Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

PSYC 336
GERONTOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The facts of demography describe the background and present status of elderly people in the United States. Then the biological, psychological and sociological factors in aging will be studied to promote an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of aging. The dying-grieving processes, as well as LTC policies and government-sponsored programs are explored.

RATIONALE
As the Baby Boomer generation enters retirement and old age, topics like Medicare and Social Security have risen to the forefront of national attention. The entrance of this large birth cohort into this phase of life has important implications for health care and the economy, among other issues. This course will seek to explain the process of aging so that students who interact with older adults will have a foundation upon which to base their relationships and work.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Discuss social gerontology including its origins and current areas of focus.
B. Summarize the biological and physiological changes related to aging.
C. Explain the cognitive changes that are linked with aging as well as the theories that explain such changes and adaptations.
D. Demonstrate an understanding of the social context older adults experience, such as their living arrangements, employment, family supports, and discrimination.

E. Discuss the social policies and social problems affecting older adults in the United States.

F. Apply gerontological research and theory to real life situations involving older adults.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

The student will participate in 3 Discussion Board Forums. For each Discussion Board Forum, the student must submit a thread of at least 300 words. The student must then submit a reply to at least 1 of his or her fellow students. Replies must be at least 150 words. Current APA citation style must be used for these Discussion Board Forums, and the student must cite the textbook at least 1 time in each of his or her threads.

D. Blog Entries (7)

The student will be required to maintain a weekly blog (in Blackboard) that notes instances in which he or she encounters some event that has relevance for his or her understanding of aging. In addition to the blog entries, the student must comment on 1 of his or her fellow student’s blog each module/week (for a total of 7 comments). These comments need not be overly long, but they must be substantial.

E. Writing Assignment

The student will have the option to choose between completing either a 5-page research paper or an 8–10-page life story paper.

The research paper must be in current APA format, with a title page, abstract, and bibliography included. The title page, abstract, and bibliography DO NOT count as part of the 5 pages. The student must have at least 5 references in this paper.

The life story paper must be in current APA format as well, with a title page included. It is not necessary to have any citations in this paper.

F. Field Experience Project

This assignment requires the student to work with an older adult and keep a journal of the student’s experiences. The student will submit a 1-page Arrangement Description and then a Final Submission.

G. Exams (4)
The student will complete 4 comprehensive exams. These exams are based entirely on the textbook, and they are open-book/open-notes. Each exam will include 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and the student will have 1 hour and 10 minutes to finish the exam. There will be a deduction of 1 point per minute for going over the time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blogs (7 at 15 pts ea)</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Experience Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrangement Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (4 at 100 pts ea)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010   B = 800–899   C = 700–799   D = 600–699   F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
## Course Schedule

**PSYC 336**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Quadagno: chs. 1 &amp; 4 1 presentation</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist Blog Entry 1</td>
<td>10 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Field Experience Project: Arrangement Description Exam 1</td>
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<td>DB Forum 1 Blog Entry 3</td>
<td>50 15</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DB Forum 2 Blog Entry 4 Exam 2</td>
<td>50 15 100</td>
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<td>DB Forum 3 Blog Entry 5</td>
<td>50 15</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Quadagno: chs. 9 &amp; 10 1 presentation</td>
<td>Blog Entry 6 Exam 3</td>
<td>15 100</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Quadagno: ch. 11 1 presentation</td>
<td>Blog Entry 7 Writing Assignment</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Quadagno: chs. 12 &amp; 13 1 presentation</td>
<td>Field Experience Project: Final Submission Exam 4</td>
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**Total 1010**

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.