University of Kentucky
Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

Selective Courses:

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**PPS 813 – Geriatric Pharmacy** (3 hrs) A course designed to educate students in the basic knowledge of attitudes and skills required to meet the pharmaceutical needs of the elderly. Topics include discussions of the aging process, physiological and psychological changes in the elderly, how these changes influence patient compliance and the responses to drug and nondrug treatments, monitoring drug use in long-term care facilities, and special community services available to the elderly. Prereq: PHR 849, 852, 853, 854 and 856 or permission of instructor. (Same as GRN 513.)

**GRN 612 – Biology of Aging** (3 hrs) A multidisciplinary discussion of how the process of aging affects biological systems. Coverage will be quite broad and includes topics such as subcellular and cellular aging, genetics, immunology, anatomy and physiology, animal model of aging, etc. Prereq: Enrollment in the doctoral program in Gerontology or a biomedical science department or consent of instructor. (Same as BIO/ANA/PGY 612.)

**GRN 710 – Aging of the Nervous System** (3 hrs) This course will examine the alterations in the brain that occur with aging and in neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease. The emphasis will be on human aging although the relevance of animal models to studies of human aging will be a recurrent theme. The course will examine aging at several levels, including molecular, cellular, organismic, and behavioral. A strong background in the basic sciences is encouraged. (Same as ANA/PGY/PHA 710.)

**GRN 618 – Epidemiology of Aging** (3 hrs) This course introduces the application of epidemiologic methods to the study of older persons. Prereq: Enrollment in a Public Health degree program and CPH 605/PM 620 Intro to Epidemiology and GRN 650, or consent of instructor. (Same as CPH 618.)

**GRN 778 - Current Topics in Brain Aging** (3 hrs) This advanced lecture course will engage students in discussion of recent advances in our knowledge relevant to age-related changes in the CNS. Discussion topics will include but are not limited to: current hypotheses of age-related neurodegenerative diseases; ‘successful’ aging; new
therapeutic advances; and the future of research in the treatment/prevention of age-related declines in CNS function.

**NUR 510 - Older Women and Their Health** (3 hrs) This course is designed to increase the awareness and understanding of the relationships among gender, health status and the aging process among older women. Such issues as changing social and cultural mores, public policies and utilization of health care resources are discussed as they impact women. Prereq: Upper division or graduate standing. (Same as HSE 510.)

**PAS 640 – Survey of Geriatric Medicine** (3 hrs) Overview of physician assistant practice with geriatric patients. Emphasis is placed on the practice of geriatric medicine including the anatomy and physiology of normal aging; pathology of aging; health care aspects of geriatric management; the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of geriatric problems; and research aspects of geriatric practice. Prereq: Admission to the Physician Assistant graduate program or consent of the instructor.

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

**BSC 760 - Aging, Health and Decision Making** (3 hrs) This is a doctoral level seminar that provides an overview of behavioral decisional theories (e.g. rational choice, multiattribute utilities models, naturalistic decision-making, ethnographic decision models, Janis and Mann’s conflict theory, information processing theory, heuristic models, process tracing models, etc.) and examines research applications of those theories to the health of older adults. Research focuses on decisions made by physicians, older adults, family caregivers and policy makers. A variety of applications include such decision domains as preventative screening, retirement and financial planning, other medical treatments, self-care, seeking medical care, institutionalization, end-of-life, etc.

**BSC 770 – Psychosocial Issues In Health and Aging** (3 hrs) This course focuses on psychosocial issues related to the physical health and functioning of older adults. Topic areas include: theories of aging; age-appropriate research designs; age-related cognitive personality, social and family changes which influence physical health; health behavior and education of older adults; and selected chronic conditions, e.g. Alzheimer’s disease, arthritis, depression, diabetes and stroke.

**BSC 779 – Behavioral Factors in Death and Dying** (3 hrs) Behavioral concepts are examined which explain reactions of individuals, collectivities and social institutions to the phenomenon of death. Prereq: Consent of instructor.

**GRN 782 – Women’s Health and Aging** (3 hrs) This class explores the issues related to health and well-being among older women. Using a multidisciplinary approach that
blends humanities, social and medical science and public policy, the course examines social, economic and cultural contexts of chronic physical and mental health. Prereq: Upper level/graduate class in social science. (Same as BSC 782.)

**GRN 585 – Aging and Environment** (3 hrs) Explores the elderly person’s changing experience of environment. Physiological, psychological and social changes are related to adjustment within urban and rural community environments, special housing for the elderly, and long-term care environments. Prereq: Graduate or advanced undergraduate standing and consent of instructor. (Same as GEO/FAM 585.)

**FAM 660 – Aging and Family Values** (3 hrs)
The study of dynamics of family interactions and issues when some family members are elderly. Emphasis is placed on perspectives from multiple generations and across various kin categories. (Same as GRN 660.)

**GRN 610 – Psychology of Aging** (3 hrs) This is a graduate level seminar on the psychology of aging. The course focuses on many of the major topics and theories relevant to understanding the aging process. It focuses on health behaviors, sensation and perception, cognitive abilities, personality, social interactions, motivation and emotion, psychological disorders, end of life issues, and successful aging. The course examines the topics above from a normal aging perspective, atypical aging, successful aging, and demonstrates the interrelationships between the topics to address the aging individual. The course will also focus on the methods used to conduct psychological research with an aging population.

