

SOC348: Aging in Society

Instructor: Corey Keyes

We meet "live" via Zoom on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:15 (all live meetings will be recorded)

Thursdays are asynchronous, meaning class will be recorded and you can view it on Thursday or whenever is convenient for you.

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 lifespan psychology, focus on the start of adulthood through the end of life. This course takes the adult development approach for several reasons. First, there are entire courses devoted only to childhood development and only to adolescence. Together, childhood and adolescence represent a period of development marked primarily by growth and maturation. Second, the period of adulthood represents the longest (if we are lucky to all live to our life expectancies!) period of life and the phases of the transition into adulthood and the period from being an adult up to retirement has been neglected in favor of focusing on the period from retirement to death. Third, you all are in a new period called “emerging adulthood.” This new period represents an entirely new challenge for making the transition into adulthood and it may help us all to understand why many young people like yourselves are feeling more anxiety and more stress than ever before. I want this course to be useful and meaningful to you, so we will begin this course “where you are” (i.e., in emerging adulthood). So, please come along for the journey to better understand yourself and each other and how to better cope and make meaning out of the new challenge of becoming an adult and what you can look forward to as you age and live out this amazing gift called life.

TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING THE PANDEMIC

This class is being remotely taught. Due to the unusual nature of the semester, communication is important. I commit to responding to emails within 48 hours of receipt, and my intention to respond faster than that most of the time. I will likely be slower on weekends. Likewise, if your situation changes regarding health, housing, or in any other regard with respect to your ability to participate in the class, please contact the appropriate Emory student support organization first and then me as soon as possible. It is easier for me to address your needs if I know about them as soon as they arise. This does not mean I can successfully respond to every request for

consideration, but I emphasize that my goal is to treat you all fairly and with compassion and do what I can to help you succeed in this course.

ATTENDANCE

This semester due to the pandemic, some students might be sick or will need to go into isolation or quarantine. If you are sick, understand that I will be flexible about attendance. Please make sure to email me so that we can discuss your individual circumstances. For students in quarantine who are well, we have provided ways that you can keep up with your schoolwork, whether our class is delivered online or in person. Please also contact me via email if you are in quarantine.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATIONS

As the instructor of this course I want to provide an inclusive learning environment. I want every student to succeed. The Department of Accessibility Services (DAS) works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. It is your responsibility to request accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must register with the DAS at <http://accessibility.emory.edu/students/>. Accommodations cannot be retroactively applied so you need to contact DAS as early as possible and contact me as early as possible in the semester to discuss the plan for implementation of your accommodations.

For additional information about accessibility and accommodations, please contact the Department of Accessibility Services at (404) 727-9877 or accessibility@emory.edu.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

At the very first sign of not feeling well, *stay at home* and reach out for a health consultation. [Please consult the campus FAQ for how to get the health consultation](#). As you know, Emory does contact tracing if someone has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A close contact is defined as someone you spend more than 15 minutes with, at a distance less than 6 feet, not wearing facial coverings. This typically means your roommates, for example. However, your classmates are *not* close contacts as long as we are following the personal protective equipment protocols in the classroom: wearing facial coverings, staying six feet apart. Due to the necessity of keeping your PPE on, eating and drinking is strictly forbidden in the classroom.

CLASS RECORDING

Our class sessions on Zoom / our in-person class sessions will all be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to the information, and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live.

Lectures and other classroom presentations presented through video conferencing and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students enrolled in the course. The release of such information (including but not limited to directly sharing, screen capturing, or recording content) is strictly prohibited, unless the instructor states otherwise. Doing so without the permission of the instructor will be considered an Honor Code violation and may also be a violation of other state and federal laws, such as the Copyright Act.

Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image.

Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.

Please read the [Rules of Zoom Engagement](#) for further advice on participating in our Zoom class sessions.

Textbook: The following textbook can be found on Ereserve: Arnett, J. J. *Emerging adulthood: The winding road from the late teens through the twenties*. Oxford University Press.

To access the book:

Step 1: click on this

link: http://discovere.emory.edu/discovere:default_scope:01EMORY_ALMA51319979530002486

Step 2: On the right hand side of the page you will see a box labeled "Links" of URLs and click on the first URL labeled "Online Resource from Oxford Univ. Pr. "

Step 3: Scroll down and you will see the chapters and click on the title of the chapter

Requirements: 3 exams (see dates in class schedule below). The exams will be administered online through Canvas so that you can take the exam wherever you want and it is scored immediately after you complete each exam. When you take an exam, you are pledging to the honor code, and this means you will take the online exam alone. **However, all exams are open**

note (just don't consult with any fellow student to work together in proximity to each other): http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html.

Assignments: I will occasionally post questions that required your soapily material from that week's topic(s). The assignment should not be more than 3 pages with 12 pt font. Each assignment will be due by 11:59pm the Friday of that week. Each assignment will be a total of 10 points, If points are deducted, it means you either didn't answer part of the question or your answer was wrong or "way off base."

The average of your 3 exams will count 70% toward your final grade and the average score for your assignments will count 30% toward your final grade.

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 (please know that the topics and dates below are approximations)

Section 1: Becoming an Adult: The Emergence of Emerging Adulthood

Week 1: Aug. 25, 27

Readings: Arnett chapter 1 (read up to bottom of page 21)

Assignment due by 11:59 pm Aug. 28th

Week 2: Sept. 1, 3

Assignment 2, Days 1-5

Week 3: Sept. 8, 10

Readings: Arnett chapter 3 and 4

Week 4: Sept. 15

Readings: Arnett chapter 6

Exam 1

Take exam 1 anytime between Sept. 16-18 (no class recording for the 17th)

Section 2: You Made It To Adulthood, Now What? Work, Marriage (Cohabitation) and Being a Parent

Week 1: Sept. 22, 24 Read: Arnett chapter 7

Marriage

Week 2: Sept. 29, Oct. 1 Read: Arnett chapter 5

Week 3: Oct. 6, 8 Parenting and Balancing Work and Marriage
Read Gerson and Jacob article

Week 4: Oct. 13 Finish any leftover business on Oct. 13
Take exam 2 anytime between Oct. 14-16 (no class recording on Oct. 15)

Section 3: You Are Retired: How We End the Lifespan

Week 1: Oct. 20, 22

All material will be presented in lectures that will include several documentaries

Week 2: Oct. 27, 29

Stress, Demographic Transition, Healthcare

Week 3: Nov. 3, 5

Being Old in the U.S. and End of Life Issues

Week 4: Nov. 10, 12

From End of Life Issues

&

to Successful Aging and Blue Zones

Week 5: Nov. 17, 19

Exam 3

Take exam 3 anytime from Nov. 24 through Dec. 3 (Dec. 3 is the scheduled final exam time for this course). No live meeting of class on Nov. 24th