

Psychology of Aging

Last Updated: Mon, 01/05/2026

Course prefix: PSYC

Course number: 4260

Section: A

CRN

35397

Instructor first name: HSIAOWEN

Instructor last name: LIAO

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

This course offers an introduction to the processes of adult development and aging, including changes in physical, cognitive, and socioemotional functioning and psychological impacts and behavioral adaptation associated with age-related changes. Challenges and opportunities that longevity and aging may bring will be also discussed. A multi-dimensional approach to learning (e.g., lectures, readings, films & videos, guest lecture series) is adopted to convey information. Varied methods are also used to evaluate learning progress and facilitate knowledge acquisition (e.g., individual/group exercises, quizzes, exams, essay assignments). Students' critical thinking will be broadened in three ways. Specifically, they will be able to (1) evaluate adult development and aging with a life-span developmental perspective, (2) be mindful of stereotypes associated with older people and aging processes, and (3) apply the learned knowledge to prepare for a century-long life.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which manages the due process, including collecting relevant information from all parties, and if responsibility for a violation is found, identifying the appropriate penalty. All students are assumed to have read the [GT Academic Honor Code](#)

and the [student Code of Conduct](#) and have consented to be bound by it.

- <https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>
- <https://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-conduct>

For this class, specific examples of academic misconduct and dishonesty include:

- Plagiarism: the unattributed use of words and/or ideas of another person or generative AI. Examples include, but are not limited to: words written by another person (including yourself for a previous class) or generative AI or lifted from the internet with and without proper citation; ideas taken from another person without proper citation.
- To avoid plagiarism, a simple solution is to always *describe answers in your own words* when writing essay assignments and answering open-ended questions.
- Unauthorized collaboration: working with someone else on graded work (e.g., assignments, exams) without explicit permission from the instructor
- Use of unauthorized aids (including, but not limited to, online 'homework' help sites, generative AI) for written assignments.
- Submission of an engagement assignment by a student not in the class session.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion