



Description:

This 3-credit, interdisciplinary course focuses on theory, research, and practice at the nexus of “family” and “gerontology.” The course is divided into three major sections: the intersection of “family” and “gerontology” theory and methods; aging issues through intergenerational and intragenerational lenses; and the social context of family gerontology.

This course is focused on the interplay between family science and gerontology; specifically diverse and ever changing family systems as an important context for understanding the complexities of aging; and the reciprocal influences of aging processes and family well-being. This means that topics that are solidly “family” (without integrating the complexities of elders in later life (65-100+ years of age); or ones that are focused on “gerontology” (aging processes of individuals without focusing on the context of family as a social system) are not included.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course students should be able to understand and critically analyze:

1. Emerging theoretical perspectives relevant to family gerontology.
2. Methodological approaches useful in the study of family gerontology, including within and across generations.
3. Potential turning points and decision-making issues facing diverse and ever changing family systems with later life family members.
4. Aging through relational lenses, specifically intragenerational and intergenerational family relationships.
5. The relevance of social context to later life family issues and relationships focusing on social policies and practice, legal controversies, and generational equity.

For Information Contact Co-Instructors:
Dr. B. Jan McCulloch (jmccullo@umn.edu) or
Dr. Marlene Stum (mstum@umn.edu)