Course Description: This half-year course focuses on social factors that affect social inequality in later life from a life course perspective. A life course perspective emphasizes the intersections of individual lives, social change, and social structure. It calls attention to the patterns and trajectories based on gender, race, class, and sexual orientation that span across human lives, and are shaped by broader social structure and historical time.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
* Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, strategies, and empirical examples from life course analysis related to the study of social inequality in income/wealth and health.
* Demonstrate an understanding of how continuity and change in human lives affects social inequality.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of social class, race/ethnicity, gender, and family of origin on social inequality over the life course.

Prerequisites:
One of the following: Soc 1020, Soc 1021E, Soc 1025 a/b, Soc 1026 F/G, Soc 1027a/b

Required Readings:
Some course readings are available online and some are provided by the professor. These are noted on the course outline, below. Detailed information on accessing readings will be provided in class.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to attend all lectures and are responsible for all material in lectures and course readings. Class sessions include lectures, discussion, guest speakers, and in-class exercises designed to help you understand assigned readings. Lectures will often cover material not discussed in the course readings, but for which you are responsible. You also are responsible for the material covered in the readings, even if the material is not reviewed in class. You are encouraged to participate in class discussions and raise questions throughout class. There will be classes during which you will work in groups to address specific questions/topics and we then will have structured discussions based on your work. You should do the assigned readings BEFORE the date indicated on the course outline. I will be
happy to discuss the class material with students during office hours or other arranged times but you should ask another student for notes for classes that you miss.

**Evaluation:**
Midterm test (multiple choice) 45%
Final exam 55%

**Exams**
There are two exams, a mid-term and a final. The final exam covers the material covered after the midterm and is not cumulative. However, the material covered later in the course builds upon material covered earlier in the course, so to be successful you must keep up. Exams are multiple choice and will require knowledge assigned readings, lectures, films, and guest lectures. You are responsible for all the material in the readings even if this material is not covered in class.

**Missed Exams:**
You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or exam, or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University’s “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness”. This policy can be accessed at:

Compassionate Grounds: Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member’s physician to your home faculty’s Academic Counselling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty’s Academic Counselling office.

You must discuss accommodation with me in advance of the exam.

Make-up exams are essay format.

**Academic Honour Code:**
Scantron Exams: Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

**Emailing Your Professor:**
You are welcome to communicate with me through email. I request, however, that you refrain from emailing me with questions that can be answered by referring to this course outline, or to Western’s website. You should consider the emails that you send to your professors business correspondence, and, as such, they should be formal and include correct grammar, punctuation, etc. – i.e., they are not a text message you are sending to a friend. I emphasize this because you need to get in the habit of communicating in this manner for your future employment.
**The following outline is subject to change**

Please check Department of Sociology web site (http://sociology.uwo.ca/) for class cancellations or changes

**Note:** (S)=available on course website; (O)=available from Western Libraries online

**WEEK 1: Introduction, Overview**

**Tues Sept 10: Introduction**
Overview of course, course outline and requirements

**Thurs Sept 12**

**WEEK 2: Overview and Theoretical Perspectives**

**Tues Sept 17 & Thurs Sept 19:**

**WEEK 3: The Economics of Aging, Stratification, and Social Inequality**

**Tues Sept 24 & Thurs Sept 26:**

**WEEK 4: The Economics of Aging, Stratification, and Social Inequality, cont.**

**Tues Oct 1 & Thurs Oct 3:**

WEEK 5: Gender, Employment, and Inequality in Later Life

Tues Oct 8 & Thurs Oct 10:


WEEK 6: Gender, Employment, and Inequality in Later Life, cont.

Tues Oct 15

Thurs Oct 17:
Midterm Q & A

WEEK 7: Midterm / Race/ethnicity, Aging, and Social Inequality

Tues Oct 22:
Midterm

Thurs Oct 24:

WEEK 8: Race/ethnicity, Aging, and Social Inequality, cont.

Tues Oct 29:


Thurs Oct 31:
No class—Fall Study Break
WEEK 9: Health, Inequality, and Aging

Tues Nov 5 & Nov 7:

WEEK 10: Health, Inequality, and Aging, continued

Tues Nov 12 & Thurs Nov 14:


WEEK 11: Diverse Families, Aging, and Social Inequality

Tues Nov 19 & Thurs Nov 21:


WEEK 12: Diverse Families, Aging, and Social Inequality, continued

Tues Nov 26 & Nov 28:


WEEK 13

Tues Dec 3
Conclusion

Thurs Dec 5: Final Exam Q & A
Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.