

Sociology 595
Social Demography of Aging
Fall 1999
Wednesday 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. LS&A Building Room 4050

Professor: Deborah Carr
3521 LS&A Building
Office Phone: 763-1220
E-mail: carrds@umich.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 and by appointment

Course Description:

This course examines the sociology of age and aging in U.S. society. A central theme of the course is that older Americans (age 65+) comprise a very diverse population, in terms of their economic status, health status, and daily experiences. To accomplish the goal of understanding diversity in the older population, this course integrates research from the fields of demography, sociology, epidemiology, psychology, and economics. Specific topics will include: the demographic foundations of the aging population; debates concerning the mortality-morbidity tradeoff; the economic status, employment behavior, living arrangements, mental health, social relationships, and medical care receipt of the elderly; and the components of "successful aging."

Prerequisites:

Graduate standing or permission of the instructor is required. Some familiarity with quantitative research methods is also highly recommended.

Readings:

All readings are required except for "Recommended" articles. Recommended articles are included in the coursepack for enrichment, and should not be selected as "precis" articles.

Course Requirements and Grading:

The course is organized as a seminar. Although an overview of each week's readings is provided in lecture, much instruction will take place in the context of student presentations, guided discussions, and exchanges focused on the readings. Course grades will be based on three major requirements. (1) Leading a discussion section. Each week, a student will be responsible for leading the discussion and preparing summaries of three readings for all seminar participants. [10 percent of class grade]. (2) Participation in weekly discussion. Preparation and active participation in class is expected of all students [20 percent of class grade]. (3) Final research paper or proposal. A brief (2-3 page) description of your research proposal is due NO LATER than October 13. Each student will present a brief synopsis of their research project during the class session [70 percent of class grade]. Incompletes will not be given in the course.

Paper Requirement:

The main course requirement is the preparation of an original research paper or research proposal. Topic and data will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Papers will typically be based on the analysis of pre-existing data, but students may pursue other research strategies with permission of the instructor. The paper should define a research question, review relevant prior studies, and either: (1) analyze suitable data, and present the findings and their implications (research paper) OR (2) propose a detailed strategy for research methodology (research proposal). Students are encouraged to use this class project as the opportunity to develop a dissertation proposal or journal article. A brief (3 pages long) prospectus is due on October 13. This brief prospectus should describe the research question, the data or methodology to be used, and the analyses to be undertaken.

During the final week of the course, members of the seminar will make oral presentations of their empirical research papers and/or original research proposals. The duration of each presentation will be determined based on the number of students in the class. The first draft of each paper is due to the instructor no later than 5 p.m. on Friday December 3. Students are encouraged to revise the paper in light of student and instructor comments. **The final draft of the seminar paper is due by 5 p.m. on Monday December 20.**

For students planning to conduct secondary data analyses, many data sets are available through University of Michigan's Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Among these data sets are the Assets and Health of the Oldest Old (AHEAD), Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), Longitudinal Study of Aging (LSOA), National Long-Term Care Survey (NLTC), National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH), and the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS). Information on each of these data sets will be made available during the early weeks of the seminar.

Discussion Requirement

Each week, one student will serve as discussion leader. During the first class of the semester, students will choose "their week," based on interest area. The discussion leader will prepare a precis for three of the assigned readings. The leader will decide which articles they will summarize for classmates. A precis is a summary that contains the essential details about the article's theory, method, and findings. For a 20-page article, a 2-3 page precis should be sufficient. Discussion leaders should distribute these summaries to all seminar participants by the Monday (5 p.m.) prior to the seminar. This is done as a courtesy to your classmates, so that they will have time to prepare for the seminar.

All seminar participants are responsible for all of the assigned readings. Students should read carefully so that they come to class with both insightful comments and questions. Students who read materials that are not on the syllabus but that are germane to the discussion should feel free to contribute this knowledge to the discussion; the class as a whole will benefit from the specialized knowledge of all participants.

Background Reading: These volumes are not required for the course. However, they are excellent reference sources for scholars interested in the social, economic, psychological, and medical aspects of aging. Moreover, when choosing a paper topic, these reference sources may help you to narrow your interests.

Binstock, Robert H. and Linda K. George. 1996. *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*, Fourth Edition. New York: Academic Press.

