

Gerontology Certificate Program and Undergraduate Minor in Gerontology

As we enter the 21st century, the dramatic growth in both the number and proportion of older adults in the population continues. These trends create many challenges to social institutions and opportunities for increasing the quality of life for this age group. An organized course of study can help process experiences, give shape to goals, and open new avenues of interest and knowledge for professionals working with older adults, or those who may be considering careers in fields where they will come in contact with this age group.

UMKC's Center on Aging Studies offers an interdisciplinary gerontology certificate at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and an undergraduate minor in gerontology. Completion of this 18-credit hour certificate or minor will greatly enhance the student's opportunities for careers working with, or on behalf of, an aging population.

Admission to UMKC and enrollment in the Gerontology Studies Program are required to earn the gerontology certificate. For information on program enrollment and course requirements, contact the program coordinator at 816-235-1744.

Summer Semester 2009

A&S 490L, #0001, ST: Topic: Health Literacy in the Aging Population

1 Unit/K. Wright

Cancelled

Class Number: 33993

Sat.: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Class meets **June 27** and July 11 at 2220 Holmes (Bowman Room), Kansas City, Mo.

In this course, we will explore the connections between low literacy and low health literacy, as well as compounding factors such as age, ability, race/ethnicity, and gender. The impact of low health literacy on the individual, the healthcare professional, and society will be examined, to include effective ways to promote informed health care decisions by older consumers of health care and health services.

A&S 492, #0001/5592, #0001, Field Practicum in Aging

3 – 8 Units/L. Breytspraak

Class Numbers: 30052/30057

Dates, times and location to be arranged

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and completion of three Gerontology core courses

Students spend 180 – 480 contact hours in a field placement with supervision in a community agency or organization which services or advocates for older persons, and keep a journal documenting and reflecting on the practicum activities and experiences,

particularly as they relate to gerontological theory and research. Graduate students will study a particular subject relevant to their placement and describe this in a written project.

Soc 300RA, #0001/5580GR, #0001, ST: Topic: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: The Skip-Generation Families

1 Unit/L. Fitzpatrick and L. Breytspraak

Class Numbers: 33059/34100 **Cancelled**

Sat.: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Class meets **May 30** and June 13 at The AARP State Office, 700 W. 47th St., Suite 110, Kansas City, Mo.

Grandparents are raising their grandchildren in record numbers. This course will look at changes in the family and social structures that have brought about this dramatic growth. It will examine the myriad of changes and adjustments affecting these families, and some of the theoretical perspectives and concepts relating to this phenomenon, as well as the demographics of this population. The population policies affecting this population, as well as the public and private agencies currently in place as resources for them will be explained. Special attention will be given to the impact of Welfare Reform and recent cuts in the Missouri state budget.

Soc 316, #0001/5560, #0001, Sociology of Death and Dying

3 Units/J. Russell and L. Breytspraak

Class Numbers: 33716/33726

Mon. through Fri.: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

211 Royall Hall

Class meets **May 11 – 22**

Note: May Intersession Course

Examination of attitudes, behaviors and institutions related to death and dying in contemporary American society. Topics include the status of death in American society, effects of the setting on dying, interaction with the dying, funeral practices, bereavement customs, surviving spouse, and suicide.

Soc 416, #0001/5556, #0001, Aging and Developmental Disabilities

2 Units/M. McCarthy and L. Breytspraak

Class Numbers: 33708/33710

Fri.: 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Sat.: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sun.: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Class meets **June 19-20-21** and July 17-18-19 at 2220 Holmes (Bowman Room), Kansas City, Mo.

Note: Both weekends required to receive credit

This course explores the experience of aging with a developmental disability or mental retardation within the context of normative aging. Among the comparisons made

between older persons with and without developmental disabilities are their demographic characteristics, physical and cognitive functioning, role transitions and losses, identities and self-concepts, and family and caregiving issues. Policies, programs, and emerging concepts of best practices are considered within the context of quality of life, ethical, and community inclusion issues.

Soc 417, #0001/5557, #0001, Practicum in Aging and Developmental Disabilities

1 Unit/M. McCarthy and L. Breytspraak

Class Numbers: 33709/33711

Dates, times and location to be arranged

Note: Concurrent enrollment in Soc 416/5556 and consent of instructor required

Note: Additional class hours as designated by instructor

Students gain experience in working with and defining issues of older persons with developmental disabilities through placements in sheltered workshops, senior centers, residential group homes, and other community-based programs.