## MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**SO208 - Sociology of Aging C-3, P-0, Cr-3**

**Course Description**

Societies throughout the world address issues associated with aging in a variety of ways, including how societies define the role of the elderly and how social institutions adapt to changes in the elderly population. This course explores historical developments, cross-cultural adaptations, societal problems, and issues related to health and well-being of aging populations.

**Pre-requisite: SO101 -** Introduction to Sociology

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

1. Compare and contrast sociological/gerontological theories
2. Assess the impact of changes in societal perception and treatment of aging populations
3. Differentiate observation skills, research methods and application of concepts used in sociology\*
4. Compare how different cultures view and treat their elderly populations
5. Use demographic concepts and processes associated with aging populations to evaluate and predict future population trends
6. Explain the ways various social institutions respond to aging populations
7. Research how changing roles and self-perceptions affect individuals as they age
8. Research biological changes and health issues associated with aging
9. Demonstrate an understanding of sources and implication of agism

**Major Topics:**

1. Sociology of Aging and Gerontology

Theories and Methods

1. Demography
2. Cross-cultural and Historical Perspectives on Aging
3. Biological Processes and Aging
4. Aging and Psychological Adjustments
5. The Elderly and Family Life including cross cultural perspectives
6. Work and Retirement including cross cultural perspectives
7. Health Care, long term care alternatives
8. Economics of Aging including the Welfare State and Health Care costs
9. Poverty and the Elderly
10. Politics and the Elderly
11. The Aging Prison Population
12. Elder Law
13. Death and Dying including cross cultural perspectives