COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 313—WOMEN AND AGING

Prepared By: DIANE MUEHL, Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
May 2015
SOCI 313—Women and Aging

A. **TITLE**: Women and Aging

B. **COURSE NUMBER**: SOCI 313

C. **CREDIT HOURS**: 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE (OPTIONAL)**: It could be offered as WI.

E. **COURSE LENGTH**: (full semester 15 weeks)

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED**: Fall and Spring.

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY**: Three hours lecture per week

H. **CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**: This course provides an extensive exploration of the impact of aging on women. Topics include the social construction of older women; historical and theoretical perspectives on midlife and older women; relationships with family and friends; racial, ethnic, and demographic issues; spirituality; economic issues; and living arrangements and care giving.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES**: Prerequisite SOCI 101. Additionally, students must have at least junior standing or permission of instructor.

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES)**:

   By the end of this course, the student will:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td>a Examine the social construction of older women.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>b. Appraise the historical and theoretical perspectives on midlife and older women.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>c. Investigate societal impacts on the lives of women in midlife and older age.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking 4. Inter-Intrapersonal Skills</td>
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<td>d. Critically analyze the impact of age and gender.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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K. TEXTS:


L. REFERENCES:


M. **EQUIPMENT**: Technology enhanced classroom.

N. **GRADING METHOD**: A-F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS**: Tests, assignments, research paper.

P. **TOPICAL OUTLINE**:

I. Introduction to Women and Aging
   a. Current status of women in midlife and older
      i. Global view
         a. Developing countries
         b. Developed countries
      ii. United States
   b. Social construction of older women
   c. The sociological imagination

II. Historical and Theoretical Perspectives
   a. Sexism and ageism
b. Sociological theories
   i. Conflict theory
      a. Feminist theory
   ii. Structural functional theory
   iii. Symbolic interactionist theory
      a. vocabulary and images of women in midlife and older

   c. History of older women in America

III. Relationships
   a. Married, not married, and never married
   b. Children
   c. Friendship patterns
   d. Care giving relationships

IV. Demographic, Racial, and Ethnic Issues
   a. Demographic trends in US
      i. Impact of Baby Boomer cohort
         ii. After the Boomers
   b. Midlife and older Black women
   c. Aging and Native American women
   d. Issues affecting Asian American women
   e. Chicanas and Aging
   f. Midlife and older White women

V. Living Issues
   a. The health of older women
      i. Physical health: dealing with chronic illness
      ii. Mental and emotional health issues
   b. Spirituality and older women
   c. Living arrangements
   d. Women survivors: the oldest old

VI. Economic Issues
   a. Economic status of older women
   b. In the workforce: midlife and older women
   c. Retirement: Is this even a possibility?

VII. The future of older women
   a. Implications of government action
   b. Life course impacts
   c. End of life issues

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: none