Course Descriptions

GRN 501. (SOC 501) Aging and Society (3) Study of age as a structural feature of changing societies and groups, aging as a social process, and age as dimension of stratification. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 503. Investigative Inquiry in Gerontology (3) Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Principles of quantitative and qualitative methods used in gerontological research and inquiry. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 518. (SOC 518) Women and Aging (3) Examines women’s experience of old age and the aging process. Specific emphasis on family, medical, and economic institutions. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 523. Biology of Human Aging (3) An overview of the aging process with special emphasis on anatomical and physiological changes that occur with human aging. Current theories as to the mechanisms of aging are considered. Premature aging diseases and age-related diseases are discussed. Student presentations required. Three lecture hours each week. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 524. Literature of Aging (3) Contemporary fiction and nonfiction by Philip Roth, Doris Lessing, May Sarton, and others, selected for their depictions of older protagonists and explorations of opportunities and challenges of later life, are analyzed. Literary theories, literary criticism, and gerontological scholarship contribute to the interpretations. The texts’ ways of challenging our culture’s ageism are emphasized. Students give oral reports, write essays, and participate in an e-mail project with a senior group in the community. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 526. Psychosocial Adjustment to Retirement and Later Life (3) A seminar focusing on the psychosocial aspects of retirement and post-employment years. Theories of aging and scientific inquiry applied to retirement, and their significant others. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 540. Current Issues in Gerontology (3) Study of current issues and topics in the field of aging from an interdisciplinary and global perspective.

GRN 544. Midlife Transitions for Women (3) The interdisciplinary study of social construction of menopause and midlife as embodying a culture’s image of aging for women.

GRN 546. Health Care Access for the Elderly (3) An introduction to the US health care system with an emphasis on issues related to the elderly. Problems of access to health care for the aging population, their families, and communities. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 590. Practicum in Gerontology (3) Prerequisites: GRN/SOC 501, PSY 524, GRN 523. A field experience designed to demonstrate knowledge and skills related to geriatric or gerontological practice. Must be repeated to earn 6 credit hours by Master of Science students. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 591. Directed Individual Research in Gerontology (3) Prerequisites: Three hours of graduate work with content in human aging. May be repeated for credit with consent of program director. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

GRN 598. Final Project in Gerontology (6) Prerequisites: GRN/SOC 501, GRN 503, PSY 524, GRN 523, GRN 540, GRN 590 and permission of the GRN coordinator. Focused study of issue in gerontology of importance to professionals from the worlds of business, government, nonprofit agencies and/or research. Synthesizes interdisciplinary curriculum with student’s interest and practical experience.

GRN 595. Special Topic Seminar in Gerontology (3) Discussion of special topic related to gerontology. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours credit. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

PAR 505. Bioethics and Aging (3) Examination of the principles and problems in the application of ethical theory to medical research and practice with emphasis on the special ethical problems of providing health care services to the aging population and involving elderly patients in
medical research. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

**PSY 516. Adult Development and Life Transitions (3)** This course explores the major normative and nonnormative changes which take place during adulthood. Operating from a lifespan perspective, topics include an examination of how adults initiate, understand, cope with and resolve life transitions (i.e., parenting, loss, illness, career change, relationship change, etc.) May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.

**PSY 524. The Psychology of Aging (3)** Prerequisite: Course in aging or gerontology or permission of instructor. Advanced topics on the effects of aging on a variety of psychological processes including attention, memory, complex cognition, personality, mental health, and social support. May be taken for elective credit in the MALS program.