



Class Location: Founder's Hall 208
Class day/time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD
Office: FH 217H
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 AM to 1 PM, Wednesdays 10 AM to 2 PM

Contact: roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu

Course Description: The study of the reciprocal relationship between society and those considered aged by society, utilizing concepts and theoretical frameworks applicable to that population group. The course also examines the social forces that impinge on the aging process, including socially constructed images of the aged, and patterns of inequality of gender, race, and economics.

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the intellectual and pragmatic issues concerning aging from a sociological perspective. By the end of the course students should:

1. understand the role of social structure and state policy in aging issues;
2. make connections between socioeconomic status, demographic shifts, and the realities of aging;
3. understand aging as a human experience that is significantly affected by geographical, cultural, and temporal context;
4. gain experiential knowledge of the methods social scientists (and historians) use when trying to understand the experiences of older persons and their accounts of the past; and
5. be able to discuss the major theories used to describe and analyze the concept of aging.

Mode of instruction and course access: This course is a face to face course that also uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. CANVAS is where you will find certain information related to this course, including student grades and handouts. Monitor CANVAS for announcements every day, not just on the days things are due/assigned, since due dates occasionally may change due to unforeseen circumstances (ex: network outage).

Contacting your professor:

The best way to contact me is through email (roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu). I check email every day during the week and often on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 9 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. I am on campus during my office hours should you need to talk to me in person. Also, the best way to

refer to your professor in email or in person is as “Professor Schoen” or “Dr. Schoen,” pronounced SHANE.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account. Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Required Reading and Textbook(s):

Harry Moody and Jennifer Sasser. 2018. *Aging: Concepts and Controversies*, 9th edition. Sage Publications.

Joseph Coleman. 2015. *Unfinished Work: The Struggle to Build an Aging American Workforce*. Oxford University Press.

Other required reading materials listed on the syllabus will be available through our course E-Reserve page. E-Res Password: aging

Recommended Book(s):

ASA Style Guide, 5th edition. American Sociological Association.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Below is a description of the main activities for this course. They include (1) reading assignments, (2) class attendance, (3) two exams, and (4) a life history project with an in-class presentation.

- 1. Reading assignments and discussions:** Readings from the textbook are listed in the course schedule below (as “MS” for Moody & Sasser). Additional readings will be available via the course E-Reserves page. These are denoted in the course schedule as “eRes” readings and are just as important as the readings from your books. You should complete readings before coming to class on the day the reading is assigned. Our eRes password = aging (lowercase)
- 2. Attendance:** Regular attendance is fundamental to your success in this course. I will take attendance on all non-exam days using a sign-in sheet. Attendance points accrue at 4 points per day throughout the semester for a total of 100 points. You may miss 2 regular classes during the semester and still earn an A/A- for attendance.

3. **Exams:** Students will take two exams that cover readings, discussions, and any other supplemental material we engaged with during the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points. You can expect the format to be a combination of multiple choice and short essay questions. Please see the course schedule below for exam dates and mark your calendar so you don't miss these important dates.

4. **Life history project and presentation:** For this course, students will conduct and transcribe one life history interview. The final paper for this course will be a summary and analysis of the life history experience. Before beginning this project, you need to complete CITI training and submit your completion certificate via Canvas. Next, you will conduct one interview. Your transcribed interview will be uploaded to Canvas for a total of 50 points. All students will present their life history interview experiences during weeks 14 and 15 of the course. Presentations will be worth 50 points. The final paper will be due after presentations are complete and is worth 75 points. More detailed instructions will be available in Canvas. Points will be awarded for the following deliverables: CITI certificate = 25 points, transcribed interview = 50 points, final paper = 75 points, in-class presentation = 50 points, for a total of 200 points.

| Coursework | Points |
|--|------------|
| Attendance | 100 |
| Life History Project CITI certificate – 25 Paper – 75 Interview – 50 Presentation – 50 | 200 |
| Exams (2 @ 100 points) | 200 |
| Total: | 500 |

| Points | Percent | Grade |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| 446 - 500 | 90 – 100% | A |
| 396 - 445 | 80 - 89% | B |
| 346 - 395 | 70 – 79% | C |
| 296 - 345 | 60 – 69% | D |
| 295 or below | 0 – 59% | F |

Posting of Grades:

- All student grades will be posted using the Canvas grade book and students should monitor their grade status through this tool.
- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool may misinform students from time to time.
- Grades will usually be posted within 7-10 days of due dates. Some assignments, like the life history paper, require more personalized feedback. These assignments could take longer to grade and so you may need to be patient.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, chapters and page numbers will refer to the Moody & Sasser (MS) book. This schedule is a plan, not a promise.