Quadagno, Jill and Debra Street (eds.) 1996. *Aging for the Twenty-First Century: Readings in Social Gerontology*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Riley, Matilda W., Robert L. Kahn, and Anne Foner. 1994. *Age and Structural Lag: The Mismatch Between People's Lives and Opportunities in Work, Family and Leisure*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

READING SCHEDULE

September 8: Overview and Theoretical Perspectives

Carr, Deborah, Anu Pemmarazu, and Dorothy Rice. 1996. *Improving Data on the Aging Population: Summary of a Workshop*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press. (Pp. 5-16)

Dowd, James J. [1975] 1980. "Aging as Exchange: A Preface to Theory." Pp. 103-121 in *Aging, The Individual and Society*, edited by Jill S. Quadagno. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Linton, Ralph. 1942. "Age and Sex Categories." *American Sociological Review* 7:589-603.

Passuth, Patricia and Vern Bengston. 1988. "Sociological Theories of Aging: Current Perspectives and Future Directions." Pp. 333-355 in *Emergent Theories of Aging*, edited by James Birren and Vern Bengston. New York: Springer Publishing.

. Riley, Matilda W. 1987. "On the Significance of Age in Sociology." *American Sociological Review* 52:1-14.

Recommended Readings

Andrews, Gary and Michele J. Clark. 1999. "The International Year of Older Persons: Putting Aging and Research Onto the Policy Agenda." *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* 54B(1):P7-10

Matcha, Duane A. 1997. "The View from the Tower: Theoretical Perspectives." Pp. 45-65 in *The Sociology of Aging*, edited by D.A. Matcha. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

September 15: Demographic Foundations of an Aging Society

Cowgill, Donald O. [1974]. 1980. "The Aging of Populations and Societies." Pp. 15-33 in *Aging, The Individual and Society*, edited by Jill S. Quadagno. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Getzen, Thomas E. 1992. "Population Aging and the Growth of Health Expenditures." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 47(3): S98-104.

Myers, George C. 1990. "Demography of Aging." Pp. 19-44 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*, 3rd Edition edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. New York: Academic Press.

Siegel, Jacob. 1993. "Basic Demographic Dimensions of an Aging Population." Pp. 1-51 in *A Generation of Change: A Profile of America's Older Population*. New York: Russell Sage.

Recommended Readings

Grigsby, Jill. 1990. "Paths for Future Population Aging." *The Gerontologist* 31(2): 195-203.

Preston, Samuel, Christine Himes, and Mitchell Eggers. 1989. "Demographic Conditions Responsible for Population Aging." *Demography* 26(4): 691-704.

September 22: Mortality and Morbidity: Theory and Methods

Ferraro, Kenneth and M. Farmer. 1999. "Utility of Health Data from Social Surveys: Is There a Gold Standard for Measuring Morbidity?" *American Sociological Review* 64:303-15.

Fries, J.F. 1980. "Aging, Natural Death, and the Compression of Morbidity." *New England Journal of Medicine* 303: 130-135.

Kaplan, George. A. 1991. "Epidemiological Observations on the Compression of Morbidity." *Journal of Aging and Health* 3:155-171.

Myers, George C. and Kenneth G. Manton. 1984. "Compression of Mortality: Myth or Reality." *The Gerontologist* 24:346-353.

Olshansky, S. Jay. 1988. "On Forecasting Mortality." *The Milbank Quarterly* 66(3): 482-530.

Recommended Readings

Barinaga, Marcia. 1991. "How Long is the Human Life Span?" *Science* 254 (Nov 15): 936-8.

Preston, Samuel H. 1977. "Mortality Trends." *Annual Review of Sociology* 3: 167-178.

September 29: Differentials in Health and Mortality: Race, Class, Gender

Arber, Sara and Helen Cooper. 1999. "Gender Differences in Health in Later Life: The New Paradox." *Social Science and Medicine* 48:61-76.

Goldman, Noreen, Sanders Korenman and Rachel Weinstein. 1995. "Marital Status and Health of the Elderly." *Social Science and Medicine* 40(12): 1717-1730.

House, James S., James M. Lepkowski, A.M. Kinney, R.P. Mero, R.C. Kessler, and A.R. Herzog. 1994. "The Social Stratification of Aging and Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 35: 213-34.

