

Spring 1993
Fri. 2-5

SOCIOLOGY 226L:

THE DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING

Professor: Merrill Silverstein
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Course objectives:

This is a graduate-level introduction to the study of the social demography of aging. The course assumes no prior training in demography, although some knowledge of empirical techniques will be helpful. Advanced undergraduate students are welcome, but should speak to the instructor beforehand.

Students who cover the course requirements can expect to acquire a basic understanding of the causes and consequences of population aging. While, the focus will be on micro and macro aspects of contemporary aging in the United States, there will be some attention paid to historical and cross-national issues. In the 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) social and policy issues confronting an aging society.

Course structure

The class will meet thirteen times. The readings are designed to present both theoretical and empirical treatments of the topic for each week. Class time will be roughly divided into two parts. For approximately 1/2 of the class, I will present an overview of the subject for that week and lead a class discussion. The remainder of the class will be devoted to student presentations (see below) and discussion generated by the presentations.

Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to attend class, keep up with the readings and contribute to class discussions.
2. Six short (2-3 page) essays that *briefly* summarize and critique the readings for the assigned weeks. These essays will be presented to the class in short (10-15 minute)

presentations, which will provide the basis for class discussion. The essays are intended to give you an opportunity to react to the material, so be provocative and daring in your comments -- how do the ideas in the readings *strike* you? Take a point of view and defend it! Students may choose the class sessions for which they will be responsible and are encouraged to coordinate and collaborate with others presenting in the same session. *Remember, that you are required to read the articles for all class sessions.*

3. A final paper (15-20 pages) is due May 10th. The topic will be one of your choosing in the demography of aging. A very short (half page) proposal should be provided to me before you start. The final paper should review the relevant literature, discuss the major intellectual debates, 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 promising avenues for future research.

The weights for the final grade will be as follows:

10% class discussion
40% short essays
50% final paper

COURSE TOPICS

I. Causes of Populations Aging I (January 29)

- * Serrow, William J., Donald Sly and J. Michael Wrigley. 1990. Population Aging in the United States. Chapter 1: "Trends in Population Aging." New York: Greenwood Press.
- * Coale, A.J. 1964. "How a Population Ages or Grows Younger" Pp. 47-58 in R. Friedman, Population: The Vital Revolution. New York: Doubleday.

II. Causes of Population Aging II (February 5)

- * Rosenwaike, Ira and Arthur Dolinsky. 1987. "The Changing Demographic Determinants of the Growth of the Extreme Aged." The Gerontologist. 27: 275-280.
- * Treas, Judith. 1981. "The Great American Fertility Debate: Generational Balance and Support of the Aged". The Gerontologist. 21: 98-105.
- * Grigsby, Jill. 1991. "Paths for Future Population Aging." The Gerontologist. 31: 195-203.
- * Myers, George, Boyle, Barbara T. and Kevin G. Kinsela. "The Paradox of the Oldest Old in the United States: An International Comparison" in 58-84 in Richard Suzman, David Willis and Kenneth Manton. The Oldest Old. New York: Oxford University Press.

III. Aging, Periods and Cohorts (February 12)

- * Riley, Matilda W., Anne Foner and Joan Waring. 1991. "Sociology of Age". Pp. 243-281 in Neil Smelser (Ed.) Handbook of Sociology.
- * Bengtson, Vern L. and Dale Dannefer. 1987. "Families, Work and Aging: Implications of Disordered Cohort Flow for the Twenty-First Century." Pp. 256-289 in Health in Aging: Sociological Issues and Policy Directions. New York: Springer.
- * Ryder, N. 1965. "The Cohort as a Concept in the Study of Social Change." American Sociological Review. 30: 843-861.
- * Easterlin, R. C. MacDonald and D. Macunovich. 1990. "Retirement

Prospects of the Baby-Boom Generation" The Gerontologist. 30: 776-783.

- * Cutler, Neal E. 1981. "Political Characteristics of Elderly Cohorts in the Twenty-First Century." Pp. 127-155 in S. Kiesler et. al. Aging and Social Change. New York: Academic Press.