- Week 1. August 28, 30 Introduction to the Course**
- Tuesday – Syllabus + course introduction
Thursday – Read pages 1-12 in MS
- Week 2. September 4, 6 Introduction to Aging**
- Tuesday – Read pages 13-27 in MS
Thursday – Read Controversy #1, Does old age have meaning?
- Week 3. September 11, 13 The Life Course Perspective**
- Tuesday – Read pages 55-72 of Why do our bodies grow old?
Thursday – Read pages 73-95 of Why do our bodies grow old?
- Week 4. September 18, 20 Interview Research**
- Tuesday – Read eRes article “Interviewing Older People,” by Wenger, p. 259-278
Thursday – Begin CITI certificates. Meet at 9:30 AM in WH 104 computer lab.
- Week 5. September 25, 27 Intelligence, creativity, and health**
- Tuesday - Read Controversy #3, Do intelligence and creativity decline with age?
Thursday – Read pages 133-144 in MS
CITI Certificates due via Canvas on September 30th at 11:59 PM CST
- Week 6. October 2, 4 Health Care Debates**
- Tuesday – Read pages 145-166 in MS
Thursday – Read Controversy #4, Should we ration health care for older people?
- Week 7. October 9, 11 Midterm Exam**
- Tuesday - Midterm exam
Thursday – Read Controversy #7; Watch film: *How to Die in Oregon*
- Week 8. October 16, 18 Aging and Care Work**
- Tuesday – Read Controversy #5, Should families provide for their own?
Thursday – Read Coleman pages 1-49; Watch film: *Extreme Love - Dementia*

Week 9. October 23, 25 The Aging Workforce

Tuesday – Read Coleman pages 51-101

Thursday – Read Coleman pages 103-151; Watch film: *The Great Japanese Retirement*
Interview transcripts due via Canvas on October 28th at 11:59 PM CST

Week 10. October 30, Nov 1 Aging, Income, and Retirement

Tuesday – Read Coleman pages 153-202

Thursday – Read Controversy #10, Is retirement obsolete?

Week 11. November 6, 8 Social Programs

Tuesday - Read Controversy #8, Should age or need be the basis for entitlement?

Thursday – Read Controversy #9, What is the future for social security?

Week 12. November 13, 15 Aging Boomers

Tuesday – Read Controversy #12, The new aging marketplace: hope or hype?

Thursday – Review day

Week 13. Nov 20 *Thanksgiving Week*

Final Exam on Tuesday, November 20th

Thursday – no class

Week 14. Nov 27, 29 Presentations I

Tuesday and Thursday: In-class presentations

Week 15. Dec 4, 6 Presentations II

Tuesday and Thursday: In-class presentations

Week 16. Dec 10 – 14 Final Papers Due

Papers due by 11:59 PM CST on Tuesday of this week. Upload final paper to Canvas.

Commencement is Friday, December 14th at 7 PM.

Final Grades will be submitted on or before Tuesday, December 18th.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements.

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

Technology Support.

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For issues with **Canvas**, select “chat with Canvas support,” submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas using the “Help” link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Late assignments will receive a deduction of 10 points per day it is late. Per this formula, 70 points for the life history paper will be deducted after 7 days, so submissions will not receive instructor attention or a grade 8 days or more beyond the due date. Please pay attention to deadlines and work ahead to minimize the risk that your work will be late.

A student may only make up **an exam** if there is illness, injury, or another *documented* excuse. If a student misses an exam due to illness, injury, something out of their control they must 1. Provide documentation (doctor’s note, police report, etc), 2. Notify Dr. Schoen as soon as possible of intent to take a make-up exam, and 3. Prepare to take the make-up exam within 1 week of the excused absence. Students who miss an exam with no excused absence will receive a zero for that exam. If the student foresees that s/he will be unable to complete the course, then s/he should drop the course or accept the posted grade.

Drop Policy. If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Registrar’s Office and complete a Drop Request Form. Professors **cannot** drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office

immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid.

Academic Integrity. Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations. At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Diversity in the Classroom. Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts within the Social Sciences. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. In this course we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, educational backgrounds, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

Tutoring. Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, contact information, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Kim Wood at k.wood@tamuct.edu

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, click on <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/academicssupport/tutoring.php>

University Writing Center. Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 11am-6pm Monday-Thursday. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available). Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library. The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our homepage: <https://tamuct.libguides.com/>

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