

Sociology 545: Sociology of the Life Course
Winter 2000
Wednesday 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. LS&A Building Room 4050

Professor: Deborah Carr
3521 LS&A Building
Office Phone: 763-1220 or 998-8690
E-mail: carrds@umich.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 4-5 p.m. and by appointment

This graduate-level course is designed as the core introductory course for the Sociology of the Life Course area in the Department of Sociology graduate program. The course introduces students to the theories, methods, and substantive topics which exemplify the life course paradigm. The life course paradigm is based on four themes: (1) human lives are embedded in and shaped by historical context; (2) individuals construct their own life course through the choices and actions they take, within the constraints of historical and social circumstances; (3) life domains, including work, family, and social background are intertwined; and (4) the developmental impact of a life transition is contingent on when it occurs in a person's life.

Life course research is interdisciplinary by nature and design. Studies of the life course typically incorporate sociology, history, psychology, and demography, and often tackle the complex debate over constancy and change in human development. With respect to substantive areas, the focus of life course studies ranges from social psychological outcomes such as stress, self-esteem, occupational values and cognitive complexity, to family development, marital and fertility patterns, educational and occupational attainment, retirement, and deviance.

A single semester can provide only a sampling of the current range of theory and empirical work on the life course. The most important objective is to acquire a way of thinking which can offer a point of departure in research. Students are expected and encouraged to attend the Sociology of the Life Course research seminar (SOC 745), led by Duane Alwin on Thursday afternoons.

Prerequisites:

Graduate standing or permission of the instructor is required. Some familiarity with quantitative research methods is also highly recommended. A handout distributed on the first day of class provides a basic review of statistical methodologies; students with limited backgrounds in statistics should familiarize themselves with this information.

Required Reading:

Giele, Janet Z. and Glen H. Elder, Jr. 1998. *Methods of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Thousand Oaks, CA; Sage.

A course pack of journal articles and book chapters.

Recommended Readings:

Recommended articles and books may enrich your knowledge of the life course paradigm. For the most part, recommended articles are either reference/background sources, or recent controversial works in the area of life course studies. Recommended books are recent classics in the field of life course studies. It is not expected that students will read the recommended books during the semester; rather, these books are suggested for future reference and prelim preparation. All recommended books are on reserve at the Undergraduate Library.

Overview of Course Requirements and Grading:

This course will blend both lecture and class discussion. The first hour of class will provide an introductory lecture and overview of the week's readings. The remaining two hours will be dedicated to in-depth discussion of the week's readings, as well as discussion of questions and articles that students introduce. Each week, each student is responsible for bringing to class: (1) two questions, in writing, based on the week's readings; and (2) a brief (one page) summary of an article which is NOT listed on the course syllabus but which is relevant both to the week's topic and to the student's own research interests. The class as a whole will benefit from the specialized information and suggested readings brought in by each participant. In order to facilitate discussion, each week a different student will act as discussion leader/moderator. The discussion leader should receive via email a copy of each class participant's questions NO LATER than 5 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to each Wednesday class.

Course grades will be based on four major requirements. (1) **Leading a discussion section.** Each week, a student or pair of students will be responsible for leading discussion. The student leader may base the discussion on the questions submitted by class participants, or may design a discussion which incorporates both assigned readings and his/her own research interests [10 percent of class grade]. (2) **Participation in weekly discussion.** Preparation and active participation in class is expected of all students. One's participation grade reflects actual participation in discussion, the quality of the questions brought to class, and the individual article summaries brought to class each week [15 percent of class grade]. (3) **Midterm Exam.** Students will be given a choice of essay questions to answer; the questions will be similar in scope to those typically included on preliminary exams. Four questions will be distributed one week prior to the essay due date, and students must write answers to three of the questions. Each answer should be roughly 3-4 pages long. The take-home exam will be distributed on March 8 and is due on March 15 [35 percent of class grade]. (4) **Final exam or critical literature review.** Students have the option of either (a) completing a take-home final exam, or (b) writing a 15-20 page critical literature review. The final exam will be similar in scope to the midterm exam. Questions will be distributed on April 5; final answers on due on April 19.

