

## **GERON 5240/6240: Aging and the Arts**

Spring Semester 2025  
Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to explore the influence of artistic expression on the aging experience. Students will study approaches to aging in a variety of disciplines, such as: theatre, art, film, dance, and music. Analysis and critique of creative works will occur in reference to aging and art theory. Students will research and share resources, learn how to utilize artistic knowledge when working with older adults, and examine future trends.

**This course is designated as a Community Engaged Learning Course through the Bennion Center:** Community-engaged Learning (CEL) “involves students, faculty, and community partners working together to apply knowledge in authentic settings in order to address community needs while also meeting instructional objectives. ...it facilitates the integration of theory and practice and offers the opportunity to engage in critical reflection while developing life skills” (Bennion Center for Community Engagement, University of Utah).

### **Course Outcomes and Objectives**

The student will:

1. Identify approaches to aging through artistic forms, such as theatre, art, film, dance, and music;
2. Connect aging theories to older adult contributions in the world of art;
3. Integrate creativity and gerontology with personal goals and values;
4. Research, collect, and share resources associated with aging and the arts;
5. Demonstrate the ability to utilize artistic knowledge when working with older adults;
6. Analyze and critique artistic approaches to aging.

### **Course Requirements**

This course is performance and project based. Active participation in the course is required because it will help you engage with the course materials and enhance your ability to develop projects that facilitate your learning. Make a goal to log onto our course site at least 3 times per week. You should read all of the items that are posted (both by the instructor and fellow students) each week.

### **Assigned Readings**

Weekly readings are assigned that will help you meet learning objectives and complete assignments. One important tip: take notes as you complete the weekly readings. Use these notes to incorporate examples, inspirational quotes, practice tips, and creative

application into your discussions and course assignments. This is a great way to demonstrate the work that you are doing.

A total of 500 points are possible in this course. Evaluation is performance/project based. I will provide feedback one week after assignment submission.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
Introductory Quiz	2% - 10 points
Class Discussion	16% - 80 points
Art Viewing & Response	18% - 90 points
Community Project	30% - 150 points
Arts & Aging (AA) Presentation	34% - 170 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 points</b>

**Participation/Community Engaged Learning:**

Prompt, regular participation and maintenance of professional and personal values conducive to collegiality are important to your success in this class. Participation means that you:

1. Complete activities on time.
2. Actively engage in all activities.

The community engaged learning in this course is associated with the Community Project assignment.

**Grading Scale**

<b>Letter Name</b>	<b>Range</b>	
A	100%	to 93%
A-	<93%	to 90%
B+	<90%	to 87%
B	<87%	to 83%
B-	<83%	to 80%
C+	<80%	to 77%
C	<77%	to 73%
C-	<73%	to 70%
D+	<70%	to 67%
D	<67%	to 63%
D-	<63%	to 60%
E	<60%	to 0%

## University Policies

### Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

### Center for Disability & Access

801-581-5020

[disability.utah.edu](http://disability.utah.edu)

65 Student Services Building

201 S 1460 E

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

---

### Safety at the U

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

### Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

---

## **Addressing Sexual Misconduct**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

### **Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action**

801-581-8365

[oeo.utah.edu](http://oeo.utah.edu)

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Office of the Dean of Students**

801-581-7066

[deanofstudents.utah.edu](http://deanofstudents.utah.edu)

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

### **Campus Police & Department of Public Safety**

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

## Center for Campus Wellness

801-581-7776

[wellness.utah.edu](http://wellness.utah.edu)

350 Student Services Building

201 S. 1460 E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

---

### Academic Misconduct

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

*"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."*

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).