IV. Mortality and Morbidity (February 19)

- * Fries, James. 1980. "Aging, Natural Death and the Compression of Morbidity." The New England Journal of Medicine 303: 130-135.
- * Myers, George and Kenneth Manton. 1984. "Compression of Morbidity: Myth or Reality?" The Gerontologist. 24: 346-353.
- * Suzman, Richard, Tamara Harris, Even C. Hadley, Mary Grace Kovar and Richard Weindruch. 1992. "The Robust Oldest Old: Optimistic Perspectives for Increasing Life Expectancy." Pp. 341-358 in R. Suzman et. al. The Oldest Old.
- * 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: 235-267.
- * Manton, Kenneth and George Myers. 1987. "Recent Trends in Multiple-Caused Mortality 1968 to 1982". Population Research and Policy Review. 6: 161-176.

V. Family Structure and Intergenerational Relations (February 26)

- * Treas, Judith. 1977. "Family Support Systems for the Aged: Some Social and Demographic Considerations." The Gerontologist. 17:486-491.
- * Watkins, Susan C., Jane A. Menken and John Bongaarts. 1987. "Demographic Foundations of Family Change". American Sociological Review. 52: 346-358.
- * Uhlenberg, Peter. 1980. "Death and the Family". Journal of Family History. 313-320.
- * Eggebeen, David J., and Hogan, Dennis P. 1990. "Giving Between Generations in American Families." Human Nature, 1: 211-232.
- * E. Hammel, K. Wachter and C.K. McDaniel. 1981. "The Kin of the

Aged in A.D. 2000: The Chickens Come Home to Roost." Pp. 11-35 in S. Kiesler (Ed.) Aging and Social Change. New York: Academic Press.

VI. The Generational Equity Debate (March 5)

- * Moody, Harry. 1992. Ethics in an Aging Society. Pp. 187-207. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.
- * Preston, Samuel H. 1984. "Children and the Elderly: Divergent Paths for America's Dependents" Demography. 21: 435-457.
- * Battin, Margaret P. "Age Rationing and the Just Distribution of Health Care: Is There a Duty to Die?". pp. 69-94 in Timothy M. Smeeding (Ed.). Should Medical Care Be Rationed By Age. New Jersey: Rowman and Littlefield.
- * Callahan, Daniel. 1987. Setting Limits. Chapter 5. "Allocating Resources to the Elderly" Pp. 115-158. New York: Simon and Schuster.

VII. Living Arrangements and Marital Status (March 12)

- * Crimmins, Eileen and Dominique Ingegneri. 1990. "Interaction and Living Arrangements of Older Parents and their Children: Past Trends, Present Determinants, Future Implications." Research on Aging. 12: 3-35.
- * Chappell, Neena. 1991. "Living Arrangements and Sources of Caregiving." Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences. 46: 51-58.
- * Aquilino, William S. 1990. "The Likelihood of Parent-Adult Child Coresidence: Effects of Family Structure and Parental Characteristics". Journal of Marriage and the Family. 52: 405-419.
- * Calvin Goldscheider and Mali Jones. 1987. "Living Arrangements Among the Older Population: Constraints, Preferences and Power" In F. Goldscheider and C. Goldscheider (Eds.) Ethnicity and the New Family Economy. Boulder CO: Westview Press.
- * Lopata, Helena. 1982. "Societal Factors in Life-Span Disruptions" Pp. 385-392 in Schaie and Geiwitz (eds). Adult Development and Aging.

- * Kobrin, Frances. 1976. "The Fall of Household Size and the Rise of the Primary Individual in the United States." Demography. 13: 127-138.

VIII. Migration and Geographical Distribution (March 19)

- * Litwak Eugene and Charles F. Longino. 1987. "Migration Patters Among the Elderly: A Developmental Perspective." The Gerontologist. 27: 266-272.
- * Speare, Alden and James McNally. 1991. "The Relation Between Migration and Household Change Among Elderly Persons." Paper presented at the Conference on Elderly Migration, Aspen Colorado.
- * Wiseman, Robert F. 1980. "Why Older People Move: Theoretical Issues" Research on Aging. 2: 141-154.
- * Dewit, David J. and B. Gail Frankel. 1988. "Geographic Distance and Intergenerational Contact: A Critical Assessment and Review of the Literature." Journal of Aging Studies. 2: 25-43.
- * Heaton, Tim B. 1983. "Recent Trends in the Geographical Distribution of the Elderly Population." Pp. 95-111 in Aging and Society. Matilda W. Riley et. al. (Eds.) New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

IX Gender and Aging (March 26)

- * Verbrugge, Lois. 1989. "Gender, Aging and Health". Pp. 23-73. in Kyriakos Markides (Ed.) Aging and Health: Perspectives on Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Class. Newbury Park: Sage.
- * Hagestad, Gundhild O. 1986. "The Family: Women and Grandparents as Kin-Keepers." in Our Aging Society. A. Pifer and L. Bronte (Eds.) New York: W.W. Norton.
- * Brody, Elaine. (1981). "Women in the Middle and Family Help to Older People." The Gerontologist. 21: 471-480.
- * Goldscheider Frances. 1990. "The Aging of the Gender Revolution" Research on Aging. 12: 531-545.