The paper should provide a critical review of literature on a topic chosen by the student, in consultation with the instructor. The topic should be relevant to the sociology of the life course, yet should also be sufficiently specific so that it may provide the basis for a front end of a dissertation prospectus or empirical research paper. A brief (2-3 page) description of your paper topic is due on February 16. Those students opting to write the paper will present a brief synopsis of their work during the final class session. Final papers are due on April 26. [40 percent of class grade]. **Incompletes will not be given in the course.**

READING SCHEDULE

I. Introduction to the Life Course Paradigm

January 5: Welcome and Overview of Course

January 12: Introduction to the Life Course Paradigm: Themes and Critiques

Required:

- Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1998. The Life Course as Developmental Theory. *Child Development* 69(1):1-12.
- Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1994. Time, Human Agency and Social Change: Perspectives on the Life Course. *Social Psychology Quarterly* 57:4-15.
- Gergen, Kenneth J. 1980. The Emerging Crisis in Life-Span Developmental Theory. *Life-Span Development and Behavior* 3:31-63.
- Kohli, Martin 1986. Social Organization and Subjective Construction of the Life Course. Pp. 271-92 in *Human Development and the Life Course: Multi disciplinary Perspectives*, edited by A.B Sorenson, F.E. Weinert, and L.R. Sherrod. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Meyer, John W. 1988. Levels of Analysis: The Life Course as a Cultural Construct. Pp. 49-62 in *Social Structure and Human Lives*, edited by Matilda W. Riley. Newbury Park: Sage.

Recommended Articles:

- Giele, Janet Z. and Glen H. Elder, Jr., 1998. Life Course Research: Development of a Field. Pp. 5-27 in *Methods of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, edited by Janet Z. Giele, and Glen H. Elder, Jr. Thousand Oaks, CA; Sage.
- Hagestad, Gunhild. 1990. Social Perspectives on the Life Course. Pp. 151-68 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, 3d edition*, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. New York: Academic Press.
- Linton, Ralph. 1942. Age and Sex Categories. *American Sociological Review* 7:589-603.
- Riley, Matilda White, Anne Foner, and Joan Waring. 1988. Sociology of Age. Pp. 243-90 in *Handbook of Sociology*, edited by Neil J. Smelser. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Vogel, F. 1988. Biology, Human Genetics, and the Life Course. Pp.45- 70 in *Human Development and the Life Course: Multi disciplinary Perspectives*, edited by A.B Sorenson, F.E. Weinert, and L.R. Sherrod. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

Recommended Books:

- Brim, Orville G., Jr. and Jerome Kagan. 1980. *Constancy and Change in Human Development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Clausen, John A. 1986. *The Life Course: A Sociological Perspective*. New York: Prentice-Hall.
- Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1985. *Life Course Dynamics: Trajectories and Transitions, 1968-80*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

January 19: Introduction to Life Course Studies: Methods and Models

Required:

- Campbell, Richard T., Elizabeth Mutran, and Robert N. Parker. 1986. Longitudinal Design and Longitudinal Analysis. *Research on Aging* 8:480-503.
- Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson. 1998. Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Data. Pp. 213-230 in *Methods of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, edited by Janet Z. Giele, and Glen H. Elder, Jr. Thousand Oaks, CA; Sage.
- Palmore, Erdmore. 1978. When Can Age, Period and Cohort be Separated? *Social Forces* 1:282-295.
- Scott, Jacqueline and Duane Alwin. 1998. Retrospective Versus Prospective Measurement of Life Histories in Longitudinal Research. Pp. 98-127 in *Methods of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, edited by Janet Z. Giele, and Glen H. Elder, Jr. Thousand Oaks, CA; Sage.
- Tuma, Nancy B. and Michael T. Hannan. 1984. Varieties of Temporal Analysis: Overview and Critique. Pp. 17-38 in *Social Dynamics: Models and Methods*. New York: Academic Press.

Recommended Articles:

- Freedman, Deborah, Arland Thornton, Donald Camburn, Duane Alwin, and Linda Young-DeMarco. 1988. The Life History Calendar: A Technique for Collecting Retrospective Data. *Sociological Methodology* 18:37-68.
- O Rand, Angela M. 1998. The Craft of Life Course Studies. Pp. 52-74 in *Methods of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, edited by Janet Z. Giele, and Glen H. Elder, Jr. Thousand Oaks, CA; Sage.
- Rutter, Michael. 1994. Beyond Longitudinal Data: Causes, Consequences, Changes and Continuity. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 62(5):928-40.
- Singer, Burton H., Carol D. Ryff, Deborah Carr, and William J. Magee. 1998. Linking Life Histories and Mental Health: A Person-Centered Strategy. *Sociological Methodology* 28:1-51.