Pappas, Gregory, Susan Queen, and Wilbur Hadley. 1993. "The Increasing Disparity in Mortality Between Socioeconomic Groups in the United States, 1960 and 1986." *New England Journal of Medicine* 329 (July 8): 103-119.

Rogers, R.G. 1992. "Living and Dying in the USA: Sociodemographic Determinants of Death Among Blacks and Whites." *Demography* 29(2): 287-303.

Recommended Readings

Ory, M.G. and H.R. Warner. 1990. "End Notes: Closing the Gender Gap? Need for Future Research." Pp. 255-257 in *Gender, Health and Longevity: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by M.G. Ory and H.R. Warner. New York: Springer.

Preston, Samuel and Paul Taubman. 1994. "Socioeconomic Differences in Adult Mortality and Health Status." Pp. 279-318 in *Demography of Aging*, edited by Linda G. Martin and Samuel H. Preston. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Zick, C.D. and K.R. Smith. 1991. "Marital Transitions, Poverty and Gender Differences in Mortality." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 53: 327-336.

October 6: Mind-Body Connection: Psychosocial Correlates of Mortality and Morbidity

Hummer, Robert A., Richard G. Rogers, Charles B. Nam, and Christopher G. Ellison. 1999. "Religious Involvement and U.S. Adult Mortality." *Demography* 36(2):273-285.

Maier, Heiner and Jacqui Smith. 1999. "Psychological Predictors of Mortality in Old Age." *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* 54B(1):P44-54.

Seeman, Teresa E., Jennifer B. Unger, Gali McAvay, and Carols F. Mendes de Leon. 1999. "Self-Efficacy Beliefs and Perceived Declines in Functional Ability: MacArthur Studies of Successful Aging." *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* 54B(4): P214-222.

Smith, Timothy W., and Linda C. Gallo. Forthcoming. "Personality Traits as Risk Factors for Physical Health." In *Handbook of Health Psychology*, edited by A. Baum, T. Revenson, and J. Singer. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Recommended Reading

Krause, Neal. 1998. "Neighborhood Deterioration, Religious Coping, and Changes in Health During Late Life." *The Gerontologist* 38(6):653-664.

Leibson, Cynthia et al. 1999. "The Role of Depression in the Association Between Self-Rated Physical Health and Clinically Defined Illness." *The Gerontologist* 39(3):291-298.

Musick, Marc A., A. Regula Herzog, and James S. House. 1999. "Volunteering and Mortality Among Older Adults: Findings From a National Sample." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 54B(3):S173-80.

October 13: Disability and Active Life Expectancy- PROPECTUS DUE

Bone, Margaret R., Andrew C. Bebbington and Geraldine Nicolas. 1998. "Policy Applications of Health Expectancy." *Journal of Aging and Health* 10(2):136-153.

Crimmins, Eileen M., Yasuhiko Saito and Dominique Ingegneri. 1989. "Changes in Life Expectancy and Disability-Free Life Expectancy in the United States." *Population and Development Review* 15(2):235-268.

Crimmins, Eileen M., Mark Hayward, and Yasuhiko Saito. 1994. "Changing Mortality and Morbidity Rates and the Health Status and Life Expectancy of the Older Population." *Demography* 31(1): 159-175.

Hayward, Mark D. and Melonie Heron. 1999. "Racial Inequality in Active Life Among Adult Americans." *Demography* 36(1):77-91.

Manton, K.G. 1989. "Epidemiological, Demographic, and Social Correlates of Disability Among the Elderly." *The Milbank Quarterly* 67(2):13-58.

Wiener, J., R. Hanley, R. Clark, and J.F. Van Nostrand. 1990. "Measuring the Activities of Daily Living: Comparisons Across National Surveys." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 45: S229-237.

Recommended Readings

Hayward, Mark D., Eileen M. Crimmins, and Yasuhiko Saito. 1998. "Cause of Death and Active Life Expectancy in the Older Population of the United States." *Journal of Health and Aging* 10(2):192-213.

Laditka, Sarah B., and Douglas A. Wolf. 1998. "New Methods for Analyzing Active Life Expectancy." *Journal of Aging and Health* 10(2):214-241.

Reynolds, Sandra L., Eileen Crimmins, and Yasuhiko Saito. 1998. "Cohort Differences in Disability and Disease Presence." *The Gerontologist* 38(5):578-590.

