Title: Growing Old Around the Globe

COURSERA Short Title: OldGlobe

6 hours per week for six weeks taught via video segments, field video, and webcasts

COURSERA Description: The world is ageing – people are older and societies are facing hard realities. What are we to make our lives in this time of global ageing? In six weeks, we analyze critical questions about age and ageing around the world.

Timing: 19 May to 5 July 2014

OldGlobe Course Faculty:
Sarah Kagan, PhD, RN
Anne Shoemaker, RN, MSN, CRNP

OldGlobe Teaching Associate:
Sarah Strauss Berger BSN

Old Globe Community Teaching Assistants:
Ananya Chatterjee
Mary Gorka
Harriët Jager-Wittenaar
Susan Lysaght
Jenny Mackness
Sonny Magalong
We live in an increasingly aged world. The people we know and love are living longer and longer. Many today are concerned about increasing life expectancies and growing individual and societal needs. But what do we really know about ageing, growing old, and living in older families and societies? Join us for a conversation about growing old around the globe, as we look at current evidence, cultural and social meanings, and considerations for our shared future.

Course Overview: Growing old is discussed today in ominous terms – concerns about disease, dysfunction, and destitution are daily discussed by media and policy makers. What are individuals, families, communities and societies to make of an ageing world? We analyze contemporary topics in psychological and social ageing from a global perspective. Each week, we pose a question to be explored and discussed online. Participants are encouraged to contribute their experiences and perspectives as we create a global community to discuss age, ageing, and the science of gerontology in
action. Participants will then compile a portfolio of materials they create and/or collect to address each week’s question and critically reflect their knowledge and experience throughout the course. Portfolios are then reviewed by peers at the end of the course to foster continued discourse among participants in our COURSERA community.

**Course Objectives:**

- To present issues of ageing on individual, family and societal levels around the global using video lecture, documentary segments and expert interview to help the learner integrate their own experience with ageing.
- To foster productive discussion about the psychological and social issues of normal ageing in people of all educational backgrounds who want to learn about ageing, being old and ageing societies.

**Topical Outline:**

I. **Week Zero: How do I critically appraise information about ageing?**
   i. **Key Concepts**
      1. Resources
      2. Evaluation
      3. Interpretation
      4. Application

II. **Week One: What is ageing?**
    i. **Key Concepts**
       1. Biology and senescence
       2. Psychological ageing
       3. Social ageing

III. **Week Two: What is it to be old?**
    i. **Key Concepts**
       1. Familial and filial structure
       2. Function and capacity
       3. Social welfare/well being
       4. Longevity
IV. Week Three: What is an ageing society?
i. Key Concepts
   1. Ageing population
   2. Elder dependency
   3. Generativity
   4. Gerontocracy
   5. Gero-economics

V. Week Four: What is it to age well?
i. Key Concepts
   1. Usual and successful ageing
   2. Healthy ageing
   3. Well being
   4. Quality of life
   5. Spirituality and ageing

VI. Week Five: What are the global implications of ageing?
i. Key Concepts
   1. Ageing workforce
   2. Caregiving workforce
   3. Migration
   4. Public health
   5. Public policy

VII. Week Six: What do ageing societies need to do to prepare for the future?
i. Key Concepts
   1. Human resources
   2. Financial resources
   3. Cultural precepts
   4. Ethical principles
Teaching Methods:

- Video round table discussions
- Field video from OldGlobers (participants)
- Live interactive webcasts
- Online discussion thread
- Weekly email summary

Online Discussion Thread and Webcast Participation Guidelines and Policy:

OldGlobe, as a course, is a global conversation conducted in English with inherent respect for all people of any age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, familial background, and personal expression. Thus, all participation in the course must be in English, or – if another language is used as an example – immediately translated into English. Similarly, all contributions must be respectful and consideration, accounting for a diverse and global community of participants. While colloquial or vernacular expressions including folk sayings, slang, and idioms may be used, participants offering these contributions must assure translation and respectful presentation as well as deletion of offensive language. Participants are reminded that ageing is commonly a sensitive or challenging subject to discuss. As a result, all communication within OldGlobe must be respectful, thoughtful, and well considered. Personal concerns regarding ageing and assertions that dismiss the value of ageing or the contributions of participants of any course team members are not acceptable content for the course. OldGlobe faculty and teaching team members are available to assist with appropriate English language usage and reserve the right to remove any offensive and ill-considered contributions from online discussion and emails submitted for the webcast. To communicate with us about questions you have regarding the technology of the course, please participate in the Technology discussion forum. Please know that, while we would love to respond to comments and questions personally, with thousands of participants enrolled we are unable to respond individually. Please let us know if the discussion forums we set up are meeting your needs, and if not, we can make them more specific so that we can handle urgent requests quickly.

COURSE EVALUATION METHOD(S):

Peer Reviewed Portfolio: All students wishing to complete the course need to create a peer-reviewed portfolio.