II. Paradigmatic Themes

A. Lives in Historical Time and Place

January 26: The Influence of Birth Cohort and Historical Context

Required:

- Elder, Glen H., Jr., 1974. *Children of the Great Depression: Social Change in Life Experience*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1 The Depression Experience (pp. 3-24), Ch. 2 Adaptations to Economic Deprivation (pp. 24-40), Ch. 9 Personality in Adult Experience (pp. 240-268).
- Hareven, Tamara K. 1982. The Life Course and Aging in Historical Perspective. Pp. 1-26 in *Aging and Life Course Transitions: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*, edited by T.

- Hareven and K.J. Adams. New York: Guilford Press.
- Mannheim, Karl. 1952 (1928). The Problem of Generations. Pp. 286-323 in *Essays on the Sociology of Knowledge*, edited by D. Kecskemeti London: Routledge and Kagan.
- McAdam, Doug. 1988. *Freedom Summer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Ch 1. America on the Eve of Freedom Summer (pp. 11-34), Ch. 2. The Biographical Roots of Activism. (pp. 35-65).
- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 1. The Promise (pp. 3-24).
- Schuman, Howard and Jacqueline Scott. 1989. Generations and Collective Memories. *American Sociological Review* 54:359-381.

Recommended Articles:

- Inkeles, Alex. 1969. Making Men Modern: On the Causes and Consequences of Individual Change in Six Developing Countries. *American Journal of Sociology* 75(2):208-225.
- Kertzer, David. 1983. Generation as a Sociological Problem. *Annual Review of Sociology* 9:125-149.
- Ryder, Norman B. 1965. The Cohort as a Concept in the Study of Social Change. *American Sociological Review* 30(6):843-61.

Recommended Books:

- Easterlin, Richard. 1987. *Birth and Fortune: The Impact of Numbers on Personal Welfare* (2nd ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

B. Human Agency and Structural Constraints

February 2: Agency and Planful Behavior

Required:

- Caspi, Avshalom. 1987. Personality in the Life Course. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 53:1203-13.
- Clausen, John. 1991. Adolescent Competence and the Shaping of the Life Course. *American Journal of Sociology* 96:805-842.
- Emirbayer, Mustafa and Ann Mische. 1998. What is Agency? *American Journal of Sociology* 10(4):962-1023. [Scan only]
- Merton, Robert K. 1968 (1957) *Social Theory and Social Structure*. New York: The Free Press. Ch. 6 Social Structure and Anomie (pp. 175-214), Ch. 7 Continuities in the Theory of Social Structure and Anomie (pp. 215-248).
- Scarr, Sandra and Kathleen McCartney. 1983. How People Make Their Own Environments: A Theory of Genotype-Environment Effects. *Child Development* 54:424-35.
- Rodin, Judith. 1987. Personal Control Through the Life Course. Pp. 103-119 in *Life-Span Perspectives and Social Psychology*, edited by Ronald P. Abeles. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Recommended Articles:

- Bush, Diane Mitsch and Roberta G. Simmons. 1992. Socialization Processes Over the Life Course. Pp. 133-164 in *Social Psychology: Sociological Perspectives*, edited by Morris Rosenberg and Ralph Turner. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press.
- Gecas, Viktor. 1992. Contexts of Socialization. Pp. 165-199 in *Social Psychology: Sociological Perspectives*, edited by Morris Rosenberg and Ralph Turner. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Press.
- Shanahan, Michael J., Glen H. Elder, and Richard A. Miech. 1997. History and Agency in Men's Lives: Pathways to Achievement in Cohort Perspective. *Sociology of Education* 70(1):54-67.
- Spenner, Kenneth I. and David L. Featherman. 1978. "Achievement Ambitions." *Annual Review of Sociology* 4:373-420.

Recommended Books:

- Clausen, John. 1993. *American Lives*. New York: Free Press.
- Erikson, Erik. 1950. *Childhood and Society*. New York: Norton.
- Vaillant, George. 1977. *Adaptation to Life*. Boston: Little, Brown.