October 20: Work and Retirement

Couch, Kenneth A. 1998. "Late Life Job Displacement." *The Gerontologist* 38(1):7-17.

Easterlin, Richard, Christine MacDonald, and Diane J. Macunovich. 1990. "Retirement Prospects of the Baby Boom Generation." *The Gerontologist* 30(6): 776-783.

Gendell, M. and J.S. Siegel. 1996. "Trends in Retirement Age in the United States, 1955-1993, by Sex and Race." *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 51B: S132-S139.

Hayward, Mark D., Eileen M. Crimmins, and Linda A. Wray. 1994. "The Relationship Between Retirement Life Cycle Changes and Older Men's Labor Force Participation Rates." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 49(5): S219-30.

Pienta, Amy, J.A. Burr, and J.E. Mutchler. 1994. "Women's Labor Force Participation in Later Life: The Effects of Early Work and Family Experiences." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 49(5): S231-S239.

Recommended Readings

Szinovacz, Maximiliane E., and Stanley DeViney. 1999. "The Retiree Identity: Gender and Race Differences." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 54B(4): S207-S218.

Quadagno, Jill and Melissa Hardy. 1996. "Work and Retirement." Pp. 326-345 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences (4th edition)*, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. New York: Academic Press.

October 27: Family Relations and Living Arrangements

Bengston, Vern, Carolyn Rosenthal, and Linda Burton. 1996. "Paradoxes of Families and Aging." Pp. 254-282 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences (4th edition)*, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. New York: Academic Press.

Crimmins, Eileen and D. Ingegneri. 1990. "Interaction and Living Arrangements of Older Parents and Their Children: Past Trends, Present Determinants, Future Implications." *Research on Aging* 12:3-35.

Goldscheider, Calvin and Mali Jones. 1987. "Living Arrangements Among the Older Population: Constraints, Preferences and Power." Pp. 75-91 in *Ethnicity and the Family Economy*, edited by F. Goldscheider and C. Goldscheider. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Lawton, M. Powell. 1985. "Housing and Living Environments of Older People." Pp. 450-478 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences (2nd edition)*, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Ethel Shanas. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Szinovacz, Maximiliane. 1998. "Grandparents Today: A Demographic Profile." *The Gerontologist* 38(1):37-52.

Watkins, Susan C., Jane A. Menken, and John Bongaarts. 1987. "Demographic Foundations of Family Change." *American Sociological Review* 52: 346-358.

Recommended Readings

Clarke, Edward J., Mar Preston, Jo Raksin and Vern L. Bengston. 1999. "Types of Conflicts and Tensions Between Older Parents and Adult Children." *The Gerontologist* 39(3):261-270.

Goldscheider, Frances K., and Leora Lawton. 1998. "Family Experiences and the Erosion of Support for Intergenerational Coresidence." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 60(August):623-632.

November 3: Caregiving and Intergenerational Transfers

Cantor, Marjorie. 1979. "Neighbors and Friends: An Overlooked Resources in the Informal Support System." *Research on Aging* 1: 434-463.

Couch, Kenneth A., Mary C. Daly, and Douglas A. Wolf. 1999. "Time? Money? Both? The Allocation of Resources to Older Parents." *Demography* 36(2):219-232.

Doty, Pamela. 1986. "Family Care of the Elderly: The Role of Public Policy." *Milbank Quarterly* 64: 34-75.

Feldman, Penny Hollander. 1999. "Doing More for Less: Advancing the Cultural Underpinnings of Home-Based Care." *Journal of Aging and Health* 11(3):261-276.

Hogan, Dennis P. and David J. Eggebeen. 1995. "Sources of Emergency Help and Routine Assistance in Old Age." *Social Forces* 73(3): 917-936.

Stone, Robyn, G.L. Cafferata and J. Sangl. 1987. "Caregivers and the Frail Elderly: A National Profile." *The Gerontologist* 27: 616-632.

Wolf, Douglas A. 1999. "The Family as Provider of Long-Term Care: Efficiency, Equity, and Externalities." *Journal of Aging and Health* 11(3):360-382.

Recommended Readings

Soldo, Beth and Vicki A. Freedman. 1994. "Care of the Elderly: Division of Labor Among the Family, Market, and State." Pp. 195-216 in *Demography of Aging*, edited by Linda G. Martin and Samuel H. Preston. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Treas, Judith. 1977. "Family Support Systems for the Aged: Some Social and Demographic Considerations." *The Gerontologist* 17: 486-491.

