Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Hancock
Email: chancock@uncc.edu
Office: Fretwell 460-F
Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12 & 2-4/Thursday 11-12/or by appointment.
Phone: 704-687-4080

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES: This is a liberal studies (general education) course focused on aging and the lifecourse. This course will utilize films to illustrate basic concepts and theories related to aging and the lifecourse. We will also learn some basic media and film concepts and theories. You should leave this course with an integrative understanding of your own aging, the aging of others, how one’s life experiences affect the aging process, the consequences of all of these for society and a basic ability to analyze film and mass media components.

REQUIRED BOOKS (both are required - bring them to class with you):
MOODLE is active for this course.

BOOKS ON RESERVE (optional reading for those interested)

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS
ALL of the assignments are important and are to be completed before coming to class. Class time will be devoted to film viewing, discussions, reflection briefs, and exams. Students should utilize overhead outlines as study guides. These are not provided outside of class. If you read the assignments, come to class, take notes, and are positively engaged, you should do well.

EXAMS: There will be three exams including the final. Exam questions will come from assignments, films, and class discussions. Exams are worth 100 points each and will include multiple choice questions. Make-up exams will only be given in the case of a documented death in the immediate family or extreme illness on your part (doctor’s note required). Arrangements for a make-up must be made PRIOR to missing the exam or a zero will be given for the exam. Make-up exams must be completed before returning to class. The final may include general concepts from the entire course. Together exams are 75% of your final grade.

REFLECTION BRIEFS: Eight times during the semester you will be asked to write a reflection brief during class. These will generally follow the completion of viewing a film - though if time does not permit it may be during the next class period. You must be present in class and answer the prompt effectively and accurately in order to receive credit. These are not exams and therefore may not be made up if you are absent, arrive late, or depart early unless the Dean of Students documents your extenuating circumstances. Briefs will generally ask you to analyze the current film viewed based on a specific film concept assigned in Corrigan’s book. BRING CORRIGAN’S BOOK TO CLASS WITH YOU in order to effectively write your brief. You may use his book during these briefs. Each brief is worth 5 points. Together briefs are worth 40 points/10% of your final grade.

FILM ANALYSIS PAPER: Students will write a film analysis paper on one film selected from a list available on the course MOODLE. Students must sign up for a film and no more than two students may work on one film. Students may work with a student partner in a collaborative way on this project or work alone. Either way the requirements are the same. Details are below. This is worth 60 points/15% of your final grade.
GRADING: Your final grade will be a result of points earned on three exams (300), film analysis paper (60), reflection briefs (40) out of a total possible 400 points. Students should not expect grades to be curved. The grading scale is a ten percentage point scale:

A = 360-400  B = 320-359.9  C = 280-319.9  D = 240-279.9  F = Below 240

CLASSROOM DECORUM: The University has several policies and procedures aimed at making each classroom a positive learning environment for each of us. These include but are not limited to:

- The use of cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Except in emergencies, those using such devices must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period (Policy Statement 104 10.5).

- All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at: http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html.

- Students are expected to attend punctually all scheduled sessions in the courses for which they are registered and are responsible for completing the work from all class sessions (Undergraduate Catalog).

- The following conduct, or an attempt to engage in the following conduct, is subject to disciplinary action...interfering with normal University activities including, but not limited to teaching, studying, research, the expression of ideas... (Policy Statement 104 10.d).

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING FOR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS:

1. Students using electronics, including laptops (unless taking notes), may be asked to leave class. See first bullet above.

2. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated! See second bullet above.

3. Do not arrive late or depart early unless it is an emergency - it is disruptive and disrespectful to everyone when you do so. If the classroom door is closed, you should assume that you are late and class has begun. If you must come in after the door is closed please do so with little disruption. If you must leave early, please inform Dr. Hancock ahead of time and sit close to the door. If you have a regularly occurring exceptional situation, please let Dr. Hancock know. See third and fourth bullet above.

4. Please feel free to take advantage of my office hours and make appointments if necessary. I am available and happy to meet with you if you need me. Other than office hours, the best way to reach me is via email.

