Interprofessional Honors Course: Women, Aging, Poetry, and Literature.

Building Bridges between Science and Art, Youth and Age.

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Students in the millennial generation tend to have a negative impression of older adults, but are likely to be working with this population. Opportunities to develop relationships between the two populations improve the general impressions for all involved (Branscum & Sciaraffa, 2013; Seaman et al., 2017). An interprofessional seminar course offered through the Antonian Scholars (Honors) program was designed to not only introduce students to the normal changes associated with aging and the approaches of different health professions, but also to literature written by older women experiencing these changes. In addition to assigned readings, pairs of students spent time with an older woman throughout the semester. This opportunity for extended conversation led to changes in attitudes for everyone involved.

#### Learning Goals

These goals, identified to maximize learning and relations between students and sisters, were essential to the course's success as a whole. The course was built on the idea that understanding the aging process in the classroom, specifically of women, was best done in conjunction with personal interactions. The hope is that this course will encourage both students and older partners feel that the time spent together was engaging and fulfilling. The primary learning goals, while slightly varied between the two semesters the course was offered, are listed below.

- Discuss how students pursuing various healthcare professions and other disciplines can be introduced to the lives and experiences of older women.
- Explain the integration of skills and knowledge from the classroom into personal relationships with Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Describe the process of blending poetry and literature written by older women with learning the science of aging.

#### Literature and Poetry Examples

- Phenomenal Woman- Maya Angelou
- Barking Backwards - Robert Frost
- Two Old Women - Velma Wallis
- The Revolt of Mother - Mary E. Wilkins
- A Visit of Charity - Eudora Welty
- She Probably Will Not Eep - Patoka95
- “Olive Kittleridge” - Elizabeth Strout
- Sacred Wilderness - Susan Power
- Like a Mule Bringing Ice Cream to the Sun - Sarah Ladipo Manyika

#### References


#### Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful for the support and encouragement given to us by Michelle Hue, the archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Dr. Rafael Cervantes, the director of the Antonian Scholars program at St. Catherine University; Emily Sera and Sarah Gerdts, from Community Work and Learning at St. Catherine University, and to the two amazing professors who shared their knowledge and perspectives of poetry and literature as vehicles for the expression of the experience of aging, Melinda Lockard and Jill Ippson.