



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Davis School of Gerontology**

**WOMEN AND AGING:
Psychological, Social, and Political Implications**

**Gerontology 435
SPRING 2016
*DRAFT SYLLABUS***

Instructor: Caroline Cicero, PhD, MSW, MPL
Email: cicero@usc.edu
Office Hours:
Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:50
Class Room: Gero 224

Course Description:

Women play many roles and wear many hats throughout their lives. As they age through young adulthood, middle age, and their older years, they accumulate responsibilities, but they leave few previous roles behind. In this course, we will examine women's longevity and the psychological, sociological, economic, and political implications of lifelong roles in their own families and in the world. While this course will examine negative influences of sexism, ageism, health and economic disparities and challenges facing women throughout their lifespans, it aims to equally highlight best practices in women's aging through positive examples, accomplishments, health successes, role models, and opportunities for aging women.

Objectives:

Assignments:

This course requires you to think critically about the roles and images of women in society as they age. Engaged class participation and attendance is required, as is personal reflection about yourself, people with whom you have relationships, and real and virtual worlds in which you live.

PROPOSED Schedule:

Tuesday, 1/12/16:

Introductions. Who are you?

Thursday, 1/14/16:

What do you see? Faces of Women/Women on Screen

Aging Women in Character Roles: Media and Stage

Aging Women as Stereotypes: Advertising and Memes

The Numbers: Aging Women in Hollywood.

Tuesday, 1/19/16:

Who are They? What are the Numbers? Demography of Women and Aging

Baby Boomer Women, Older Women, and the Oldest Old

Race, Ethnicity, Economic Status and Immigrants

Aging Lesbian, Bi, and Trans Women/Older Women Who Were Formerly Men

Thursday, 1/21/16:

Changing Bodies-Fertility, Hair, Skin, Muscles, Bones, Eyes, Menopause, Sex

What Aging Women Watch and Buy: Consumers

Tuesday, 1/26/16:

Feminist Movement, Historical and Current, Where Do Older Women Stand Now?

Thursday, 1/28/16:

Motherhood and Relationships with Growing and Adult Children

Tuesday, 2/2/16:

Grandmothers, Grandmotherhood and Intergenerational Ties

Older Women and Social Media

Thursday, 2/4/16:

Love, Marriage and Divorce, Newly Married Lifelong Same Sex Partners

Online Dating and Viagra

Tuesday, 2/9/16:

Widowhood and Bereavement

Thursday, 2/11/16

Economics of Women: Success and Disparities

Breadwinners, Dependents, and Retirees

Tuesday, 2/16/16:

Election Season Roundup: Women in Politics and Public Policy

Aging Women as Voters, Advocates, Senators, and Presidential Candidates

Thursday, 2/18/16:

Civic Engagement, Volunteers, and Encore Careers

Tuesday, 2/23/16:

Housing America's Aging Women, Living Together and Alone

Thursday, 2/25/16:

Women and Food

Midterm Assignment Due

Tuesday, 3/1/16:

Oscar Roundup: Aging Women at the Box Office

Thursday, 3/3/16:

Health, Health Care Access and Doctors

Tuesday, 3/8/16:

Cancer

Survivors, Survivor Culture, Think Pink. Deaths

Thursday, 3/10/16

Aging Women in Sports, Pioneers, Outlook for the Future

Spring Break—March 14-18

Tuesday, 3/22/16:

Who Designed This, and What Can an Older Woman Wear?: Women and Fashion

Thursday, 3/24/16:

Women as Religious People and Spiritual Leaders

How Women Die.

Tuesday, 3/29/16:

Cosmetics and Anti Aging Markets

Thursday, 3/31/16:

Women in Music, Women and Music

Tuesday, 4/5/16:

Creativity and Aging, Older Women Making Art, Traditional and New

Thursday, 4/7/16:

Alzheimer's, Cognitive Change, and Long Term Care

Tuesday, 4/12/16:
Caregiving and Care Receiving

Thursday, 4/14/16:
Prisons, Aging Female Convicts, and What Does OITNB Tell Us About Aging?

Tuesday, 4/19/16:
Aging Women and the Military
Active Duty and Administrative Roles
Military Wives
Younger Widows

Thursday, 4/21/16:
Women as Family Historians and Memory Keepers

Tuesday, 4/26/16:
Mentors and Role Models

Thursday, 4/28/16:
FINAL CLASS