

# SOCI 385

## SOCIOLOGY OF AGING

Spring, 2020 - Preliminary Course Outline

### Course Description and Objectives:

The world's population is growing and Canada is no exception. Statistics Canada (2020) has projected that by 2036, older adults will comprise 23-25% of the total population. We see older adults around us every day. We all are aging and we all will be considered old one day. How do we actually think about aging and older adults from a sociological perspective? Do we know how our actions influence their lives? Do we know how to conduct **research** on aging and older adults, including among those belonging to vulnerable groups?

This course will help us to answer these questions and understand aging-related issues in contemporary society from a sociological perspective. Discussion will focus on topics such as applying sociological theories to an examination of the aging process; social inequalities experienced by older adults; 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. The course will also provide students with the theoretical skills to evaluate policies for older adults, as well as guidance on how to conduct **research** on aging-related issues and communicate aging research to the general public.

Among the topics to be discussed are:

- Population Aging – Canada and the World
- Thinking Sociologically about Aging – The Roles of Theory and Research
- Ageism, Attitudes toward Aging, and Structured Social Inequality
- Social Institutions: Work, Retirement, and Pensions
- Social Institutions: Families, Kinship and Aging
- Aging and Social Networks
- Informal Care and Caregiving
- The Health Care System
- Health Care Policy and End of Life Care

### Course Instructor:

Kazi Sabrina Haq  
Email: kshaq@uvic.ca  
Office Hours: TBD

## Course Materials:

There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings for each week will be listed in the course outline. Students are responsible for all assigned readings and other class content. All readings should be completed in advance of the class for which they have been assigned. The course outline, assignments, lecture notes, etc. can be accessed through CourseSpaces.

## Format:

TBD

## Course Evaluation:

Course evaluation will be based on tests, papers and presentations to encourage critical thinking.

\* This is a tentative outline, intended to provide an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.

