Women and Aging

In this course we will focus on issues and research concerning middle aged and aging women in our society. Issues that will be studied include: biological changes and health concerns associated with aging, relationships with friends, relationships with family, sexuality, transitions women face, women's work, retirement, women's pensions, and images of older women.

Required Readings

A reprint package which will be made available at cost

Recommended Readings

Assignments
Take Home exam. There will be a take-home mid term exam approximately two-thirds of the way through the course which will cover material from the reading list and seminar discussion. The exam will be handed out two weeks before it is due. The exam will consist of two questions chosen from four or five which will be made available. Each question should be approximately 3-5 pages in length. The exam will be worth 20% of the final mark.

Major Paper. The major paper will consist of a review and integration of the psychological literature in an area related to women and aging. Students will be expected to discuss their paper topic with the professor before beginning their research. The paper should be between 20 and 30 pages long. The paper will be due at the end of the term and will count for 50% of the final mark.

Class Participation. Attendance and general participation will be expected. During the first part of the term students will be assigned two or three short oral presentations over the readings. Students will also make a major oral presentation during the last five weeks of the semester. The major presentation will be on the same topic as the major paper. Class participation will count for 30% of the final mark.

Prerequisites
Psychology 201, 210, 357, and 90 credit hours or permission of the instructor.

NOTE: This course is also designated for Women's Studies credit