and intergenerational communication, mass communication and aging, health and healthcare interactions (patient-physician communication, etc.), older adults and technology, and cultural change. Students will develop applied skills and critical thinking. Applications to Public Health will be explored throughout the course.

AGE 720 Independent Readings in Aging Studies (1–3). Directed study in a specialized topic in gerontology. Repeatable up to 6 hours. Prerequisites: 12 hours of gerontology credit and departmental consent.

AGE 765 The Medicare System (3). This course is designed to explore the many intricacies of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The course emphasizes the application of course material to the development of the student’s understanding of how these two programs affect the use of medical services among covered populations. Course format will include lecture, group and individual examination of the literature, and analysis of case studies.

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**AGE 780 Physical Dimensions of Aging (3).** This course is designed to assist the student in developing an understanding of the complex physiological changes that accompany advancing age and the effects of physical activity on these factors. In addition, the student will develop an appreciation for how functional consequences affect mental and social dimensions of life. Attention will be given to sensory, motor, cognitive, and psychological changes. Special emphasis will be placed on factors associated with the preparation, implementation and evaluation of research projects involving older adult populations.

**AGE 781 Cooperative Education (3–6).** Provides practical field experience, under academic supervision, that is suitable for graduate credit and complements and enhances the student's academic program. Repeatable up to 6 hours. These 3 to 6 hours may meet degree requirements (if approved by the academic adviser) in place of AGE 810. AGE 781 is graded Cr/NCr, while AGE 810 is letter graded. Prerequisites: 12 hours of gerontology and instructor's consent.

**AGE 798 Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Aging (3).** Introduction to the advanced study of the process of aging from a multidisciplinary point of view. Not open to students with an undergraduate major or minor in gerontology. Prerequisite: admission to Graduate School.

### Courses for Graduate Students Only

**HP 800 Research Methods for Evidence-Based Practice (3).** This online course provides foundational and advanced knowledge and skills regarding research methods to prepare students to develop research studies and locate, appraise, and apply health related research to answer clinical questions. The course emphasizes principles of evidence-based practice, research ethics, professional and scholarly training, research design and methodologies, framing research questions, and interpretation of basic and advanced statistics necessary to critically evaluate, interpret, and apply healthcare and health policy research to patient/client care and healthcare systems. Prerequisites: Admission into a graduate level health professions program and instructor consent.

**HP 801 Interprofessional Evidence-Based Practice (3).** This interprofessional course utilizes small group discussion and practical exercises to advance students’ skills in evidence-based practice. Students will practice integration of clinical expertise and patient/client preferences and values with the best available healthcare and health policy research to optimize individual healthcare, public health outcomes, and healthcare systems. Students will also have the opportunity to practice and develop skills in working in an interprofessional team. This course assumes advanced knowledge and skills in research methods and evidence-based practice. Prerequisites: Concurrent or prior enrollment in HP 800 or prior completion of an approved graduate-level research methods course with instructor consent.

**AGE 804 Aging Programs and Policies (3).** Analyzes and evaluates policies and programs related to aging and old age. Emphasizes the importance of social values and historical context for understanding current policies, programs, and practices. Prerequisite: AGE 798, 12 hours of gerontology, or instructor's consent.
AGE 810 Aging Studies Practicum (3-6). Integrates academic aging studies and practical experience through supervised placement of students in an agency or organization engaging in planning, administering, or providing direct services to older people. Practicum requires 160 contact hours for each 3 hours of credit. A practicum internship paper also is required. AGE 810 is a letter-graded course. Students may substitute the Cr/NCr course AGE 781, Cooperative Education, for AGE 810. Prerequisites: 12 hours of aging studies credit and instructor's consent prior to registration.

AGE 813 Sociology of Aging (3). This course provides an overview of the significant sociological perspectives, social issues, and social science research pertaining to the phenomenon of aging in society. The course will examine the major theories of social aging, analyze the changing demographic trends and the political economy issues facing aging societies; describe how the broader societal context affects the nature of family relationships, community involvement, and the experiences of retirement and widowhood among the older adult; and examine the current issues in health and social service delivery for the care of the older adult. The course examines a substantive field which has a major social policy as well as personal significance in contemporary life.

AGE 814. Psychology of Aging (3). This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the psychology of aging. Students will examine of the issues surrounding the adult aging process. Topics include personality and intellectual change, mental health of the older adult, and the psychological issues of extending human life. The course will teach aspects of successful aging, normal aging and age-related illness such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, cancer and heart conditions. Emphasizes the strengths of the older adult and prevention of psychological problems of the older adult.

AGE 818. Biology of Aging (3). This course is designed to provide students with the most up-to-date information on the current understanding of the aging process. In addition, students will develop an understanding of the biology of aging with a system-by-system description of aging phenomena. Students will be expected to develop an understanding of the complexities of the aging process from various perspectives.

AGE 850. Selected Topics in Aging Studies (1–6). Advanced study in a specialized area of gerontology focusing upon professional programs and current issues in the field of aging. Emphasizes knowledge and skills in applied areas of gerontology as they relate to an emerging area of research and application. Repeatable up to 6 hours. Prerequisite: instructor's consent. Below are examples of electives offered under AGE 850:

AGE 870 Interprofessional Practicum Experience (3). This practicum experience is designed to help students encounter a variety of age-related settings as well as integrate their academic aging studies and practical experience through supervised placement in multiple agencies or organizations. Practicum requires 160 contact hours for each 3 hours of credit. Prerequisites: 9 hours of aging studies credit and instructor's consent prior to registration.

AGE 895. Thesis Research (3). Individual guidance in the development of a specific research problem. Potential Thesis topics should be formulated by the student and discussed with their thesis advisor. In order to successfully complete the thesis, several organizational and administrative steps must be completed. The normal order of such steps are presented.
AGE 898 Applied Research Paper (1–3). Original research project under a faculty member’s direction. Project requires a written report and defense of that report before a faculty committee. Must be an individual effort, not a group project. Intended to be a major project or capstone activity completed at the end of a student’s program of study. Repeatable. Prerequisite: graduate-level research methods class.

AGE 899. Thesis (1–3). Repeatable, but total credit hours counted toward degree shall not exceed 4 hours.

Summer Courses (3 credit hours)

AGE 100 Intro to Aging Studies
AGE 501 Field Experience
AGE 515 Women and Aging
AGE 660 Administrator in Training
AGE 720 Independent Readings
AGE 765 The Medicare System
AGE 781 Cooperative Education
AGE 801 Field Research
AGE 810 Aging Studies Practicum
AGE 895 Thesis Research
AGE 899 Thesis