COURSING IN LATER LIFE
SYP 4940/6933

SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

- **Course Hours**: 11:00AM-12:15 PM T TH
- **Course Meeting Location**: Bellamy Building, Room 0102
- **Credit Hours**: 3 hours
- **Prerequisites**: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar course will introduce you to caregiving issues using a variety of perspectives, integrating information from various social science disciplines. We will focus on several important areas of theory and research, including who is involved in care work in later life, how it affects those who provide care, issues related to inequality (e.g., gender and socioeconomic status), and the potential role of public policy in addressing key problems.
Dawn Carr, PhD

🚨 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
✉ dccarr@fsu.edu
📞 (850) 644-2833
📍 Pepper Center, 2nd Floor
⏰ By Appointment

_emails will be responded to within 24 to 48 hours.

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**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the major issues involved in caregiving during later life
- Understand major concepts, theories, and methods that are used to examine caregiving at the individual and societal levels
- Critically analyze major “problems” associated with caregiving in later life
- Link personal experiences and knowledge about caregiving to course concepts, research, and theories
- Learn about personal experiences facing older adults who provide care

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**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

To accomplish these objectives, we will rely heavily on class discussions and in-class engagement. In order for these activities to work successfully, you must do each reading prior to the class in which it will be discussed, completed your discussion board post, attend class, and be ready to contribute any questions, comments, or ideas that you have about the readings. Attendance is MANDATORY. Once students have accumulated 2 unexcused absences, students will lose a full letter grade for each subsequent unexcused absence. Individuals who accumulate more than five unexcused absences will receive an F in this course regardless of performance. If you are facing any personal troubles that are interfering with your ability to attend class, please let me know as soon as possible. I cannot help you be successful if you are not in communication with me.
Other expected behaviors in my course:

- Students should log on to Canvas at least every other day to check for course updates.
- You are required to do all reading PRIOR to each seminar.
- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignment by due dates.
- Assignments are expected to be products of individual students as per the FSU Academic Honor Policy (http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity/).
- To receive maximum points in the course, students need to follow the instructions carefully, follow word limits as instructed, and use spell and grammar checking. This includes in the discussion board posts!

COURSE ETIQUETTE

- **Computers are not to be used during class.**
- **Turn off your cell phone** and put it away from your line of sight unless you have a family emergency, or young children/caregivers who may need to be in touch with you. Please email me or talk to me before class if one of these unique circumstances apply to you.
- Arrive to class at least **5 minutes early**, and I won't keep you late. Being unable to find a parking space is not a legitimate excuse for being late or missing class. Prepare in advance so you can arrive on time.
- Treat **ALL** other classmates with respect.
- Regularly check your FSU email and respond to any inquiries from me or the teaching assistant **within 24 hours**.

GRADING POLICY

Online Discussion Board (30%) – During the course of the semester, you will be required to complete discussion board posts each week prior to the start of class. You need to describe responses based on the prompts provided for each article/reading.

In class participation/class presentations (20%) -- During each class, you are expected to share your ideas about the readings and engage in conversation. It is a small class and focused almost entirely on in class discussion. Each student will select readings at the start of the semester (two readings per undergraduate, more for graduate students) in which they are responsible for presentation of the material in class on the day it is assigned. Presentations should be 5-10 min long, and followed by
class discussion related to the reading. Students are required to lead class discussions, which should involve review of the other students' discussion board posts prior to class, and questions/comments designed inspire discussion.

Interview (20%) - You will complete an interview with two current or former elder caregivers about their caregiving experiences. You will prepare a 10 minute presentation about what you learned from these caregivers and how it relates to an area of research discussed in class. This area of focus will become the topic of focus for your final paper. The presentation should describe the area in which there is a lack of research, great need for interventions to be developed, or a need for social policies that could help alleviate a critical problem.

Final Paper (30%) – Informed by your interview with your caregivers, you will write a paper that integrates course content and additional related literature into a research paper that describes a key problem needing to be solved by additional research, intervention, or a policy. The paper will include a review of current research on the area of focus, make a strong case (demonstrate the need) for a proposed solution, and highlight key theories that guide research on the subject. Papers should be approximately about 8 pages in length for undergraduates and 10-12 pages in length for graduate students. Length requirements do not include references. Each paper should include a minimum of 12 references (some should be drawn from the course material, others should be from similar high quality sources) and be in APA format (i.e., double-spaced).

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**GRADING SCHEME**

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>94% to 100%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% to 93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% to 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% to 86%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% to 83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% to 89%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74% to 76%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70% to 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67% to 89%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>64% to 66%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60% to 63%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to view videos, write and upload assignments, post to discussion boards, and take assessments. Students should have access
to high-speed internet and updated software. Mobile devices will be insufficient to complete all course assignments. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the FSU Canvas support site (http://distance.fsu.edu/canvas/).

CANVAS SUPPORT

Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:

☐ Email: help@campus.fsu.edu (mailto:help@campus.fsu.edu)
📞 Phone: (850) 644-8004
🌐 Website: distance.fsu.edu/canvas (http://distance.fsu.edu/canvas/)
🕒 Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday

COURSE POLICIES

COMMUNICATIONS/ETIQUETTE

For Discussions:

- Please use polite, respectful behavior when posting your responses to prompts in the Discussion Boards.
- Keep postings to the point, and make sure your comments are relevant to the topic of discussion.
- Do not use text speak in your discussion boards -- these are formal essays and should be treated this way. Use appropriate grammar, spelling, and sentence structure.
- When replying, your first sentence should explain the purpose of what you are talking about and reference the discussion board post goals.

For Email Communication:

- For email, please respond to within a 24-hour period.
- You are welcome to address me as Dr. Carr, Professor Carr, or Dawn Carr. I prefer not to be called Ms. Carr.
- Use a brief description in the subject line that outlines the topic of discussion.
- Avoid using slang or profane words.
- Avoid using emoticons, such as smiley faces, and maintain a professional demeanor.
- Sign your email messages using your full name.
• AVOID USING ALL CAPS. This makes the message visually difficult to read and is perceived by the reader as "shouting."
• Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation, just as you would for any communication.
• Ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read it. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.
• Refrain from "flaming," which is expressing a strongly held opinion without tact or regard for others. Don't assume that recipients will know the intent of the message (e.g., "just kidding"). It reads differently when it's in print (electronic or not).
• Report any inappropriate communication considered to be of a serious nature to your instructor, as it may be a violation of University policy.
• Treat others with respect by making messages clear and succinct.

PARTICIPATION & LATENESS POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

POLICY ON RESPONDING TO STUDENTS

• Except in cases of a family emergency, you will receive an email response from me within 48 hours.
• Graded assignments typically returned within 2 weeks after due date.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (For more details see the FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations [http://fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy].)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
[http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu]
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
Email: sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
(mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu%20)

FREE TUTORING FROM FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ [http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring] comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - email: tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY
"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."

**Course Summary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 17, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109588">January 17th: Introduction to Aging</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 7, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109699">February 7th: Caregiving and Physical Health Factors</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 14, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109703">February 14th: Mental Health Factors and Caregiving</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 21, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109704">February 21st: Dementia Caregiving</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 28, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109711">February 28th: Gender and Care Work</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Mar 7, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/111977">Class Presentation</a></td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 4, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109774">April 4: Grandparenting</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 11, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109775">April 11: Benefits of Grandparenting</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 18, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/109784">April 18: Policy and Caregiving</a></td>
<td>10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Apr 27, 2018</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/35755/assignments/111853">Final Paper</a></td>
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