

## Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

**Module Title:** Social Work and Ageism: Talking Through Dominant Narratives and Opportunities for Change

**Instructor:**

**Residency:**

**Date:**

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### **Module Description:**

This module will emphasize the importance of adopting an age-inclusive approach in social work practice for best outcomes in practice at the micro, meso, and macro level. Students will be supportively encouraged to examine their own views about aging through activities and group discussion, and, how these views might impact their own professional practice. Anti-oppressive, gerontological social work will be introduced. Practice research perspectives will be reflected on throughout the module to connect the presenter's clinical work to their current academic appointment and research initiatives.

### **Module Objectives:**

After attending this module, students will be able to;

1. Explain ageism and its impact on all aged individuals.
2. Apply anti-oppressive approaches to social work practice with older adults.
3. Incorporate practice research perspectives into their own future research projects.

### **Required Readings:**

1. Allen, C. (2009). Self-Reported Ageism in Social Work Practitioners and Students. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 52(2), 124–134.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01634370802561927>
2. Fortune AE, McCallion P, Briar-Lawson K. *Social Work Practice Research for the Twenty-First Century*. Columbia University Press; 2010. doi:10.7312/fort14214. Chapter 24. The Question of Questions: An Agenda for Social Work Practice Research.
3. Hulko, Brotman, Stern, & Ferrer. (2020). *Gerontological Social Work in Action. Anti-Oppressive Practice with Older Adults, their Families, and Communities*. Chapter One. Age/ism. Age as a category of Difference. Routledge.
4. Joubert LB, Webber M, eds. *The Routledge Handbook of Social Work Practice Research*. Routledge; 2020. Chapter 4. From Research Question to Practice Research Methodology.



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5. Liang, J., & Luo, B. (2012). Towards a discourse shift in social gerontology: From successful aging to harmonious aging. *Journal of Aging Studies*, 26, 327–334.  
[doi:org/10.1016/j.aging.2012.03.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aging.2012.03.001)

**Module Assignment:**

In 1-2 pages, please (a) identify and describe three main takeaways from the readings and (b) list one spurring question you hope will be answered or reflected on together during the module.