February 9: Constraints to Human Agency

Required:

- Bowles, Samuel and Herbert Gintis. 1976. *Schooling in Capitalist America*. New York: Basic Books. Ch. 1 Beyond the Educational Frontier: The Great American Dream Freeze, (pp. 3-17) Ch. 2 Broken Promises: School Reform in Retrospect (pp. 18-49), and Ch. 5 Education and Personal Development: The Long Shadow of Work (pp. 125-148).
- Eccles, Jacquelynne S.. 1987. Gender Roles and Women's Achievement-Related Decisions. *Psychological of Women Quarterly* 11:135-72.
- Mayer, Karl-Ulrich and Urs Schoepflin. 1989. The State and the Life Course. *Annual Review of Sociology* 15:187-209.
- MacLeod, Jay. 1995. *Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood*. New York: Westview Press. Ch 1. Social Immobility in the Land of Opportunity (pp. 3-10); Ch. 2. Social Reproduction in Theoretical Perspective. (Pp. 11-24); Ch. 5. The World of Work: Aspirations of the Hangers and the Brothers (pp. 61-82), and Ch. 7. Leveled Aspirations: Social Reproduction Takes its Toll (pp. 112-134).
- O Rand, Angela M. 1996. The Precious and the Precocious: Understanding Cumulative Disadvantage and Cumulative Advantage Over the Life Course. *The Gerontologist* 36(2):230-8.

Recommended Articles:

- Chase-Lansdale, P. Lindsay, Rachel A. Gordon, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and Pamela A. Klebanov. 1997. Neighborhood and Family Influences on the Intellectual and Behavioral Competence of Preschool and Early School-Age Children. Pp. 79-188 in *Neighborhood*

- Poverty: Context and Consequences for Children*. New York: Russell Sage.
- Connell, James P. and Bonnie L. Halpern-Felsher. 1997. How Neighborhoods Affect Educational Outcomes in Middle Childhood and Adolescence: Conceptual Issues and an Empirical Example. Pp. 174-199 in *Neighborhood Poverty: Context and Consequences for Children*. New York: Russell Sage.
- O Rand, Angela M. 1995. The Cumulative Stratification of the Life course. Pp. 188-207 in *The Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, 4th edition*, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda H. George. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

Recommended Books:

- Allatt, Patricia. (Ed.). 1987. *Women and the Life Cycle: Transitions and Turning Points*. Hampshire: Macmillan Press.
- Blauner, Robert. 1989. *Black Lives, White Lives*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

C. *Linked Lives*

February 16: Intergenerational Transmission of Attitudes and Behaviors

Required:

- Amato, Paul. 1996. Explaining the Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 58:628-40.
- DiMaggio, Paul. 1982. Cultural Capital and School Success: The Impact of Status Culture Participation on the Grades of U.S. High School Students. *American Sociological Review* 47:189-201.
- Glass, Jennifer, Vern L. Bengston, and Charlotte Chorn Dunham. 1986. Attitude Similarity in Three-Generation Families: Socialization, Status Inheritance, or Reciprocal Effects. *American Sociological Review* 51:685-698.
- Patterson, Gerald R. 1998. Continuities - A Search for Causal Mechanisms: Comment on the Special Section. *Developmental Psychology* 34(6): 1263-8.
- Rutter, Michael. 1998. Some Research Considerations on Intergenerational Continuities and Discontinuities: Comments on the Special Section. *Developmental Psychology* 34(6):1269-73.

Recommended Articles:

- Bengston, Vern L. 1975. Generation and Family Effects in Value Socialization. *American Sociological Review* 40:358-71.
- Kohn, Melvin L. 1963. Social Class and Parent-Child Relationships: An Interpretation. *American Journal of Sociology* 68(4):471-80.
- Moen, Phyllis, Mary Ann Erikson, and Donna Dempster-McClain. 1997. Their Mother s Daughters? The Intergenerational Transmission of Gender Attitudes in a World of Changing Roles. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 59:281-93.
- Sewell, William H., Robert M. Hauser, and Wendy C. Wolf. 1980. "Sex, Schooling and Occupational Status." *American Journal of Sociology* 86: 551-583.

Recommended Books:

- Alwin, Duane F., R.L. Cohen, and T.M. Newcomb. 1991. *Political Attitudes Over the Life Span: The Bennington Women After Fifty Years*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Kohn, Melvin L. 1969. *Class and Conformity: A Study in Values*. Homewood, IL: Dorsey Press.
- Rossi, Alice and Peter Rossi. 1990. *Of Human Bonding*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.
- Sewell, William H. and Robert M. Hauser. 1975. *Education, Occupation and Earnings: Achievement in the Early Career*. New York: Academic Press.