- In order to receive a Statement of Accomplishment, each learner must create a portfolio of reflections on the questions of the week. Items are submitted each week.
• Portfolio items can take any form that figuratively or substantively analyzes the question of the week and must include some analysis or interpretation. Refer to the sample portfolio for examples of submissions.
• The last portfolio submission is due by 29 June 2014 in order to be evaluated by 5 July 2014.
• Each participant will be assigned to review the portfolio submission from five other OldGlobe participants weekly. Please watch your email for your reviewing assignments.
• Each item submitted must include some analysis or interpretation. (250-500 words)

Forms that the portfolio items may take include:

• Local field video on being old and living in ageing communities and societies with written commentary from participant
• Participant-generated poetry or literature on ageing and being old
• Cited poetry or literature on ageing and being old within the public domain submitted with written commentary from participant
• Participant-generated visual art on ageing and being old
• Cited visual art on ageing and being old with permission to post from the artist and with written commentary from participant
• Self-generated scholarly papers on being old and living in ageing communities and societies
• Reflective essays on being old and living in ageing communities and societies

Portfolio items must be posted by the end of the week to count as a submission for that week. Each portfolio submission is worth 1 point.

- Week 1 submissions due by 25 May 2014
- Week 2 submissions due by 1 June 2014
- Week 3 submissions due by 8 June 2014
- Week 4 submissions due by 15 June 2014
- Week 5 submissions due by 22 June 2014
- Week 6 submissions due by 29 June 2014
**Peer Review:** Every participant must review at least 5 other participants’ portfolio submission weekly in order to receive full points for their submission. Review of the portfolio involves offering comments. Peer reviews must be posted by midnight on Saturday following portfolio submission:

- Week 1 peer reviews due by 31 May 2014
- Week 2 peer reviews due by 7 June 2014
- Week 3 peer reviews due by 14 June 2014
- Week 4 peer reviews due by 21 June 2014
- Week 5 peer reviews due by 28 June 2014
- Week 6 peer reviews due by 5 July 2014

**Schedule:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Module Videos</th>
<th>Live Webcast</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 0: How do I evaluate information?</td>
<td>19 May 2014</td>
<td>Class Introduction Video</td>
<td>1000 EDT 21 May 2014 Send your questions for Anne, Sarah and members of the OldGlobe Team on the discussion forum under the thread “Webcast” or @OldGlobeMOOC.</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: GJ Melendez-Torres</td>
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<td>How to Do Field Video: Anne Shoemaker</td>
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<td>Week 0 Synthesis: Sarah Kagan</td>
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<td>Week 1: What is ageing?</td>
<td>19 May 2014</td>
<td>Week 1 Introduction: Anne Shoemaker</td>
<td>No Webcast this week</td>
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<td>Video Perspectives: What is ageing?</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: Kelly Jordan-Sciutto</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: Ruben Gur</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: Amy Corcoran</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: Elizabeth MacKenzie</td>
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<td>Week 1 Synthesis: Sarah Kagan</td>
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<td>Week 2: What is it to be old?</td>
<td>26 May 2014</td>
<td>Week 2 Introduction: Anne Shoemaker</td>
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<td>Video Perspectives: What is it to be old?</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: Ivona Percec</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: Ruben Gur</td>
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<td>Expert Interview: Herb Smith</td>
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<td>Week 2 Synthesis: Sarah Kagan</td>
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| Week 3: What is an ageing society? | 2 June 2014 | Week 3 Introduction: Anne Shoemaker  
Video Perspectives: What is an ageing society?  
Expert Interview: Herb Smith  
Expert Interview: Michael X. Delli Carpini  
Expert Interview: Arnold J. “Skip” Rosoff  
Week 3 Synthesis: Sarah Kagan | No Webcast this week |
| Week 4: What is it to age well? | 9 June 2014 | Week 4 Introduction with Anne Shoemaker  
Video Perspectives: What is it to age well?  
Expert Interview: Amy Corcoran  
Expert Interview: Elizabeth Mackenzie  
Week 4 Synthesis with Sarah Kagan | 1000 EDT 11 June 2014  
Send your questions for Anne, Sarah and members of the OldGlobe Team on the discussion forum under the thread “Webcast” or @OldGlobeMOOC. |
| Week 5: What are the global implications of ageing? | 16 June 2014 | Week 5 Introduction with Anne Shoemaker  
Video Perspectives: What are the global implications of ageing?  
Expert Interview: G.M. Leung  
Expert Interview: Jerry Wind  
Week 5 Synthesis with Sarah Kagan | No Webcast this week |
| Week 6: What do ageing societies need to do to prepare for the future? | 23 June 2014 | Week 6 Introduction with Anne Shoemaker  
Video Perspectives: What do ageing societies need to do to prepare for our future?  
Week 6 Synthesis with Sarah Kagan | 1000 EDT 2 July 2014  
Send your questions for Anne, Sarah and members of the OldGlobe Team on the discussion forum under the thread “Webcast” or @OldGlobeMOOC.  
**Course End:**  
The final item for your portfolio should be submitted by midnight EDT on 29 June 2014 and each participant needs to peer review a last week’s submission by 5 July 2013 to receive an OldGlobe Statement of Accomplishment |
**Recommended Readings:**


WHO Health Topics Ageing [http://www.who.int/topics/ageing/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/ageing/en/)