

SOCY 749-TOPICS IN DEMOGRAPHY: DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a graduate-level introduction to the study of the social demography of aging. The course assumes no prior training in demography or gerontology. You are required to have completed one graduate-level statistics course. The premise underlying this course is that population aging will be the major demographic phenomenon affecting the nation's institutions into the next century. The course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive examination of the trends, projections and scenarios that may unfold as the society ages. In order to understand how population aging will affect our societal institutions, we must understand both the historical dimensions and future directions of a number of issues. In this course we will examine three basic themes: 1) trends in aging and health of populations, 2) demographic and health transitions experienced by older individuals and families, and 3) issues confronting an aging society.

COURSE STRUCTURE and REQUIREMENTS:

The course will meet 11 times to discuss assigned readings. Because this is a small graduate-level class, it will be organized as a seminar rather than a lecture course. I expect each person to have thoroughly read all the assigned material, and to be involved in the class discussion at each meeting. To facilitate discussion I am requiring that *at the beginning of every class* you hand in at least a page of questions, comments, ideas, or reactions to the assigned readings. (You also should have a copy for yourself so you can refer to it.) This is an important requirement of the course and is **worth half of your final grade**. There are 11 sets of readings. For each student 10 of these will be counted at a maximum of 5 points each. This allows you one day to be absent or one missed assignment.

In addition, you will be required to do a *research project*.

- 1) You may write a research paper (15-20 typed pages) on a topic of your choosing in the demography of aging. The paper should review the relevant literature, discuss the major debates or issues, come to a conclusion about the state of our knowledge in the area (what do we know, what do we need to know?), and suggest possible avenues for future research.
- 2) You may write a paper presenting original research. The paper must present some original data analysis or qualitative study. The paper should be of "publishable quality." I don't expect the paper to be publishable as is, but it should have the potential to be successfully reviewed by a professional journal.

You will be expected to present to the class an overview of your research project at the end of the semester. The papers are due on May 3 at the beginning of the class. The research project and presentation will account for the other **50% of your final grade**.

READING LIST FOR SOCY 749--Prof. V.L. Lamb

Overview of Demography of Aging:

Myers, G.C. 1990. Demography of Aging. Pp. 19-44 in R. H. Binstock and L.K. George, *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, 3rd Edition*. New York: Academic Press.

Grigsby, J.S. 1991. Paths for Future Population Aging. *The Gerontologist*, 31 (2): 195-203.

Angel, J.L. & Hogan, D.P. 1992. The Demography of Minority Aging Populations. *Journal of Family History*, 17 (1): 95-115.

Demographic, Epidemiologic Transitions:

Omran, A.R. 1983. The Epidemiologic Transition Theory. A Preliminary Update. *Journal of Tropical Pediatrics*, 29: 305-316.

Myers, G.C. & Lamb, V.L. 1993. Theoretical Perspectives on healthy life expectancy. Pp. 109-119 in J-M. Robine, et al., *Calculation of Health Expectancies: Harmonization, consensus achieved and future perspectives*. Montrouge(France): John Libbey Eurotext.

Mortality:

Livi-Bacci, M. 1982. Social and Biological Aging: Contradictions of Development. *Population and Development Review*, 8 (4): 771-781.

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

Guralnik, J.M. et al. 1988. Projecting the Older Population of the United States: Lessons from the Past and Prospects for the Future. *The Milbank Quarterly*, 66 (2): 283-308.

Issues of Mortality:

Fries, J.F. 1980. Aging, Natural Death, and the Compression of Morbidity. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 303 (July 17): 130-135.

Schneider, E.L. & Brody, J. A. 1983. Aging, Natural Death, and the Compression of Morbidity: Another View. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 309 (Oct. 6): 854-855.

Olshansky, S.J. et al. 1990. In Search of Methuselah: Estimating the Upper Limits to Human Longevity. *Science*, 250 (Nov. 2): 634-640.

Barinaga, M. 1991. How Long is the Human Life-Span? *Science*, 254 (Nov. 15): 936-938.

Health and Disablement:

Riley, J.C. 1990. The Risk of Being Sick: Morbidity Trends in Four Countries. *Population and Development Review*, 16 (3): 403-432.

Verbrugge, L.M. et al. 1989. Comorbidity and Its Impact on Disability. *The Milbank Quarterly*, 67 (3-4): 450-484.

Crimmins, E.M. et al. 1994. Changing Mortality and Morbidity Rates and the Health Status and Life Expectancy of the Older Population. *Demography*, 31 (1): 159-175.

Morbidity/Mortality Differentials:

Pappas, G. et al. 1993. The Increasing Disparity in Mortality Between Socioeconomic Groups in the United States, 1960 and 1986. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 329 (July 8): 103-109.

House, J.S. et al. 1994. The Social Stratification of Aging and Health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 35: 213-234.

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

Rogers, R.G. 1995. Marriage, Sex, and Mortality. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 57:515-526.

Effects on the Family:

Watkins, S.C. et al. 1987. Demographic Foundations of Family Change. *American Sociological Review*, 52 : 346-358.

Wolf, D.A. & Soldo, B.J. 1988. Household Composition Choices of Older Unmarried Women. *Demography*, 25:387-403.

Goldscheider, F.K. 1990. The Aging of the Gender Revolution. *Research on Aging*, 12 (4): 531-545.

Tamara K. Hareven. 1994. Aging and Generational Relations. A Historical and Life Course Perspective. *Annual Review of Sociology* 20:437-61.

Elderly Migration:

Wiseman, R.F. 1980. Why Older People Move. *Research on Aging*, 2 (2): 141-1154.

Longino, C.F. 1990. Geographical Distribution and Migration. Pp. 45-63 in R. H. Binstock and L.K. George, *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, 3rd Edition*,. New York: Academic Press.

Longino, C.F. & Smith, K.J. 1991. Black Retirement Migration in the United States. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 46 (3): S125-132.

Consequences of Population Aging:

Mancini, J.A. & Blieszner, R. 1989. Aging Parents and Adult Children: Research Themes in Intergenerational Relations. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 51: 275-290.

Mutchler, J.E. 1990. Household Composition Among the Nonmarried Elderly: A Comparison of Black and White Women. *Research on Aging*, 12 (4): 487-506.

Spitze, G. & Logan, J. 1990. Sons, Daughters, and Intergenerational Social Support. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 52: 420-430.

Speare, A. et al. 1991. Disability, Residential Mobility, and Changes in Living Arrangements. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 46 (3): S133-142.

Economics of Aging:

Doty, P. 1986. Family Care of the Elderly: The Role of Public Policy. *The Milbank Quarterly*, 64 (1): 34-75.

Moon, M. 1988. The Economic Situation of Older Americans: Emerging Wealth and Continuing Hardship. *Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 8: 102-131. (Springer Pub Co)

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

Consequences of Retirement:

Hayward, M.D. et al. 1988. Recent Changes in Mortality and Labor Force Behavior Among Older Americans: Consequences for Nonworking Life Expectancy. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 43 (6): S194-199.

Burkhauser, R.V. et al. 1988. Incidence, Timing, and Events Associated With Poverty: A Dynamic View of Poverty in Retirement. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 43 (2): S46-52.

Bound, J. et al. 1991. Poverty Dynamics in Widowhood. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 46 (3): S115-124.

Easterlin, R.A. et al. 1990. Retirement Prospects of the Baby Boom Generation: A Different Perspective. *The Gerontologist*, 30 (6): 776-783.