Course Description:
This half-year course focuses on social factors that affect social inequality in later life from a life course perspective. A life course perspective emphasizes the intersections of individual lives, social change, and social structure. It calls attention to the patterns and trajectories based on gender, race-ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation that span across human lives, and are shaped by broader social structure and historical time.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course, students should be able to:

* Understand how continuity and change in human lives affect social inequality.

* Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, strategies, and empirical examples from life course analysis related to social inequality.

Prerequisite(s):
Sociology 1020 or Sociology 1021E

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s):
None

Required Text(s):
There is no textbook for this course; all of the following required readings are available electronically.
Method of Evaluation:
There are two exams, a mid-term and a final, both multiple choice. The final exam includes the material covered after the midterm and is not cumulative. However, the material covered later in the course builds upon material covered earlier in the course, so to be successful you must keep up. Exams are multiple choice and will require knowledge of assigned readings, lectures, films, and guest lectures. You are responsible for all the material in the readings even if this material is not covered in class.

Evaluation Breakdown:
Midterm test 45%
Final exam 55%

How to contact me:
You are welcome to communicate with me through email. However, you should refrain from emailing me with questions that can be answered by referring to this course outline, or to Western’s website. You should consider the emails that you send to your professors business correspondence, and, as such, they should be formal and include correct grammar, punctuation, etc. – i.e., they are not a text message you are sending to a friend. I emphasize this because you need to get in the habit of communicating in this manner for your future employment.

How to get important information:
Students are expected to attend all lectures and are responsible for all material in lectures and course readings. Class sessions include lectures, discussion, guest speakers, and in-class exercises designed to help you understand assigned readings. Lectures will often cover material not discussed in the course readings, but for which you are responsible. You also are responsible for the material covered in the readings, even if the material is not reviewed in class. There will be classes during which you will work in groups to address specific questions/topics and we then will have structured discussions based on your work. You should do the assigned readings BEFORE the date indicated on the course outline. I will be happy to discuss the class material with students during office hours but you should ask another student for notes for classes that you miss.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines and Medical Accommodation:
You must discuss accommodation with me in advance of the exam. You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or exam, or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University’s “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness”. This policy can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html
Compassionate Grounds: Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty’s Academic Counselling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty’s Academic Counselling office.

Make-up exams are essay format.

Plagiarism:
Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:
All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is submit to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Scantron Exams:
Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Electronic devices are not allowed during tests and examinations.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:
Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites or disruptive, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Accessibility Options:
Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html
Scholastic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

**The following outline is subject to change**

Please check Department of Sociology web site (http://sociology.uwo.ca/) for class cancellations or changes.

Note: (S)=available on course website; (O)=available from Western Libraries online

WEEK 1, Sept 15: Introduction, Overview
Overview of course, course outline and requirements

WEEK 2, Sept 22: Overview and Theoretical Perspectives


WEEK 3, Sept 29: The Economics of Aging, Stratification, and Social Inequality
WEEK 4, Oct 6: The Economics of Aging, Stratification, and Social Inequality, cont.


WEEK 5, Oct 13: Gender, Employment, and Inequality in Later Life


WEEK 6, Oct 20: Gender, Employment, and Inequality in Later Life, cont.


Midterm Q & A

WEEK 7, Oct 27: Midterm

WEEK 8, Nov 3: Race/ethnicity, Aging, and Social Inequality


WEEK 9, Nov 10: Race/ethnicity, Aging, and Social Inequality, cont.

WEEK 10, Nov 17: Health, Inequality, and Aging


WEEK 11, Nov 24: Health, Inequality, and Aging, continued


WEEK 12, Dec 1: Diverse Families, Aging, and Social Inequality


WEEK 13, Dec 8: Diverse Families, Aging, and Social Inequality, continued, Conclusion


Final Exam Q & A