

APPL/INDS 553: Aging Matters – Finding Meaning & Purpose in Later Life

Dr. Paul Stevens, Dr. Paul Pearce

July 17-21; 8:30 – 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Every ten seconds someone in North America becomes a senior. This demographic reality has inspired both fear and hope. In this course we will explore the challenges and opportunities of becoming an older adult (55+/-), including critical issues such as diminished energy, the search for significance, continuing to work after work, calling and service in the world and church. This course is designed to help those needing to address the issues of aging—whether older adults themselves or people working with an aging population (e.g., pastors, counsellors, social workers)—from a Christian perspective. In light of the realities of aging, the course will address the issues of vocation, meaning and security, and spirituality. There will be lectures, case studies, interviews and guests. There are no prerequisites for the course and the experience can be attributed to a graduate program or simply be a learning encounter.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. To understand the process of aging and the challenges and opportunities faced by people in their maturing years
2. To gain a biblical and global perspective on how to grow old in Christ
3. To develop appropriate spiritual disciplines for the experience of aging
4. To gain skills in turning the aging population in the church from recipients of ministry to being elders and ministers in the people of God
5. To gain some skills in caring for aging parents, aging church members and aging neighbours
6. To experience some vocational discernment and to reframe retirement.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 Aging & Vocation

Day 2 Reframing Retirement

Day 3 Aging & Spirituality

Day 4 Aging & Ministry

Day 5 Aging & True Success

REQUIRED TEXTS

Stevens, R. Paul, *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016).

All prices subject to change without notice. Please note that the Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books (some exceptions may apply).

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

