

Syllabus for Gero 589 Spring 2007

This semester Gero 589 will be taught as a on line seminar type of course. There will be 13 topics covered. One topic will be discussed each week. There will be one week dedicated for the discussion with the instructor of your final exam project and one week for the final exam.

Each week the cyberclass discussion will be related to the weekly subject. There will be 2 to 4 papers (the PDFs and/or web sites) each week assigned for background for the discussion. These articles/web sites are to introduce the subject and discussion should not be limited to this information. Other papers, web sites, information is welcomed in the cyberclass discussions.

PDFs of each paper will be available on Thursday of each week. Cyberclass discussion is the key to this class. Therefore, it is imperative that each student participate fully in these cyberclasses.

Grading:

60% of the grade for Gero 589 will be comprised of cyberclass discussions of weekly topics and 40% of the grade will be the final exam.

Weekly topics:

Week 1. begins January 11, 2007

Introduction: Please introduce yourself to the instructor and to your fellow students. Tell us a little about yourself, your career, your interests and your life.

Discussion Topic: Medicare Part D: a boon or a boondoggle for seniors? What benefits has Part D provided and what are the shortcomings of Medicare Part D. What should Medicare pay for drug coverage for seniors?

Week 2. begins January 18, 2007

What are the major issues that need to be discussed between seniors and their adult children? Are seniors and their adult children talking about the critical end of life issues? Who should initiate the conversation? What homework should the adult children do before they talk with their aged parents?

Week 3. begins January 25, 2007

What is successful aging? How would you define it at the biological level? sociological level? psychological level?

Week 4. begins February 1, 2007

What advice would you give to someone aged 55 about planning for their retirement? Don't limit your advice to just financial advice!

Week 5. begins February 8, 2007

Will current 20 year old college students receive Social Security benefits? Will they receive Medicare and Medicaid benefits? Discuss the future of these programs.

Week 6. begins February 15, 2007

If you were elected to Congress, what bills would you promote to improve the life of seniors? If you are proposing additional benefits for seniors, how will our nation pay for these benefits?

Week 7. begins February 22, 2007

Which developed countries will have the oldest populations in 30 years? How will they respond to the large numbers of seniors in their populations?

Week 8. begins March 1, 2007

Will developing countries be more or less impacted by the aging of their populations than developed countries? How will they respond to the large numbers of seniors in their populations?

Week 9. begins March 8, 2007

Ageism is alive and well in America. Provide a few examples of Ageism that you encounter in your daily life. Do you think there will be more or less Ageism in the future? How can Ageism be eliminated or curtailed?

Week 10: begins March 15, 2007

Long Term Care within institutions is provided largely by individuals who are being paid close to the minimum wage. How does this impact on the quality of long term care? What can be done to respond to this? If you ran a long term care facility, what could you do to retain good employees?

Week 11: begins March 22, 2007

email to Dr. Schneider an outline for your final paper. The final paper should be 2500 to 3000 words in length and discuss in depth an important topic in gerontology. Topics can include subjects addressed in the cyberclasses. It should have a bibliography of at least 5 peer reviewed papers. Dr. Schneider will review the outline and make suggestions for revisions and/or alternative subjects if necessary. Here are a few examples: 1) reimbursing home health care by relatives and friends of disabled seniors 2) home modification to prevent institutionalization 3) prevention of falls 4) future of hospice care.

Week 12. begins March 29, 2007

The need for professionals with knowledge of gerontology will explode as the baby boomers reach old age, yet few students choose gerontology for a career. For example, few physical therapists go into geriatric physical therapy yet most of the jobs will be in that subspecialty. What can we do as gerontologists to promote education in gerontology.

Week 13. begins April 5, 2007

More older Americans are turning to alternative medicine practitioners for their health care? Why do you think they are doing this? Is conventional medicine failing to provide adequate care for older Americans? What are the benefits of alternative medicine? What are the dangers of Alternative medicine?

Week 14. begins April 12, 2007

What are the consequences of the war on Iraq on aging in America? How has the war affected federal programs related to aging?

Week 15. Final Paper due. April 27, 2007