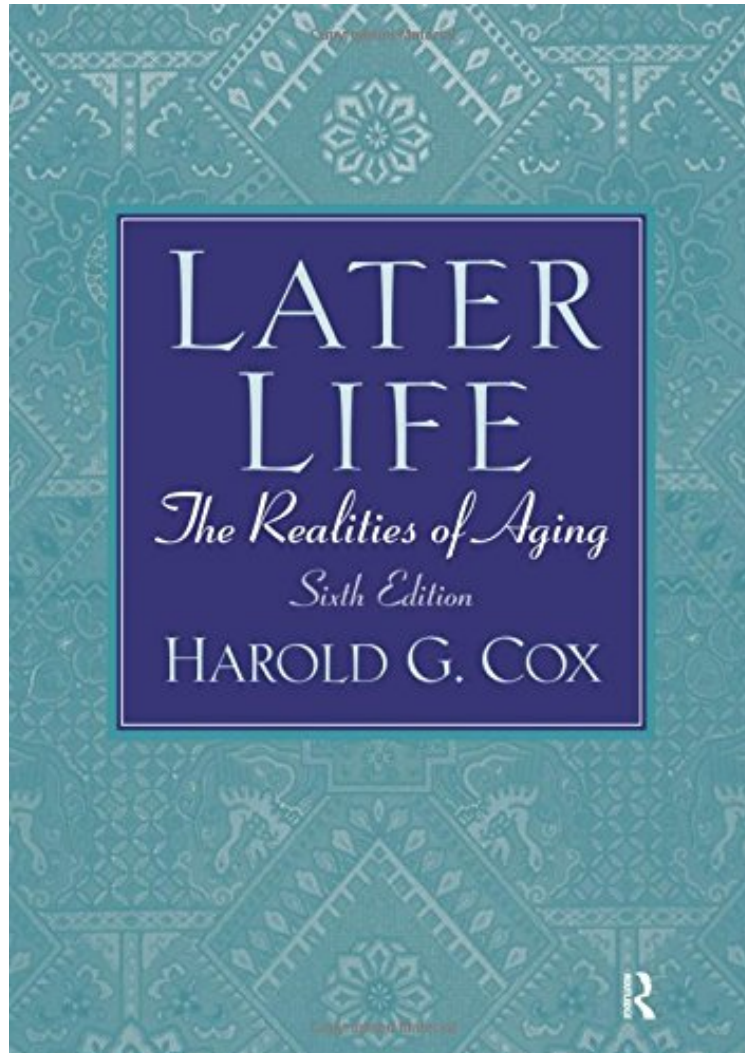


[Download pdf] Later Life: The Realities of Aging

Later Life: The Realities of Aging

Harold G. Cox

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Harold G. Cox : Later Life: The Realities of Aging before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Later Life: The Realities of Aging:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Criminally Out-of-DateBy MKMAuthor Harold Cox must surely be in violation of his contract with the publisher. This textbook has been through multiple editions, the most recent of which is copyright 2006. But there are key topics for which he has in recent years made apparently *no* attempt to provide updated empirical data for. Median household income, for instance, is a phenomenon that changes over time. (Inflation, etc.) Yet, the income data he reports are, in many cases, from the mid-1990s. That's just one example. The most egregious example of his completely dropping the ball is opinion data on age synchronization. As culture changes, people's attitudes about age synchronization (what age a person should be when they tackle critical life tasks

such as marriage, child-bearing, first job, etc.) change. I could see using survey data from maybe as out of date as 10 years ago on this matter because, yes, culture changes slowly--but to use survey responses respondents provided in the 1950s and '60s is ***outrageous***. Back in the '60s, yes, people's perception of the "normal" age for someone to get married might have been 18 or 19. But wake up, Harold Cox. Times have changed since then. People in our times have a vision of people getting married not much earlier than their mid-20s. In a text that purports to be a sociology text, and therefore one that explores such key concepts as norms, Cox's inclusion of such out of date data about perceptions on norms is worse than not covering that phenomenon at all. By not updating that data, Cox has rendered this book almost unusable as a textbook and my students are profoundly displeased with him, to say the least. The only strong suit of this text is its treatments of major sociological theories on aging and the question of what is a theory and what role does theory play in the scientific method. Well handled, there. But otherwise, I give the book about a D.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Required textbook By Debbie This book was a required textbook for school. It is very informative and easy to follow, a real eye opener. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. later life the realities of aging By Tammy D. Vasquez Thank you!! Book was everything seller said it was. Also speedy delivery. Will buy again from this seller.

