

SOC348: Aging in Society
Monday, Wednesday 11:30-12:45
Instructor: Corey Keyes, 203 Tarbutton

Course Description:

We are "beings unto death," said the existential philosopher Martin Heidegger. Although programmed genetically at the cellular level, aging occurs with remarkable variability. Historical events, society, and cultural context influence everything from the meaning of growing old, when you become an adult, to the rate of age-related physical decline and disease. This course introduces students to this remarkable process of human aging with a special focus on the beginning and ending of adulthood. Some approaches to aging, called gerontology, focus on the period from retirement to death. Other approaches, called adult development and the lifespan by psychologists or the life course by sociologists, focus on the start of adulthood through the end of life. This course will take more of a lifespan and life course approach and begin with the transition to adulthood, which represents your (college students and others your age) current phase and challenge in the life course.

Required Textbooks:

Arnett, J. J. (2014). *Emerging adulthood: The winding road from the late teens through the twenties*. Oxford University Press.

Requirements: 3 exams (see dates in class schedule below) and a final exam on **Monday, December 11, from 3:00 P.M - 5:30 P.M**

You do not have to take the final if you are satisfied with the average of the first 3 exams. However, the final exam is cumulative and it will cover an equal amount of material from each of the three sections that comprise this course. If you can achieve a grade on the final exam that is higher than the average of your first 3 exams, I will use the final exam grade for your final grade. If your final exam is no better than the average of your first 3 exams, your final exam grade will be averaged in with the previous 3 exams for your final grade. Below is the grading chart. When you sign an exam or submit your assignments, you are pledging to the honor code:

http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html.

Average Score	Letter Grade
93.0 and above	A
90 to 92.99	A-
87 to 89.99	B+

83 to 86.99	B
80 to 82.99	B-
77 to 79.99	C+
73 to 76.99	C
70 to 72.99	C-
67 to 69.99	D+

60 to 66.99	D
0 to 59.99	F

Class Schedule

Week 1 8/28-30	Section 1 (Weeks 1-5): Becoming an Adult Readings: Arnett chapters 1 and 2
Week 2 9/4-9/6	Labor Day on 9/4, no class Readings: Arnett chapter 3
Week 3 9/11-9/13	Readings: Arnett chapters 4 and 5
Week 4 9/18-9/20	Readings: Arnett chapters 6 and 7
Week 5 9/25-9/27	Exam 1 on September 27th
Week 6 10/2-10/4	Topic for Weeks 6 through 9: Work, Marriage and Parenting Read: Arnett chapter 13 Read the article on "Overearning"
Week 7 10/9-10/11	Marriage and Relationships: Health and Happiness Read Finkel article NO CLASS ON MONDAY October 9th (Fall Break)
Week 8 10/16-10/18	Parenting: Does It Bring Happiness? Read Stanca article Exam 2 on October 25th
Week 9 10/23-10/25	Can you be a good parent, spouse, and employee? Read Gerson and Jacob article
Week 10 10/30-11/1	Topic for Weeks 10 through 14: How We End the Lifespan Aging Reading: Moody and Sasser Pp. 167-197
Week 11 11/6-11/8	Healthcare and Rationing Continued
Week 12 11/13-11/15	Successful Aging Reading: TBA
Week 13 11/20-11/20	Blue Zones Reading: TBA
Week 14 11/27-11/29	Exam 3 on December 4th