

The Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

PSYC 109 / ELDR 109
Problems of the Elderly
3 Semester Hours

I. Description

Problems of the Elderly

Presents psychological principles, theories, and research pertaining to the behavioral, emotional, cognitive, physical and medical problems faced by older individuals; covers dementia, memory and other cognitive issues, medication issues, stroke, circulation and heart issues, vision, hearing, and mobility issues, sexual issues, cancer, depression, death and dying issues, dual diagnosis and other behavior and emotional concerns faced by the elderly.

II. General Course Objectives

When a student completes the course, he/she will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate they have learned the fundamental theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary and methodology for each of the topics listed in the "Major Topics" section of this syllabus.
- B. Describe various research strategies used to explore changes in the elderly.
- C. Explain the normal expected changes in cognitive and memory function that come with aging and when those changes represent a problem.
- D. Explain various causes of dementia.
- E. Describe various medication issues that create problems for elder care.
- F. Describe the potential problems caused by circulation issues, stroke and heart related issues for elder care.
- G. Summarize the problems encountered by elder people in regard to vision, hearing and mobility issues.
- H. Identify the sexual changes and problems aging may bring.
- I. Examine the potential problems associated with cancer and aging.
- J. Discuss the implications of depression, the dying process and death on elder care populations.
- K. Analyzes the problems created by dual diagnosis situations of the elderly.
- L. Assess the need for cultural sensitivity in working with elder care problems.

III. Major Topics

- A. Theoretical perspectives pertaining to aging
- B. Research methods used in studying behavioral, cognitive and emotional change
- C. Dementia, memory and other cognitive issues
- D. Medication issues in the elderly
- E. Stroke, circulation and heart issues
- F. Vision, hearing and mobility issues
- G. Impact of surgery
- H. Sexual issues
- I. cancer
- J. Depression
- K. Death and dying
- L. Dual diagnosis
- M. cultural factors that may effect elder care situations

IV. Course Requirements

Specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance in this course will be described in the individual class syllabus. However, all students will:

- A. Demonstrate mastery of the theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary, and research methods regarding problems of the elderly on at least two examinations.
- B. Participate in at least one oral presentation in the form of a small group discussion or individual report that displays comprehension of the basic information learned.
- C. Participate in at least one group project in which data is collected from the Internet and other appropriate sources as it relates to problems of the elderly topics.
- D. Complete a critical thinking written assignment of at least 1000 words that delves into a specific aspect of the course material as it pertains to an elder care situation.
- E. Explore a service learning opportunity if their schedules permit.

(Revised 04/13/01)