

NVCC COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

SOC 245 - SOCIOLOGY OF AGING (3 CR.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces the study of aging with special emphasis on later stages of the life cycle. Includes theories of aging, historical and comparative settings, social policy, and future trends of aging. Lecture 3 hours per week.

GENERAL COURSE PURPOSE

To increase understanding of the aging process, of the needs and contributions of the elderly, of social factors shaping the life cycle, and of future policy issues.

ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES

Literacy in the English language.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. Identify and discuss the sociological perspectives on aging.
- B. Understand and be able to apply appropriate methods to analyze contemporary issues affecting the aged.

MAJOR TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED

- A. Cross-cultural and Historical Variation in the Aging Experience
- B. Demographic factors
- C. Major Theoretical Perspectives
- D. Roles and Identity in Retirement and Widow(er)hood
- E. Minority, Ethnic, and Geographical Differences in the Aging Experience
- F. Income and Housing
- G. Mental and Physical Health
- H. Aging and Social Policy

EXTRA TOPICS (optional)

- A. Aging in the Future
- B. Legal Issues in Aging
- C. Education and Learning among the Aging