COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course uses an inquiry-based approach to engage students in critical debates regarding the portrayal of people across the life span with a particular attention to the condition of later life. Students will engage in conceptual knowledge on myth making in contemporary late modern societies, looking critically at the intersection between meaning and power. A specific focus will be on the use of narrative and visual images in research on representations. Over the term, students will explore a series of different themes on the misrepresentation of older adults including their health and illness. In partnership with the “Seniors in Canada” in groups students will construct their own portrayal of an older adult in Hamilton. This activity will be incorporated into the “Seniors in Canada” project.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There is no text in this course. The schedule below lists the readings for each week. All are available through the McMaster library system.

COURSE STRUCTURE: Each class will feature a combination of lecture, group work and discussion. In each class, there is an expectation that students will contribute to learning. The nature of this contribution will vary as the course enfold.

EVALUATION: Please submit all written assignments double-spaced with one-inch borders in 12-pitch font. Please include a list of references and a title page that includes your name, ID number and date. Please use APA style or another standardized style found in a scholarly journal.

Written Assignments: Students will write two critical analysis papers. The first (worth 35%; due February 15th; five to eight pages) discusses key concepts and methods used in research on understanding the representation of aging. In the second (worth 40%; due mid-April; ten to twenty pages) students working in groups will draw on the course material to develop their own portrayal of an older adult in text of their life course. More guidance will be available in class.

Weekly Presentations (25%): In each class, there are mandatory informal presentations and group work. The presentations will be marked pass or fail. For inadequate or missed presentations, students can submit a two page written summary. Full marks will be given once students have provided an adequate presentation or summary for each week.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.
Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

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April 5  Conclusion  


FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY: Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion. Email Forwarding in MUGSI: http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.htm