5. There will be no individual extra credit work. It is important to talk with me throughout the semester regarding your concerns so that you can successfully complete all of the required work.

6. Incompletes are unacceptable except for documented emergency related situations. UNCC policy states that you must be passing the class at the time of requesting the incomplete.

7. With rare exception do I accept late work. In most cases a note from the Dean of Students documenting your extenuating circumstances will be required. Plan ahead and well.

8. yourname@UNCC.edu email is an approved official means of communication between the University and students. I may, on occasion, contact individual students or the whole class via UNCC email. It is your responsibility to regularly check your UNCC email and be aware of its contents.
**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

"Tentative" indicates that this is subject to slight changes as the semester evolves.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS &amp; ASSIGNMENTS:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>January 12</td>
<td>Course Introductions</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
<td>Media and Society</td>
<td>MOODLE: Ageing and Old Age in Fiction Film</td>
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<td>MOODLE: The Long Tail</td>
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<td>MOODLE: Brief Timeline...</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
<td>Media and Society (continued)</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>The Phenomenon of Aging</td>
<td>Cox: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 32</td>
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<td>Film: <em>About Schmidt</em> (124 min., R)</td>
<td>MOODLE: Scientists Probe the Secret...</td>
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<td>Film Concept: Point of View</td>
<td>Corrigan pp 49-50</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td><em>About Schmidt</em> (continued)</td>
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<td>BIO-CARD DUE - See last page of syllabus</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>Discussion of The Phenomenon of Aging</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td>Quality of Later Life</td>
<td>Cox: 7, 8, 9, 10, 38</td>
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<td>Film: <em>Second Hand Lions</em> (110 min., PG)</td>
<td>MOODLE: Successful Aging What Does the...</td>
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<td>Film Concept: Characters</td>
<td>MOODLE: MSNBC Aging in America Slideshow</td>
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<td><strong>FILM ANALYSIS SELECTION DUE</strong></td>
<td>Corrigan pp. 47-48</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Discussion of The Quality of Later Life</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>EXAM I - Late arrivals may not be permitted to take the exam.</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Societal Attitudes Towards Old Age</td>
<td>Cox: 11, 12, 13, 14</td>
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<td>Film: <em>Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont</em> (108 min., NR)</td>
<td>MOODLE: Welcome to Mississauga</td>
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<td>Film Concept: National Cinemas</td>
<td>MOODLE: After 40 years...</td>
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<td>Corrigan pp. 90-92</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Problems and Potentials of Aging</td>
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<td>Film: <em>Age Old Friends</em> (89 min., NR)</td>
<td>MOODLE: Inside the Brain An Interactive Tour</td>
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<td>Film Concept: Mise-en-scene &amp; Realism</td>
<td>MOODLE: My Name is Lisa</td>
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<td>MOODLE: Sexuality in Later Life</td>
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<td>Corrigan pp. 51-61</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td><em>Age Old Friends</em> (continued)</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>NO CLASS - Dr. Hancock at Association for Gerontology in Higher Education meetings</td>
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<td>March 9 &amp; 11</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK 💃</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Discussion of Problems and Potentials of Aging</td>
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March 18  Retirement: American Dream or Dilemma
Film:  Driving Miss Daisy (99 min., PG)
Film Concept:  History
Cox:  19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 37
MOODLE:  Lifecourse timeline of Daisy and Hoke
MOODLE:  Not Quitting their Day job
MOODLE:  Older Drivers and Auto Safety
Corrigan pp. 88-90

March 23  Driving Miss Daisy (continued)

March 25  Discussion of Retirement

March 30  EXAM II  -- Late arrivals may not be permitted to take the exam.

