

## **NEW OR REVISED COURSES – AS OF MARCH 2008**

### **GRO 600 – PROSEMINAR IN GERONTOLOGY (1)**

**An introduction and gateway to the profession and study of gerontology including career roles and paths, professional development and ethics, and research processes and procedures**

This course is designed to be an introduction and gateway to the profession and study of gerontology. Ideally, students will take the Proseminar in their first semester after being accepted into a post baccalaureate program of the Gerontology Program (but in all cases by the end of their second semester.) It will introduce students to the ethical and career development dimensions of the profession including such topics as career roles and paths and research processes and conduct. The relatively recent position of gerontology among the professions and the wide range of career paths open to students who pursue a gerontology degree make such a course an essential gateway to help students understand the options available to them and to make best use of their academic plan of study. Students will begin their exploration of topics that will be continued in the capstone course for master's students: The Integrative Seminar in Gerontology (GRO 651).

### **GRO 611 Issues in Aging and Business (1.5)**

**Overview of an issue from the integrated perspectives of aging and business. Emphasis on analytic skills related to demographic and market trends. May be repeated when topics vary for a maximum of 6 credits.**

### **GRO 611A SILVER INDUSTRIES (1.5)**

**A comprehensive overview of the gerontological trends and associated business consequences that characterize an aging society. Case illustrations highlighted. 1.5 hour course which meets weekly over seven weeks.**

This course is part of the "aging" block of coursework in the Aging and Business concentration within the Gerontology Program master's program. Silver Industries is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the gerontological trends and associated business consequences that characterize an aging society, primarily looking at the United States but with cross-national comparison where instructive. The course begins with a look at the four kinds of aging – i.e., the "four lenses" (population, individual, family and generational) through which aging should be examined. Analysis focuses on middle-aged and older persons as workers, earners, consumers, savers, investors, and planners for retirement, noting significant changes between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This course was successful taught under the GRO 676 Special Topics Prefix. The seven week 1:5 credit hour format is designed to complete the Bryan School of Business MBA courses making this course attractive not only to Gerontology students but to others seeking electives with an interest in aging and business.

## **GRO 611B THE BOOMER DEMOGRAPHIC PHENOMENA**

**Comprehensive overview of the current and future societal and demographic trends as a consequence of the Boomer Demographic Phenomena with implications for government, community and business markets. Applied demographic exercises.**

This course is part of the block of coursework in the Aging and Business Concentration within the Gerontology Program master's program. The Boomer Demographic Phenomena is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the societal, economic and demographic trends associated with applied demographic methods used in planning. The course begins by examining the historical and economic consequences leading to the 'boom' and includes a brief history of the American Baby Boom's influence on public policy, politics, education and the labor force. The course then turns its attention to how the boomers will *shape* the new future public and private market sectors. Students will learn how to account for the influence that the Boomer demographics has when planning and forecasting future markets, service delivery and products. Students who enter the professional practice of gerontology across a wide-range of settings will find this course relevant including those who practice direct services and care management, health and wellness programming, product development and marketing, policy and program development or financial gerontology.

## **GRO 621 HEALTH AND AGING**

**Examines aspects of health and aging from an integration of biomedical and psychosocial perspectives. Foundations for professional practice of gerontology.**

Along with Critical Issues in Aging (GRO 501), this course lays the foundation for the understanding of older adults from the biomedical and psychosocial perspectives that is essential to the practice of gerontology. Students should take this required course within the first year after admission to their program of study within the overall Gerontology Program. Topics covered in Health and Aging include normal aging, health and wellness, changes with aging, functional and cognitive impairment, competency, health care, long term care and palliative care, death and dying. Students who enter the professional practice of gerontology across a wide-range of settings will find this course relevant including those who practice direct services and care management, health and wellness programming, product development and marketing, policy and program development or financial gerontology.

## **GRO 622 FINANCING LONGEVITY: ISSUES IN INSURANCE**

**Overview of concepts and products of insurance related to financing longevity in the United States. Topics include Medicare, Medicaid, long term care insurance and related products.**

Students who are pursuing a concentration in Aging and Business within the MS degree of the Gerontology Program are required to take this course as a part of their aging block. It will provide a fundamental understanding of personal, governmental and private-sector roles in financing longevity in the United States through participation in insurance programs and the conceptual framework for consideration of individual choices and policy options to address the aging of society. Topics covered include Medicare, Medicaid, long term care insurance and related products. Students who enter the professional practice of gerontology across a wide-range of settings will find this course relevant including those who practice direct services and care management, health and wellness programming, product development and marketing, policy and program development or financial gerontology.

## **GRO 631 PLANNING AND EVALUATION FOR PROFESSIONALS IN AGING**

**Introduction to the knowledge and skills related to planning and evaluating innovative responses to the aging of society using program theory as a foundation.**

Students who are prepared in gerontology often go on to positions where they are asked to plan and evaluate innovative approaches to the aging of society in either the public or private sector. Those positions range from aging planners in area agencies on aging or state units on aging to product developers for corporations seeking to reach aging markets. Further, managers of aging services, programs, organizations and initiatives across the spectrum need the knowledge and skills to make them astute consumers of planning and evaluation information.

## **GRO 632: COMMUNITIES RESPONDING TO AN AGING SOCIETY**

**Addresses community responses to an aging society and how those responses may be enhanced through civic engagement, infrastructure development, and public/private initiatives. Additionally, emphasizes developing and sustaining innovative programs.**

Communities are the frontline of response to the challenges and opportunities of an aging society and the common ground for civic engagement in American public life. Over the past decade, governmental, philanthropic and university-based initiatives across the United States have increasingly recognized the critical role that communities can and do play in meeting the needs of a growing aging population. This course covers the range of community responses and the potential for communities to enhance those responses

This course is primarily designed for students who are pursuing a graduate certificate or master's degree in gerontology or a certificate in non-profit management. Students who are exploring the pursuit of these programs or other graduate level students with interests in aging, including those in business administration, public administration, public health, social work and nursing, are also welcome.

## **GRO 633 LONG TERM CARE PUBLIC POLICY**

**Addresses public policy related to the organization, financing and delivery of the broad continuum of long term care with a concentration on the care of frail older adults.**

Students will examine the policy process and context; media perspectives on long term care policy; private sector responses; and the role of communities in long term care policy development. Cases and examples relevant to North Carolina will be featured. Student assignments will be applicable to work settings and include presentation of service descriptions; the evaluation of policy options; and development of a policy brief and related materials. Overall, the learning outcomes for this course will be geared toward helping students transfer the knowledge of long term care public policy they gain to applied work settings.

This course is primarily designed for students who are pursuing a graduate certificate or master's degree in gerontology or a certificate in non-profit management. Students who are exploring the pursuit of these programs or other graduate level students with interests in aging, including those in business administration, public administration, public health, social work and nursing, are also welcome.