FALL 2021
New Online Courses in Aging

Brand new, interdisciplinary online courses exploring important topics related to aging.

MED 501 Human Aging: The Aging Experience
1 Credit | 8/23-9/24 | SESSION 5W1
This introductory course sets the stage for a human and experiential understanding of aging and the life experience of older adults. Learning will take a practical, theoretical and humanistic look with emphasis on ageism, life course, person/environment interaction, autonomy, self-determination, inter-dependence, and inter-vulnerability.

MED 502 Human Aging: Ethical Considerations
1 Credit | 8/23-9/24 | SESSION 5W1
This course will provide a high-level review of every-day ethics along with special attention to issues related to aging and older adults such as elder protection. Emphasis will be placed on professional standards so students are able to distinguish between and communicate around ethical issues while working with older adults and their families.

MED 511 Human Aging: Biological & Psychological Perspectives
1 Credit | 9/27-10/29 | SESSION 5W2
The focus of this course is on understanding aging as a biological and psychological phenomenon. Consideration will be given to biological explanations for how and why aging occurs and normal versus abnormal aging changes. Cognition as a biological and psychological phenomenon will be explored. Finally, psychological perspectives will be considered including stages of growth and development, and ability to recognize normal age changes in intelligence and cognitive abilities including those that may impact late-life functioning.

PHP 436/536 Aging, Environment & Well-being
3 Credits | 8/23-10/13 | SESSION 7W1
What does environment have to do with aging and well-being? In this course we explore the relationship between older people and their environment. In doing so we look at environment through a variety of lens, such as physical space (i.e. location), and place (location imbued with individual meaning), private versus public, as contributor versus constraint to a sense of belonging and empowerment for older persons. We will consider how factors such as models of social care, human service practices, public policy, societal attitudes, and environmental design positively or negatively impact the environmental experience of diverse older persons as they age in place. Our goal is to expand our knowledge and sensitivity to the subtleties of environmental experience for older persons, and challenge us to consider how development of environmental design, social interventions, and public policy can support wellbeing and optimize the lived experience of the aging and aged.

MED 512 Human Aging: Socio-cultural and Human Diversity Perspectives
1 Credit | 9/27-10/29 | SESSION 5W2
This course is designed to assist students in exploring aging as a socio-cultural phenomenon. Sociological theories of aging will be explored. Life-course theory and ethnogerontological theory will be used to frame aging from the perspective of human diversity. Ways in which aging and the experience of aging differs based on gender, race, socio-economic status, and culture will be explored along with what these variations mean for working with older adults and their families.

MED 534 Human Aging: Spectrum of Supportive Services and Structures
1 Credit | 11/1-12/8 | SESSION 5W3
This course focuses on learning about and understanding the existing spectrum of healthcare and supportive services for older adults. Current challenges and opportunities will be discussed along with ideation around improvements and innovations in this space.