SPRING BREAK: APRIL 2

X. Historical Demography (April 9)

- * Ruggles. S. Prolonged Connections: The Rise of the Extended Family in 19th Century England and America. Chapter I, Pp. 3-29.
- * Laslett, Peter. A Fresh Map of Life. (Chapters to be announced)
- * Smith, David S. 1981. "Historical Change in the Household Structure of the Elderly in Economically Developed Societies." Pp. 91-111 in Robert Fogel et. al. (Eds.) Aging: Stability and Change in the Family. New York: Academic Press.
- * Kertzer, David. 1993. "Widowhood and Coresidence in 19th Century Italy." Reprint.

XI Ethnic and Socioeconomic Dimensions (April 16)

- * Kenneth Manton. 1982. "Temporal and Age Variation of United States Black/White Cause-Specific Mortality Differentials: A Study of Recent Changes in the Relative Health Status of the United States Black Population" The Gerontologist. 22: 170-179.
- * Markides, Kyriakos. 1983. "Minority Aging" Pp. 115-133 in Matilda W. Riley et. al. (Eds.) Aging in Society.
- * Treas, Judy and Barbara Logue. 1986. "Economic Development and the Older Population". Population and Development Review. 12: 645-673.
- * Espanshade, Thomas and Rachel E. Braun. 1983. "Economic Aspects of an Aging Population and the Material Well-Being of Older Persons." Pp. 25-49 in Matilda Riley, Beth Hess and Kathleen Bond (Eds.) Aging in Society.
- * Easterlin, Richard A. 1991. "The Economic Impact of Prospective Populations Changes in Advanced Industrial Countries: An Historical Perspective" Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences. 46: S299-309.

XII. Social Epidemiology of Aging (April 23)

- * Minkler, Meredith. 1985. "Social Support and Health of the Elderly." Pp. 199-216 in Sheldon Cohen and S. Leonard Syme (Eds.) Social Support and Health. New York: Academic Press.
- * Berkman, Lisa F. 1983. "The Assessment of Social Networks and Social Support in the Elderly." Journal of the American Geriatrics Society 31: 743-749.
- * Litwak Eugene and Peter Messeri 1989 "Organizational theory, social supports and mortality rates: A theoretical convergence." American Sociological Review. 54: 49-66.
- * Blazer, Dan G. 1982. "Social Support and Mortality in an Elderly Community Population." American Journal of Epidemiology 115: 684-694.
- * Silverstein, Merril, & Bengtson, Vern L. 1991. Do Close Parent-Child Relations Reduce the Mortality Risk of Older Parents? A Test of the Direct and Buffering Effects of Intergenerational Affection. The Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 32: 82-395.

XIII Long-Term Care and Public Health Policy (April 30)

- * Branch, L. A. Sager and A. Myers. 1987. "Long-Term Care in the United States: A Study in Trench Warfare. Pp. 214-231 In Russell Ward and Sheldon Tobin (Eds.) Health in Aging: Sociological Issues and Policy Directions.
- * Weiner, J., Hanley, D. Spense and D. Coupard. 1987. "Money, Money, Whose Got the Money: Financing Options for Long-Term Care." Pp. 233-248 In Russell Ward and Sheldon Tobin (Eds.) Health in Aging: Sociological Issues and Policy Directions.
- * Doty, Pamela. 1986. "Family Care of the Elderly: The Role of Public Policy" Milbank Fund Memorial Quarterly. 64: 34-75.
- * Estes, Carol and Philip R. Lee. 1987. "Health Problems and Policy Issues of Old Age." Pp. 335-355 in Linda H. Aiken and David Mechanic (Eds.) Applications of Social Science to Clinical Medicine and Health Policy. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
- * Mechanic, David. 1989. "Health Care and the Elderly" Annals, AAPSS 89-98.