February 23: Short- and Long-Term Effects of Family Structure and Resources

Required:

- Alwin, Duane F. and Arland Thornton. 1984. Family Origins and the Schooling Process: Early versus Late Influence of Parental Characteristics. *American Sociological Review* 49:784-802.
- Aquilino, William S. 1996. The Life Course of Children Born to Unmarried Mothers: Childhood Living Arrangements and Young Adult Outcomes. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 58:293-310.
- Bronfenbrenner, Urie. 1986. Ecology of the Family as a Context for Human Development: Research Perspectives. *Developmental Psychology* 22(6):723-42.
- Demo, David H., and Alan C. Acock. 1988. The Impact of Divorce on Children. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 50:619-48.
- Elder, Glen H., Jr., T.V. Nguyen, and A. Caspi. 1985. Linking Hardship to Children's Lives. *Child Development* 56:361-375.
- Garnezy, Norman. 1993. Children in Poverty: Resilience Despite Risk. *Psychiatry* 56:127-36.

Recommended Articles:

- Biblarz, Timothy J. and Adrian E. Raftery. 1999. Family Structure, Educational Attainment, and Socioeconomic Success: Rethinking the Pathology of Matriarchy. *American Journal of Sociology* 105(2):321-65.
- McLanahan, Sara and Larry Bumpass. 1988. Intergenerational Consequences of Family Disruption. *American Journal of Sociology* 94:130-52.
- Parcel, Toby L. 1993. Family Social Capital and Children's Behavior Problems. *Social Psychology Quarterly* 56(2):120-35.

Recommended Books:

- Brown, George W., and Tirril Harris. 1978. *Social Origins of Depression: A Study of Psychiatric Disorder in Women*. New York: Free Press.
- McLanahan, Sara and Gary Sandefur. 1994. *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Parcel, Toby and Elizabeth G. Menaghan. 1994. *Parents Jobs and Children's Lives*. New York: deGruyter.
- Robins, L. and M. Rutter. (Eds.). *Straight and Devious Pathways from Childhood to Adulthood*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

D. Timing, Transitions and Trajectories

March 8: The Meaning of Transitions, Trajectories and Turning Points

Required:

- Rindfuss, Ronald, C. Gray Swicegood, and Rachel A. Rosenfeld. 1987. Disorder in the Life Course: How Common and Does it Matter? *American Sociological Review* 52:785-801.
- Ryff, Carol D. 1987. The Subjective Experience of Life-Span Transitions. Pp. 97-113 in *Gender and the Life Course*, edited by Alice S. Rossi. New York: Aldine.
- Wheaton, Blair. 1990. Life Transitions, Role Histories and Mental Health *American Sociological Review* 55:209-223.
- Wheaton, Blair 1997. Trajectories and Turning Points Over the Life Course: Concepts and Themes. Pp. 1-25 in *Stress and Adversity over the Life Course*, edited by Ian H. Gotlib and Blair Wheaton. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.

Recommended Articles:

- George, Linda. 1993. Sociological Perspectives on Life Transitions. *Annual Review of Sociology* 19:353-73.
- Hogan, Dennis P. 1987. The Demography of Life-Span Transitions: Temporal and Gender Comparisons. Pp. 65-78 in *Gender and the Life Course*, edited by Alice S. Rossi. New York: Aldine.
- Wethington, Elaine, Hope Cooper and Carolyn S. Holmes. 1997. Turning Points in Midlife. Pp. 215-231 in *Stress and Adversity over the Life Course*, edited by Ian H. Gotlib and Blair Wheaton. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.