April 1  Living Environments in Later Life
Film:  Trip to Bountiful (108 Min., PG)
Film Concept:  Sound
Cox:  18, 28, 29, 30, 31
MOODLE:  MSNBC Video on Geriatric Care...
MOODLE:  Greenhouse Alternative
MOODLE:  Grass Roots Effort to Grow Old...
MOODLE:  Assisted Living 10 Great Ideas
Corrigan pp. 76-81

April 6  Trip to Bountiful (continued)

April 8  No Class – Dr. Hancock at Southern Gerontological Society meetings

April 13  Discussion of Living Environments in Later Life

April 15  The Experience of Dying
Film:  Tuesdays With Morrie (89 min., PG)
Film Concept:  Themes & Plot
Cox:  24, 25, 26, 27
MOODLE:  Aging with Dignity Five Wishes
MOODLE:  Home Funeral Movement
MOODLE:  Life Expectancy by Country
Corrigan pp. 39-41

April 20  Tuesdays With Morrie (continued)
Discussion of The Experience of Dying
FILM ANALYSIS PAPER DUE in class

April 22  Discussion of the Experience of Dying

April 27  Film:  UP (96 min. PG)
Film Concept:  Genre
Corrigan pp. 92-94
MOODLE:  Animated Films
MOODLE:  Pixar's Latest Film Surprisingly...

April 29  UP (continued)

May 4  Discussion of UP as course summary and closure

May 13  FINAL EXAM  -- Late arrivals may not be permitted to take the exam.
* 11:30-1:00  Note the adjusted exam time.

KEY:
• Cox = main text for the course; # refers to reading not page number
• MOODLE = link found on course MOODLE
• Corrigan = A Short Guide to Writing About Film
GUIDELINES FOR FILM ANALYSIS PAPER

One of the goals of this class is for you to be able to critically reflect upon films by utilizing basic film concepts and terminology. This assignment is to select one film from the list of films on the course MOODLE. No more than two students may analyze the same film. Once you sign up for a film you must analyze that film unless Dr. Hancock approves a switch. Students may work alone or collaboratively with another student of their choosing in the class. Either way, the assignment is the same and is worth 15% of your final grade. To complete this assignment address all of the following:

• Select a film from the list on the course MOODLE by the deadline. Sign up alone or with a student partner to analyze your selected film. No more than two students may analyze the same film.

• Watch your film MULTIPLE times and take good notes (pp. 27-30). You will turn your notes in with your paper in an appendix. Notes may be hand written.

• Your analysis should be 5 typed pages (not including notes in appendix), double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and black ink. Note that 4.5 pages does not equal 5 pages.

• Discuss why you selected the film you selected. Consider the role of opinion & evaluation (p. 15).

• Be familiar with the aims of film criticism (pp. 7-15) and frame your paper as a Movie Review. Assume your audience is your peers in this class.

• Discuss the theme of the film (p. 39). What is this film about?

• Discuss the film’s plot or order of events (pp. 41-42).

• Consider the meanings within the film - movies are polysemic. Discuss the preferred, negotiated, and oppositional meanings found within the film (we discussed this the first few days of class).

• Consider any historical and/or cultural influences on your film (pp. 88-92).

• Consider the older adult character in your film (p. 47). How would you feel if you were this character? Is the film shot from his or her point of view (pp. 49-50)? Discuss how this affects the film.

• Consider realism and mise-en-scene and how they shape the film (pp. 51-61).

• Consider the shot, editing, OR sound as you view the film (pp. 61-81). How does it affect the experience of watching the film?

• Discuss the role of genre, ideology, OR auteur as they relate to your particular film (pp. 92-101).

• Use pp. 114-181 and the inside back cover in Corrigan to guide your writing. Corrigan does an excellent job of clearly laying out the basics of any good writing. When you refer to other authors or works, you MUST CITE these works properly (including Corrigan). THIS INCLUDES WEBSITES. APA or MLA format for references is expected.

• Turn in your paper DURING CLASS ON THE DUE DATE. LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED WITHOUT A NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS. Early work is welcomed.
LBST 1102-425 BIO-CARD
PLEASE WRITE THE FOLLOWING ON THE FRONT (ONLY) OF A 5X8 INDEX CARD

Name: 
Preferred Name: 
Age(ish): 
Year in School: 
Other Gerontology classes taken: 
Other Sociology Classes taken: 
Major(s): Minor(s): 
Any Gerontology related work experience? 
What about the study of aging interests you the most? 
What is your favorite movie with an older character in it? 

PLEASE KEEP THE BACK OF YOUR CARD BLANK FOR INSTRUCTOR PURPOSES