An interdisciplinary introduction to the aging process which uses symbolic interactionism as the main theoretical perspective. Accessible, interdisciplinary coverage with chapters covering a variety of subject matter areas from biology to psychology, from economics to sociology, from political science to religion. Utilizes symbolic interaction perspective to explain behavior problems and an individual's adaptations associated with the process of aging.

From the Publisher This text utilizes a symbolic interaction perspective to explain behavioral problems and adaptations associated with the process of aging. The Fourth Edition reflects the most recent trends, conditions, and research findings in the field. From the Inside Flap Preface The demographic revolution in modern industrial nations seems to have occurred because of a decline in the crude birthrate combined with an improved medical technology's capacity to save and prolong life. The result, in all of the industrially developed nations, has been the same growing number and percentage of the population living to age 65 and beyond. Moreover, Donald Cowgill is projecting an ever-increasing expansion of the older population in the underdeveloped nations as well. Barring unforeseen demographic changes in the near future, the number of older persons in Western Europe and the United States will continue to grow and constitute an ever larger percentage of the population. The elderly in the United States have grown from approximately 3 million in 1900, composing less than 4 percent of the population, to 31.1 million in 1992, approximately 12.5 percent of the population. This shift in the age composition of the American population has resulted in a growing public awareness of the problems, potentials, and realities of aging. Persons in their middle years now almost uniformly expect to live to retirement age and beyond. There is widespread interest in the quality of life of older Americans, expressed both by those approaching retirement and those already there. This widespread interest and concern about the lives of older Americans has produced innumerable articles and editorials from the popular press, increased interest and research by the scientific community, and the implementation of numerous government-sponsored service delivery programs for older Americans. This book attempts to integrate material from this proliferating body of research and writing into a meaningful discussion of the major trends and developments in the field we call gerontology. Reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the subject, the book includes material from psychology, sociology, social work, anthropology, the biological sciences, medicine, and psychiatry. I have attempted to favor neither the medical model, which sees old age as a process of deterioration, disease, and progressive decline, nor the more recent and popular human development model, which sees old age as a period of further growth, development, and new experiences. While the later years are a further development of the individual's life history and offer opportunities for growth and new experiences, ultimately all people suffer certain health losses, and they die. Thus, I have tried to present the later phase of the life cycle as realistically as possible. The interdisciplinary nature of the gerontology tends to make texts on this subject eclectic. But in this book written from a social science perspective I utilize a symbolic interaction frame of reference. In this way the reader is provided with a single theoretical approach to the behavioral aspects of aging. Writing a text, much like teaching a class, involves synthesizing and organizing a variety of materials into an understandable, interesting, and challenging presentation of the facts. In the case of the textbook, the product should be interesting, understandable, intellectually challenging, and applicable to one's own life. Only you, the reader, can judge whether I have met these standards. I hope that I have. In any event, in writing a text an author inevitably learns much more than any future reader of it. His or her attempts to synthesize, organize, and present the material inevitably begin with a clear understanding of it. Thus, I have already gained much in writing this book; I have increased my knowledge of, sensitivity to, and comprehension of the realities of later life. In order to make this textbook more user-friendly for teachers using the book in their classes, a test manual is available with questions covering each chapter. In addition, if anyone has any questions about the book, test manual, or materials included, they may contact me by sending an email message to socox@scifac.indstate. I sincerely hope the book will be a useful resource to you and your students. I would like to thank all of my colleagues and friends at Indiana State

University who helped and supported me as I prepared this manuscript; my students who raised questions, challenged my ideas, and thereby increased my understanding of the subject; Peggy Strobel for her careful and diligent work in preparing the manuscript; Bela J. Bogner, Wright State University; Ernestine H. Thompson, Augusta College; Franklin N. Arnhoff, University of Virginia; Martha O. Loustaunau, New Mexico State University; G. Kathleen Grant, The University of Findlay; Douglas Fife, Plymouth State College; Frank J. McVeigh, Muhlenberg College; and Gary Deimling, Case Western Reserve University, for reviewing the manuscript; and my wife for always supporting and understanding my work, however successful or unsuccessful it might be.

Harold G. Cox

From the Back Cover

For anyone interested in Sociology of Aging or Gerontology taught primarily in departments of sociology. An interdisciplinary introduction to the aging process which uses symbolic interactionism as the main theoretical perspective. Accessible, interdisciplinary coverage with chapters covering a variety of subject matter areas from biology to psychology, from economics to sociology, from political science to religion. Utilizes symbolic interaction perspective to explain behavior problems and an individual's adaptations associated with the process of aging.