

Sociology of Aging (SOCI 2810C)

Instructor	Hannah Crouse
Term	Fall 2026
Course Delivery	In person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Aging has generally been considered a biological process of passing through chronological ages, suggesting that aging is an “inevitable” truth of every person's life. Despite the seemingly inevitable nature of aging, the process of aging, and people of various ages (e.g., older adults), are treated as social problems. With aging being largely understood as a biological phenomenon, we must attend to the ways that aging is shaped by our social world to better understand how notions of aging become assigned, moralized, and institutionalized.

This course provides an overview of key themes within the sociology of aging. Weekly course topics will typically follow along the chronological progression of the life course, beginning with childhood and adolescence, and ending with old age and end-of-life. Each week will offer empirical and theoretical insights towards how these life stages are a (re)produced through social processes. This will include ideas related to identity, power, care, and social policy.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on assignments that require self-reflection, critical thinking, and engagement with course material. Participation and attendance will also be marked.

TEXTS

All readings and materials for this course will be provided by the instructor and can be accessed via the course Brightspace.