Recommended Books:

- Furstenberg, Frank, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and S. Philip Morgan. 1987. *Adolescent Mothers in Later Life*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

March 15: Transition to Adulthood

Required:

- Clarkberg, Marin. 1999. The Price of Partnering: The Role of Economic Well-Being in Young Adults First Union Experiences. *Social Forces* 77(3):945-68.
- Goldscheider, Frances and Julie DaVanzo. 1989. Pathways to Independent Living in Early Adulthood: Marriage, Semiautonomy, and Premarital Residential Independence. *Demography* 26:597-614.
- Hauser, Robert M. and Douglas K. Anderson. 1991. Post-High School Plans and Aspirations of Black and White High School Seniors: 1976-86. *Sociology of Education* 64(4):263-77.
- Maines, David R. and Monica J. Hardesty. 1987. Temporality and Gender: Young Adults Career and Family Plans. *Social Forces* 66(1):102-120.
- Marini, Margaret Mooney. 1978. The Transition to Adulthood: Sex Differences in Educational Attainment and Age at Marriage. *American Sociological Review* 43:483-507.

Recommended Articles:

- Hogan, Dennis and Nan Astone. 1986. The Transition to Adulthood. *Annual Review of Sociology* 12:109-130.
- Rosenbaum, James E., Takehiko Kariya, Rick Settersten, and Tony Maier. 1990. Market and Network Theories of the Transition from High School to Work. *Annual Review of Sociology* 16:263-99.
- Schneider, Barbara and David Stevenson. 1999. *The Ambitious Generation: America's Teenagers: Motivated But Directionless*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Chapter 2 Imagining the Future (pp. 16-53) and Ch. 9 The Ambition Paradox (Pp. 216-44).
- Schoenhals, Mark, Marta Tienda, and Barbara Schneider. 1998. The Educational and Personal Consequences of Adolescent Employment. *Social Forces* 77(2):723-62.
- Settersten, Richard A., Jr., 1998. A Time to Leave Home and A Time Never to Return? Age Constraints on the Living Arrangements of Young Adults. *Social Forces* 76(4):1373-1400.

Recommended Books:

- Modell, John. 1989. *Into One's Own: From Youth to Adulthood in the United States, 1920-1975*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Mortimer, Jeylan F., Jon Lorence, and Donald S. Kumka. 1986. *Work, Family and Personality: Transition to Adulthood*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.
- Simmons, Roberta and Dale Blyth. 1987. *Moving into Adolescence*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

March 22: Non-Normative and Off-Time Transitions and Trajectories in Young Adulthood

Required:

- Astone, Nan Marie and Sara S. McLanahan. 1994. Family Structure, Residential Mobility and School Dropout: A Research Note. *Demography* 31(4):575-584.
- Ensminger, Margaret E., and Anita L. Slusarcick. 1992. Paths to High School Graduation or Dropout: A Longitudinal Study of a First-Grade Cohort. *Sociology of Education* 65(2):95-113.
- Hagan, John. 1997. Defiance and Despair: Subcultural and Structural Linkages between Delinquency and Despair in the Life Course. *Social Forces* 76(1):119-34.
- Luker, Kristin. 1996. *Dubious Conceptions: The Politics of Teenage Pregnancy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Ch. 1 The Problem and its Human Face (Pp. 1-14), Ch. 4. Constructing an Epidemic. (Pp. 109-133), Ch. 5. Choice and Consequence (Pp. 109-133), and Ch. 6. Why Did they Do It? (Pp. 134-173).
- Sampson, Robert and John Laub. 1992. Crime and Deviance over the Life Course. *Annual Review of Sociology* 18:63-84.
- Morgan, S. Philip and Ronald C. Rindfuss. 1999. Reexamining the Link of Early Childbearing to Marriage and Subsequent Fertility. *Demography* 36(1):59-75.

Recommended Articles:

- Arnett, Jeffrey. 1992. Review: Reckless Behavior in Adolescence: A Developmental Perspective. *Developmental Review* 12:339-73.
- Arnett, Jeffrey. 1992. Reply: Socialization and Adolescent Reckless Behavior: A Reply to Jessor. *Developmental Review* 12:391-409.
- Jessor, Richard. 1992. Reply: Risk Behavior in Adolescence: A Psychosocial Framework for Understanding and Action. *Developmental Review* 12:374-89

Recommended Books:

- Furstenberg, Frank F., Jr. 1976. *Unplanned Parenthood: The Social Consequences of Teenage Childbearing*. New York: Free Press.