**GRN 644 – Demography and Aging** (3 hrs) This course examines the dynamics of human population distributions, densities, and growth patterns as they relate to population aging. The essential demographic processes of fertility, mortality, and mobility are addressed from multiple disciplinary perspectives, and topical coverage includes the environmental, social, political, economic, and cultural impacts on personal demographic behavior and population change. Emphasis is placed on historic and contemporary meanings and influences of population diversity, and how this diversity affects the patterns and consequences of aging across space and time.

**GRN 704 – Mental Health and Aging** (3 hrs) The aim of this class is to provide some breadth and selected depth in the area of Mental Health and Aging, aimed at nonclinical graduate students. Various psychiatric syndromes will be evaluated in lectures and throughout the readings in relation to prevalence, assessment, etiology, and treatment in reference to research in older adults.

**GRN 705 – Cognitive Aging** (3 hrs) This is a graduate level seminar on cognitive aging. Topics addressed include theories of aging, memory, sensation, and perception, attention, language, social cognition, intelligence, decision-making, and dementia.
GRN 771 – Aging in Rural Environments (3 hrs) In the context of a changing rural environment, this seminar explores the life circumstances and life experience of rural elders in relation to the health and well-being of this population.

GRN 772 – Aging and The Life Course (3 hrs) This seminar will establish a common foundation of knowledge through examinations of traditional “life courses” influencing individuals as they age through time, including household and family, education and work, and housing. This foundation will be built upon using critical examinations of such themes as gender roles, spatial experience, cognitive change and memory, and structural effects on life trajectories. Emphasis will be placed on surveys of existing literature and on integrating various life course elements within social and behavioral theory.

GRN 783 – Public Health and Aging (3 hrs) Public Health and Aging is an elective course in the Graduate Center for Gerontology and Department of Health Behavior and is offered to students on the graduate level. The focus of the course is to help students identify a public health framework and a paradigm for addressing the issues of social, emotional, physical, and mental health in older adults, as well as a keen understanding and awareness of chronic disease prevention, mortality, and quality of life issues that are germane to aging in the United States. Prereq: Graduate standing.

SW 642 – Psychological Aspects of Human Aging (3 hrs) Description and explanation of behavior, socialization and personality differentiation during the post-maturation developmental period: emotional aspects of aging; perception; intelligence; learning; motivation; normal and abnormal behavior; sexuality; lifestyle. Prereq: SW 620 or equivalent, or consent of instructor.

POLICY, PLANNING AND ETHICS

GRN 715 - Health Policy and Aging (3 hrs) This course will present an overview of health policy in the United States as it affects the older population. It will provide an overview of the health care system, allocation of health services across the population and projected impact of the increase in the aging population on health care delivery. Various health policy proposals will be analyzed with a focus on their impact on the older population. (Same as HA 715.)

GRN 731 – Elder Mistreatment (3 hrs) Elder Mistreatment is an elective course that is offered to students on the graduate level. This course reviews major issues and trends related to elder mistreatment. The course emphasizes individual and systemic issues related to elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect on individual, local, state, and federal levels. Special consideration is given to dynamics that shape past, current, and future issues related to elder mistreatment.
**GRN 773 - Ethics and Aging** (3 hrs) The focus of this class is on applied ethics and aging. We will address the following topics: mid/late life reproduction; research with older adults; spirituality/selfhood; legal issues; cultural issues; vulnerable older people; caregiving and community-based care; specific issues related to Alzheimer’s Disease; issues at the end of life, and other timely ethical issues that may arise during the course. The course will make use of provocative readings, case studies, supplementary professional articles, a presentation and paper, lively class discussion, and outside speakers who will share their expertise with you on a variety of ethical issues related to aging.

**GRN 774 - Public Policy and Aging** (3 hrs) This course reviews major issues and trends in the economics of aging and social policy and aging. The course emphasizes health, economic, and welfare policies and considers their implications on federal, state, and local levels. Special consideration is given to dynamics that shape past, current, and future policy in the area of aging. Prereq: Graduate standing.

**HSM 510 – Organization of the Long-Term Care Sector** (3 hrs) This course examines the structure and function of the long-term care sector with emphasis on nursing homes and the role of noninstitutional alternatives. Analysis focuses on the impact of changes in reimbursement and regulatory policy, interorganizational relations, newly emerging treatment modalities, and the influence of the external organizational, economic, and political environment. Prereq: A course in health care delivery systems or permission of instructor. (Same as CLM 510)

**SW 613 – Urban Ecology and Aging** (3 hrs) Effects of an urban environment upon the aging population, including community design, city planning, housing, transportation, relocation, and mobility. The impact of technological advances will be examined from the point of view of theory, current research, and the process of man-environmental relationships.

**FAM 661- Health and Financial Issue of Aging** New course.

** There are numerous Special Topics Courses – With prior approval these may be used towards the certificate (must be three hour course).