



## Department of Psychology

### Psychology 353 (L02) Psychology of Aging

Winter 2006

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<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Dr. L. N. Brown</b>	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	<b>ED 179</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	220-5066	<b>Lecture</b>	W: 3:00- 5:45
		<b>Days/Time:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	lnbrown@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	ADMN 020 (basement)		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays 11:00 - 12:00 or By appointment		

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**Please read the entire course outline as many questions that you may have about the course are usually addressed in the outline.**

**Please Note:** If you register in this course you agree to be available to write the final exam that will be scheduled between April 17<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> by the Registrar's Office. (see [University exam policy – Calendar page 45](#)).

#### **Course Description and Goals:**

Upon completion of this course you should have a good understanding of the psychological, biological, and sociological perspectives to the aging process. One main objective of this course is to acquire a class atmosphere that fosters discussions on the aging process. Aside from having an increased knowledge of the aging process, it is anticipated that by the end of the course you will have increased your ability to think about aging issues in a critical manner. It is also anticipated that this course will exercise your reasoning skills in an insightful and logical manner.

#### **Required Text**

Erber J.T. (2005). *Aging & Older Adulthood* Thomson/Wadsworth. Available at the University Bookstore.

Lectures are intended to highlight and extend (not summarize) the material in each chapter. Students are encouraged to ask questions and/or provide comments during the lectures as class discussions enhance learning. Students are responsible for the material covered in all lectures, videos, and textbook readings. Please note that you are encouraged to make arrangements with another student for class information that you may have missed due to absenteeism.

## Lecture Materials

Portions of the lecture materials may be posted on Blackboard at the instructor's discretion. Borrow missed notes from a classmate.

**Blackboard:** <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>

## Communicating with the Instructor via email

Given the numerous students in the course I do not use email as a means of communication. I find that face-to-face communication is more personal and seems to work well, especially when you have questions about the course material. If you need to contact me please see me in person after class, during office hours, or contact me at my office (220-5066).

## Evaluation

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. The format of each test will consist of multiple choice. Each midterm will be worth 30% of your final grade, while the final exam will be worth 40% of your final grade. The mid-terms are not cumulative. However, the final exam will have 6 questions from the material covered previously during the term (i.e. 3 questions from the material covered on each mid-term).

Not all of the test material will be covered in class as you are responsible for all assigned readings from the text even when the specific material was not covered in class. Likewise, some of the material covered in class will not be covered in the textbook. In short, for a successful completion of this course I strongly recommend that you attend lectures AND read your textbook.

If you are anticipating anything that will interfere with your ability to write an exam on the above dates, please contact me immediately. **A physician's statement must be submitted by a student requesting an exam deferral or make-up of an exam missed due to illness. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor before or on the day of the exam if you are unable to write the exam when scheduled.**

## Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

**Grading System:** (all grades with a .5 or more will be rounded-up to the next letter grade)

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

**Please Note:** Students have the opportunity to increase their final grade by the addition of bonus course credits for their research participation in research projects that takes place before the deadline date (see the section below "**Bonus Course Credits for Research Participation**")

### **Lecture Schedule:**

Lecture topics may overlap, but exam dates are fixed. It is in your best interest not to get behind in the readings as we cover a significant amount of material in this course.

Jan 11	Ch 1	Introduction and course outline
Jan 18	Ch 2	Theories and Methods to Study Aging
Jan 25	Ch 3	Biological Aging
Feb 1	Ch 4	Sensation , Perception and Attention
<b>Feb 8</b>	<b>Test One</b>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and lecture notes</b>
Feb 15	Ch 5	Memory
<b>Feb 19 - 26</b>	<b>NO CLASSES – READING BREAK</b>	
Mar 1	Ch 6, 7	Intellectual Functioning, Problem Solving (selective pages)
Mar 8	Ch 9	Social Interactions
Mar 15	Ch 10	Employment and Retirement
<b>Mar 22</b>	<b>Test Two</b>	<b>Chapters 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and lecture notes</b>
Mar 29	Ch 10	Employment and Retirement
Apr 5	Ch 11	Psychopathology
Apr 12	Ch 12	Death and Dying
<b>Final Exam</b>		<b>To be scheduled by the Registrar’s Office (April 17-28)</b>

### **University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives:**

The core competencies addressed in this course include several aspects. With respect to acquiring the information presented in this course, you are encouraged to use creative and critical thinking, and to analyze problems by using abstract reasoning. Aside from having an increased knowledge of the processes involved in sensation and perception, it is anticipated that by the end of the course you will have increased your ability to think about perceptual issues in a critical manner. It is also anticipated that this course will exercise your reasoning skills in an insightful and logical manner. Where appropriate, findings from recent research will be integrated into the course material.

It is my experience that students, who attend lectures, ask questions, and exercise critical thinking skills, relative to passive reading and/or rote memorization of the course information, tend to attain a better grade and report greater satisfaction from the course.

## **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

## **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

## **Academic Accommodation**

*It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation.* If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. If you are seeking academic accommodation, please notify your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course. Note that the lecturer must approve any tape recordings of lectures.

## **Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. Please call my office 220-5066 to advise me that you will be absent for a test (i.e. please do not use email me this information). At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

If you miss the final exam, you must contact the Registrar's office as soon as possible to apply for a deferred final exam; please let me know if you are applying for a deferred final.

### **Bonus Course Credits for Research Participation**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally-approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to an individual's final grade. Information about current experiments is on the Experimentrix website at <http://experimentrix.com/uc>. The read.me link at that site provides a guide to using the system and assigning your credits. The last day to participate in research and ALLOCATE YOUR CREDITS TO YOUR COURSES is April 12, 2006.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is January 20, 2006. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 13, 2006.