



**BAKER COLLEGE**  
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**PSY4150 Gerontology**  
**3 Semester Credit Hours**

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**Student Learning Outcomes and Enabling Objectives**

1. Analyze stereotypes and myths surrounding the concept of aging and ageism. (APA 3.3b)
  - a. Explore individual perceptions and misperceptions related to aging.
  - b. Examine societal and cultural influences on perceptions and attitudes toward older adults.
  - c. Discuss the affects of stereotypes and myths on older adults.
2. Explore historical and contemporary views of aging. (APA 1.2d)
  - 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. (APA 1.2c)
3. Analyze psychological concepts, theories, and models associated with understanding the aging process and helping people cope with aging. (APA 1.1A)
  - a. Explore how self concept and individual perceptions affect one's understanding of aging.
  - b. Examine how aging can affect human development, functioning, and behavior (physical, sexual, cognitive, emotional, social).
  - c. Discuss personality development and changes that occur during late adulthood.
  - d. Discuss how gender may influence the aging process and the gender perceptions/expectations related to aging.
4. Analyze common challenges and solutions associated with aging across social contexts. (APA 1.3A)
  - 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 older adult populations.
  - c. Discuss the role of religion and spirituality as it relates to coping with aging and dying.
  - d. Explore ethical, and legal issues/laws associated with aging and dying. (APA 3.1c)

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## **Big Ideas and Essential Questions**

### **Big Ideas**

- Aging
- Challenges to Aging
- Ethics
- Theories

### **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?
6. How has the concept of aging changed over time?
7. How do theories help us understand the process of aging?

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These SLOs are approved for experiential credit.

**Effective: Fall 2021**