March 29: Worklife Transitions and Trajectories

Required:

- Elder, Glen H., Jr. and Eliza K. Pavalko. 1993. Work Careers in Men's Later Years: Transitions, Trajectories and Historical Change. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 48(4): S180-191.
- Han, Shin-Kap and Phyllis Moen. 1999. Clocking Out: Temporal Patterning of Retirement. *American Journal of Sociology* 105(1):191-236.
- Kanter, Rosabeth Moss. 1977. *Men and Women of the Corporation*. New York: Basic Books. Chapter 1 "Men and Women of the Corporation: The Population" (Pp. 15-28), Chapter 6 "Opportunity" (Pp. 129-163), and Chapter 8 "Numbers: Minorities and Majorities" (Pp. 206-253)
- Lorence, Jon and Jeylan Mortimer. 1985. Job Involvement Over the Life Course: A Panel Study of Three Age Groups. *American Sociological Review* 50:618-638.
- Moen, Phyllis. 1985. "Continuities and Discontinuities in Women's Labor Force Activity." Pp. 113-155 in *Life Course Dynamics: Trajectories and Transitions, 1968-1980*, edited by Glen H. Elder, Jr. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Sorenson, Aage. 1986. Social Structure and Mechanisms of Life Course Processes. Pp. 177-98 in *Human Development and the Life Course*, edited by A. Sorenson.
- Weiss, Robert S. 1997. Adaptation to Retirement. Pp. 232-245 in *Stress and Adversity over the Life Course*, edited by Ian H. Gotlib and Blair Wheaton. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.

Recommended Articles:

- Atchley, Robert C. 1982. Retirement as a Social Institution. *Annual Review of Sociology* 8:263-87.
- Easterlin, Richard A., Christine Macdonald, and Diane J. Macunovich. 1991. Retirement Prospects of the Baby Boom Generation: A Different Perspective. *The Gerontologist* 30:776-83.
- Rosenfeld, Rachel A. 1980. Race and Sex Differences in Career Dynamics. *American Sociological Review* 45(4):583-609.
- Roefeld, Rachel. A. 1992. Job Mobility and Career Processes. *Annual Review of Sociology*

18:39-61.

Recommended Books:

- . Featherman, David and Robert M. Hauser. 1978. *Opportunity and Change*. New York: Academic Press.
- Fuchs, Victor. 1983. *An Economic View of Lives from Birth to Death*. Harvard University Press.
- Kohli, Martin, Martin Rein, A.M. Guillemard, and H. van Gunstoren. (Eds.) 1991. *Time for Retirement: Comparative Studies of Early Exit from the Labor Force*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Newman, Katherine. 1988. *Falling From Grace*. New York: Free Press.

April 5: Family Transitions in Adulthood

Required:

- Chen, Renbao and S. Philip Morgan. 1991. Recent Trends in the Timing of First Births in the United States. *Demography* 28(4):513-33.
- Lopata, Helena Z. 1975. *Widowhood in an American City*. Cambridge, MA: Schenkman Publishing Co. Ch. 1 Widowhood in America: An Overview (Pp. 15-38) and Chapter 2 Widowhood as the Last Stage in the Role of Wife (Pp. 39-94).
- Oppenheimer, Valerie Kincaide. 1988. A Theory of Marriage Timing. *American Journal of Sociology* 94(3):563-91.
- Rubin, Lillian. 1979. *Women of a Certain Age: The Midlife Search for Self*. New York: Harper & Row. Ch. 2 The Empty Nest: Beginning or Ending? Pp. 13-40.
- Settersten, Richard and Gunhild Hagestad. 1996. What s the Latest? Cultural Age Deadlines for Family Transitions. *The Gerontologist* 36(2):178-88.
- South, Scott and Glenna Spitze. 1986. Determinants of Divorce over the Marital Life Course. *American Sociological Review* 51:583-90.
- Thornton, Arland and Willard Rodgers. 1987. The Influence of Individual and Historical Time on Marital Dissolution. *Demography* 24:1-22.

Recommended Articles:

- Bennett, Neil. 1989. The Divergence of Black and White Marriage Patterns. *American Journal of Sociology* 95:692-.
- Glick, Paul. 1947. The Family Life Cycle. *American Sociological Review* 12:164-74.
- Cherlin, Andrew J. and Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr. 1994. Stepfamilies in the United States: A Reconsideration. *Annual Review of Sociology* 20:359-81.

Recommended Books:

- Gerson, Kathleen. 1985. *Hard Choices: How Women Decide About Work, Career and Motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Gerson, Kathleen. 1993. *No Man's Land: Men's Changing Commitment to Family and Work*. New York: Basic Books.

April 12: Student paper presentations