SOCI 385
Sociology of Aging

Instructor: Dr. Margaret J. Penning

Course Description:
This course examines aging-related issues in contemporary society from a sociological perspective. Discussion will focus on topics such as the nature and implications of population aging; attitudes, myths and stereotypes regarding aging; income inequalities, work and retirement; family ties and intergenerational relations; and health, health care, and health care policy in an aging society. Although the primary focus will be on the Canadian context, the broader international context will be considered as well.

Course Objectives:
This course will provide students with an opportunity to apply a sociological lens to issues of aging and old age in social context; to consider linkages between individual aging-related experiences and broader socio-political, economic and historical contexts; to examine one’s own age-related assumptions; and to critically evaluate important aging-related social policies, programs, and practices.

Course Materials:
There is no required textbook for this course. A reading list (of approximately 2 articles per week) will be supplied with the required readings accessible through CourseSpaces and/or the library.

*A more detailed course outline will be made available to all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.