**GERO 420: Aging and Dementia**

# Course Description:

Students will learn the **physiological, psychological, social, and economic aspects of dementia** and its impact on the individual, family and society, with an emphasis on Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The course covers current research for AD and describes

relevant approaches for caregivers to assist persons with dementia and improve their quality of life. Students will learn about the diagnosis, treatment, and different housing options for older adults with AD.

**FACTS ABOUT DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER’S**

* "Someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's **every 67 seconds**. Today, 5.3 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease -- it is the **6th leading cause of death in the United States**."
* “Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes

# problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to **interfere with daily tasks**.”

* + “Alzheimer's has no current cure, but **treatments for symptoms are available and research continues**. Although current Alzheimer's treatments cannot stop Alzheimer's from progressing, they can **temporarily slow the worsening of dementia symptoms** and **improve quality of life.”** -Alzheimer’s Association, “What Is Alzheimer’s?”

[www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org/)

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior status or classified graduate standing; completion of General Education (G.E.) Category A; satisfies the upper-division writing requirement;