

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code / Title** : HS2028 Graying Society: Issues and Challenges

**Pre-requisites** : HS1001 Person and Society

**No. of AUs.** : 3

**Contact Hours** : 39

### **Course Aims**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the field of social gerontology, with an emphasis on its interdisciplinary nature, links to such fields as sociology, psychology, public policy, health/medicine, and others. This course introduces social theories on aging and methodologies in aging research. The demographic, social, and economic trends in graying societies will be discussed. In addition, we will examine physical, psychological, and social processes of aging. Readings, lectures, discussions, and other class assignments and activities are designed to help you understand that aging is socially constructed and individual lives are influenced by social forces as they grow older. We will learn to appreciate how aging can be both meaningful and meaningless, and how a long life can be both desired and undesired. Considerations will be given to ethical issues and dilemmas and to social policy implications.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)**

By the end of this course, you would be able to:

1. Describe the causes of population aging and current and future trends in graying societies.
2. Discuss the impact of the aging population on individual, family, and society.
3. Describe and apply basic terms, concepts, and theories on aging.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of physical, psychological, and social processes of aging.
5. Counter the myths and ignorance surrounding older adults and aging process in society.
6. Demonstrate critical thinking and inquiry skills through assignments and discussions.

### **Course Content**

#### **1. Demographic changes**

-Current and future trends in aging

-What is aging?

-Who are older adults?

-Why aging matters

#### **2. Theories and perspectives of aging**

- Traditional theories on aging
- Cumulative advantage/disadvantage and the life course
- Socioemotional selectivity theory
- Methodology in Aging research

### **3. Aging and Health**

- Physical changes and the aging process
- Mental health and aging
- Death and dying

### **4. Aging in Place**

- Living environment of older adults
- Living arrangement and Housing options for older adults

### **5. Social Relationship and support in Late Life**

- Social network, social integration, and social participation
- Informal support system
- Formal support system

### **6. Work and Retirement**

- Working in late life
- Retirement

### **Course Assessment**

CA1	Class participation	: 10%
CA2	Group project (Living environment assessment)	: 20%
CA3	Individual project (Article report)	: 20%
	Final Examination	: 50%
<b>Total</b>		----- <b>100%</b>