

**Interdisciplinary Approaches to Aging Issues
Spring 2008**

Prof. Nina A. Kohn
Syracuse Univ. College of Law
Suite 144, E.I. White Hall
(315) 443-6565 (office)
nakohn@law.syr.edu

SYLLABUS

I. Texts

The readings for this course have been assembled into two course readers that are available from the Syracuse University Bookstore. A copy of the course readers will also be placed on reserve at the Barclay Law Library, located on the third floor of the Syracuse University College of Law.

II. Contact Information and Office Hours

My office is located in Room 144H of the Syracuse University College of Law. I will hold office hours on Tuesdays from 11:30am to 1:00pm and by appointment. You are encouraged to attend. Please do so early in the semester if you are having difficulty with the concepts we are covering in class.

III. Expectations

A. Course Objectives

This is a discussion-oriented course designed to bring together students from multiple disciplines to discuss interdisciplinary approaches to aging issues in a collaborative setting. The goal is for students to learn about other discipline's perspectives on key issues relating to aging and serving elderly clients, to learn how other disciplines can assist elders, and to learn how they can work with professionals from other disciplines to meet the needs of their elderly consumers, clients, and patients.

Most classes will be devoted to a discrete topic of importance to seniors and those who work with them, and the consideration of one or more case studies involving that topic. Students will be asked to consider how their discipline might approach the issue and what assistance their discipline might be able to offer the affected senior. In a number of classes,

guest speakers with expertise in aging will talk to the class and join in the discussion.

B. Class Participation

Class participation is a critical component of this class. As such, class participation is mandatory. If you come to class unprepared to participate, you will be treated as absent for the day. By unprepared, I mean that you have not reviewed the assigned readings or thought about the assignment for the day. Please note that I recognize that there is a significant difference between being unprepared for class, and having trouble answering a question or discussing an issue.

I recognize, however, that an unexpected event may arise preventing you from completing your reading for the day. Accordingly, I will excuse you without penalty from participating once during the semester if you request to be excused prior to the commencement of the class.

C. Attendance

Class will be held from 4pm to 6:30pm on Wednesdays in Room 202 of the Syracuse University College of Law.

As with other Consortium for Culture and Medicine Course, this course will abide by the Syracuse University course schedule and thus the start and end dates, and well as the holidays or days off, will be determined according to the Syracuse University schedule.

Regular, punctual attendance is required to receive credit for this course. Specifically, to receive credit for this course, no student may miss more than two class sessions during the course of the semester. Any student with more than two absences may either be administratively dropped from the course or earn an F for the course. An exception may be made only for students who experience a crisis or similar urgent situation who have not already frivolously depleted their allocated absences.

You are responsible for keeping track of your own absences.

D. Tape Recording

Tape recording of class is not permitted.

E. Prerequisites

This is designed to be an advanced course where students can learn both from the faculty and one another. Therefore, students are expected to come to the course with familiarity

about how their own discipline might approach the various issues discussed.

Any student may enroll with permission of Professor Kohn. In addition, the following students may automatically enroll:

Any law school student who has successfully completed one of the following courses: Health Care Law, Family Law, Elder Law, Disability Law, the Children's Rights and Family Law Clinic, or the Disability Law Clinic.

Any medical student who has completed the second year of medical school.

Any graduate student enrolled in the Gerontology Certificate Program who has successfully completed one of the following courses: Cognition and Aging or Processes of Aging, Aging and Society, Exercise and Aging.

G. Credits

Students will receive three credits for successful completion of the course.

IV. Assessment

Your final grade will be based on your cumulative performance on: class participation (20%), weekly response papers (40%), a final paper (30%), and a final presentation based on your final paper(10%).

Weekly response papers are expected to be approximately one single-spaced or two double-spaced pages in length. Students will be expected to complete nine weekly response papers over the course of the semester.

The final project and presentation will be done in collaboration with other students, but each student will write his or her own paper and receive an individual grade.

Students will be held to the same high standards regardless of their discipline. However, policies specific to students' home schools may play a role in determining their final grade.

V. Students with a Disability

Law students with a disability that may require special accommodations should contact Assistant Dean Tomas Gonzalez as

soon as possible. Other students with a disability that may require special accommodations should contact Professor Kohn as soon as possible.

VI. Assignments

Readings in the course reader are organized by week. Unless otherwise instructed, students should read the all readings in the Course Reader that correspond to the given week of class. Students should come to class prepared to discuss and apply the readings.