Walker, Alexis and Katherine R. Allen. 1991. "Relationships Between Caregiving Daughters and their Elderly Mothers." *The Gerontologist* 31(3):389-396.

November 10: Poverty and Economic Well-Being

Crystal, Stephen and Dennis Shea. 1990. "Cumulative Advantage, Cumulative Disadvantage, and Inequality Among Elderly People." *The Gerontologist* 30(August): 437-443.

Gustman, Alan L., and F. Thomas Juster. 1996. "Income and Wealth of Older American Households: Modeling Issues for Public Policy Analysis." Pp. 11-60 in *Assessing Knowledge of Retirement Behavior*, edited by Eric A. Hanushek and Nancy L. Maritato. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Meyer, M.H. 1990. "Family Status and Poverty Among Older Women: The Gendered Distribution of Retirement Income in the United States." *Social Problems* 37: 551-563.

Rank, Mark R. and Thomas A. Hirschl. 1999. "Estimating the Proportion of Americans Ever Experiencing Poverty During Their Elderly Years." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 54(B): S184-S193.

Recommended Readings

Crystal, Stephen. 1996. "Economic Status of the Elderly." Pp. 388-409 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences (4th edition)*, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. New York: Academic Press.

Preston, Samuel. 1984. "Children and the Elderly: Divergent Paths for America's Dependents." *Demography* 21(4): 435-458.

Schulz, James H. 1996. "Economic Security Policies." Pp. 410-426 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences (4th edition)*, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. New York: Academic Press.

November 17: Successful Aging- Coping and Adaptation

Baltes, P.B. and M.M. Baltes. 1990. "Psychological Perspectives on Successful Aging: A Model of Selective Optimization with Compensation." Pp.1-34 in *Successful Aging: Perspectives From the Behavioral Sciences*, edited by P.B. Baltes and M.M. Baltes. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Freund, Alexandra M., and Paul B. Baltes. 1998. "Selection, Optimization, and Compensation as Strategies of Life Management: Correlations with Subjective Indicators of Successful Aging." *Psychology and Aging* 13(4):531-43.

Rowe, John W. and Robert L. Kahn. 1997. "Successful Aging." *The Gerontologist* 37(4): 433-440.

Smith, Jacqui and Margret M. Baltes. 1998. "The Role of Gender in Very Old Age: Profiles of Functioning and Everyday Life Patterns." *Psychology and Aging* 13(4):676-695.

Recommended Readings

Abeles, R.P., H.G. Gift, and M. G. Ory. 1994. *Aging and the Quality of Life*. New York: Springer.

Roussel, R.H. 1985. "Aging Upward: How to Win While Growing Old." *Aging* 349: 19-22.

November 24: Happy Thanksgiving!

December 8: Successful Aging: Psychological Well-Being

Koropeckyj-Cox, Tanya. 1998. "Loneliness and Depression in Middle and Old Age: Are the Childless More Vulnerable?" *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 53B(6):S303-312.

Gallo, Joseph J., Lisa Cooper-Patrick, and Sandra Lesikar. 1998. "Depressive Symptoms of Whites and African Americans Aged 60 Years and Older." *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* 53B(5):P277-287.

Mirowsky, John. 1996. "Age and the Gender Gap in Depression." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 37:362-380.

Moen, Phyllis, Donna Dempster-McClain, and R. Williams, Jr. 1992. "Successful Aging: A Life Course Perspective on Women's Roles and Health." *American Journal of Sociology* 97(6): 1612-1638.

Roberts, Robert E., George A. Kaplan, Sarah J. Shema, and William J. Strawbridge. 1997. "Prevalence and Correlates of Depression in an Aging Cohort: The Alameda County Study." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 52B(5):S252-258.

Recommended Readings

Gibson, Stephen J. 1997. "The Measurement of Mood States in Older Adults." *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* 52B(4):P167-174.

Uncapher, Heather, Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, Nancy J. Osgood, and Bruce Bongar. 1998. "Hopelessness and Suicidal Ideation in Older Adults." *The Gerontologist* 38(1):62-70.

December 8: Student paper presentations

Have a wonderful holiday season!