



BAKER COLLEGE
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

PSY3650 Psychology of Aging
3 Semester Credit Hours

Student Learning Outcomes and Enabling Objectives

1. Explore historical and contemporary views of aging.
 - a. Examine how the concept of age continues to change over time.
 - b. Discuss current issues and events related to aging and older adults
 - i. Identify demographic changes occurring in the U.S. and other countries, and how this affects the older adult population.
 - c. Apply relevant and current research related to aging and older adults.
 - d. Discuss the effects of stereotypes and myths on older adults.

2. Analyze psychological concepts, theories, and models associated with understanding the aging process and helping people cope with aging, death bereavement, and stages of grief.
 - a. Explore how self-concept and individual perceptions affect one's understanding of aging.
 - b. Examine how aging can affect human development, functioning, behavior, and personality.
 - c. Discuss how gender may influence the aging process.
 - d. Explore current theories and research in the field of death and dying.
 - e. Compare historical and current death rituals, bereavement, and burial practices.

3. Analyze common challenges and solutions associated with aging across social contexts.
 - a. Discuss challenges and decisions encountered by older adults and their family/support systems, including:
 - i. Economic issues
 - ii. Living arrangements
 - iii. End of life decisions
 - iv. work/retirement
 - v. Relationships

- vi. Healthcare
 - vii. Widowhood
 - b. Examine the challenges related to common psychological, cognitive, and physical symptoms and disorders that occur in the adult populations.
4. Assess how perceptions and beliefs affect thoughts and attitudes related to aging, death, dying, end of life decisions, rituals, and bereavement.
- a. Examine cultural attitudes toward aging, death, dying, end of life decisions, afterlife beliefs, rituals, and bereavement.
 - b. Describe how an individual's changing concept of aging, death and dying across the lifespan affects perceptions and beliefs.
 - c. Examine how attitudes towards aging and death can affect one's role as a helping professional.
5. Investigate legal, medical, and ethical considerations related to aging, death, dying, and end of life decisions.
- a. Examine elder abuse and neglect, including:
 - i. Risk factors
 - ii. Prevalence rates
 - iii. Protective factors
 - iv. Adult Protective Services/Conservators
 - b. Examine definitions related to death, dying, and end of life decisions.
 - i. Legal definitions/guidelines
 - ii. Medical Definitions/guidelines
 - c. Explore ethical considerations related to death, dying, and end of life decisions.
 - d. Compare end of life care options.
6. Explore research and strategies related to grief, coping, and helping others.
- a. Examine similarities and differences of grief and coping processes with anticipated versus unanticipated death.
 - b. Discuss the potential complications related to traumatic death.
 - c. Examine causes, interventions, prevention techniques, and coping with suicide.

Big Ideas and Essential Questions

Big Ideas

- Aging and End of life
- Death/Dying

- Challenges and Changes associated with Aging
- Ethics, legal, and medical decisions
- Coping with aging, death, dying
- Attitudes and Beliefs

Essential Questions

1. Why is the relationship between elders and their environment important?
2. Why is it important to understand the common biological, psychological, and social challenges associated with aging?
3. How do elderly people experience inequalities?
4. How do stereotypes and myths surrounding aging and ageism affect the elderly?
5. What are some of the legal and ethical dilemmas experienced by older adults and their caregivers/support systems?
6. Why are older adults at greater risk for abuse, neglect, and being taken advantage of?
7. How has the concept of aging changed over time?
8. How do theories help us understand the process of aging, death, and dying?
9. How does the impact of death vary based on the level of trauma and the expectedness of the death?
10. What impact does culture have on the aging, dying, and grieving processes?

These SLOs are not approved for experiential credit.

Effective: Spring 2025