ALCS 6906 - Perspectives in Gerontology

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43146,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Kimberly Johnson

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Kimberly Johnson

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ed.D, MA, BSW

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Course Description

6906. Perspectives in Gerontology. Focus on the major theoretical perspectives of aging and aging related research with a focus on health. Theories from gerontology, epidemiology, sociology, and psychology will be covered. Three hour seminar. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Handbook of the Theories of Aging. 3rd edition	Bengston, V.L., Gans, D., Putney, N. M., Silverstein, M. (eds.)	978-0-8261-2942-0
Required	Aging in Rural Places	Hash, M.H, Jurkowski, E. T. & Krout, J. A.	978-08261-9809-9

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Handbook of Theories of Aging Chapters 1 & 2 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 1 & 2 Ageism Amplifies Cost and Prevalence of Health Conditions Rural-urban disparities in health outcomes, clinical care, health behaviors, and social determinants of health and an action oriented, dynamic tool for visualizing them	Introduction to course What is rural	Complete reading
8/31	Handbook of Theories of Aging chapters 21 & 27 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 3 Leaving no one behind: successful ageing at the intersection of ageism and ableism	Successful Aging	Reading; Discussion

9/7	Handbook of Theories of Aging Chapters 5 & 6 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 3 Time, Human Agency, and Social Change - Perspectives Cumulative Advantage, Cumulative Disadvantage, and Evolving Patterns of Late-Life Inequality	Life Course	Reading; Discussion
9/14	Handbook of Theories of Aging Intro Part Two, Chapters 3 & 4 The biology of aging	History of theories of aging	Reading
9/21	Handbook of Theories of Aging Chapters 7-10 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 8	Biological Theory of Aging	Reading; Paper
9/28	No new reading assignments		Paper due 10/4/26
10/5	Handbook of Theories of Aging Chapters 11-15 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 6	Psychological Theory of Aging	Reading; Paper
10/12	No new reading assignment		Paper due 10/18/26
10/19	Handbook of Theories of Aging Chapters 16-20 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 5	Social Science Theories	Reading; Paper
10/26	No new reading assingment		Paper due 11/1/26
11/2	1-Disrupt-Aging-A-Call-to-Action-for-Gerontologists.pdf (PDF) Anti-aging medicine: The hype and the reality - Part I Interventions to Reduce Ageism Against Older Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis - PMC Anti-Ageism-Quick-Guide_Sep2024v2-1.pdf	Anti Agism	Reading; Discussion
11/9	Handbook of Theories of Aging Chapters 21-26 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 12 https://www.usaging.org/Files/USAging_2025PolicyPriorities_final_WEB.pdf	Policy and Practice	Reading; Discussion
11/16	Handbook of Theories of Aging Chapter 24 Aging in Rural Places Chapter 13 World Health Organization Quality of Life Instrument: http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/research_tools/whoqolbref/en/	Health Promotion	Reading; Discussion; Paper
11/23	Aging in Rural Places Chapter 9 Social Determinants of Health - Healthy People 2030 Equity and Social Determinants of Health Among Older Adults	Social Determinants of Health	Reading; Mini Paper
11/30	No new reading assignments		Mini Paper and prep for final
12/7	Final presentation		Mini paper due 12/6 Final Due 12/7

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