Demography of Aging

Instructor: Albert I. Hermalin

Time of Meeting: TUESDAY 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Place of Meeting: 4050 LS&A

Office Hours: I will generally hold 2:00-4:00 on Wednesday open for office hours. I am also available by appointment at PSC or LSA. My office at LSA is 3042 (7-4432) and my tel. # at PSC is 8-7143.

Course Objective: The goal of the course is to provide you with insight into those aspects of demographic analysis that have a clear relation to gerontology—like the nature and measures of age structure, and the life table—as well as a more subtle set of demographic perspectives that will prove useful for micro and macro modelling (see topics below). Attention will also be paid to computer programs with special relevance to the demography of aging, sources of data, and several issues in research methods.

Courses in the Demography of Aging are still evolving. This is only the second time such a course is being taught within the Department of Sociology at Michigan. A review of syllabi on this topic collected by RAND (available for perusal) shows a wide variety of approaches. As the boundaries of the field are fluid and the interests and backgrounds of the class are likely to cover a wide range, I will be guided to some extent by your goals (and the size of the class) in deciding on topics to emphasize and the range of formats to use. Accordingly the first class or two will be devoted in part to these issues since our registration system provides little advance notice on the size and composition of the class. The suggested format and content below, therefore, should be regarded as tentative and my best guess of what will work.

Format and Requirements: This will be a combination of a lecture course and seminar. On some topics I will review the issues and material but questions and discussions are always welcome. It is expected that students will be able to complement the lecture and readings from their own studies, research, and experience in gerontology. Please read the material assigned for each week on schedule in order to maximize discussion.

In addition each student will be expected to pick a topic and lead the discussion on that topic during the semester. We will discuss the topics, scheduling, and length of time at the first or second class, once the class size is determined.

In addition to your seminar leadership, you will be expected to write two "mid-size" papers one on a methodological or data issue in the demography of aging and one on a substantive topic. Examples of topics and schedules will be discussed in class. Each of these tasks will count for 30% of your grade, with the remaining 10% based on class participation.
TOPICS AND CALENDAR

I. Introduction: General Perspectives
   (Cohort Succession, Denominators, Transitions)  Sept. 14

II. Determinants of Age Structure  Sept. 21, 28
   Measures of Population Aging
   World Trends; Country and Group Differences
   Growth in Absolute Size of Elderly Population
   Changes in Relative Number of Older Persons

III. Measuring Mortality  Sept. 28, Oct. 4, 11
    The Life Table
    Special Problems at Older Ages
    Trends in Older Age Mortality
    Increases in Life Expectancy
    Projecting Mortality
    Differentials in Older Age Mortality
    (by sex, across groups, countries, etc.)
    Causes of Death--Differentials, Trends, Measurement Issues

IV. Measuring Health, Morbidity and Disability  Oct. 18, 25
    The Epidemiological Transition
    Co-morbidity
    Incidence and Prevalence Measures
    Active Life Expectancy, Problems and Estimates
    Issues Arising for Oldest-Old

V. A. Major Issues in Mortality, Morbidity  Oct. 25, Nov. 2
    The Compression of Mortality/Morbidity
    Heterogeneity and Frailty
    Crossover Effects

B. Other Measurement Issues  Nov. 2
    Measuring Changes in Composition over Time
    Measuring Changes in Status over the Life Cycle

VI. Characteristics of the Elderly  Nov. 9, 16
    Physical and Emotional Well-being
    Economic Status
    Labor Force and Retirement
    Marital Status and Living Arrangements
    Support and Exchanges
    Measurement and Theoretical Issues
VII. Modelling the Determinants and Consequences of Demographic Events
   Determinants of Mortality, Migration, Living Arrangements
   Consequences of Migration, Marital Status Changes
   Analyzing Support and Exchange Systems

VIII. Societal Consequences of Population Aging
      Health Budgets and Expenditures
      Social Welfare Programs
      Family and Generational Structures
      Economic Security and Savings
      Economic Development/Productivity
      Social Mobility/Social Status/Intergenerational Relations

IX. Other Topics
    Sources of Data on Aging
    Special Considerations in Survey Research
    Special Considerations in Censuses
    Qualitative Approaches
    Life Course Analysis
    Simulations
    Longitudinal Studies
    Case and Country Studies

BOOKS AND MATERIAL

A course pack of articles is available from Dollar Bill. All the required readings will be in the course pack, except chapters from two books,


Both of these books plus additional references and reading materials too bulky for reproduction will be on file in Room 53 at PSC after September 28. Please ask Ingrid Naaman to show you the exact location and follow the rules with regard to circulation.

    Items that will be on file are marked with an asterisk. Other material will also be on file, and lists will be provided.
READINGS

I. Introduction: General Perspectives


II. Overview; Measures of Population Aging, Determinants of Age Structure

Myers, George C. 1990. "Demography of aging." Chapter 2 in Binstock and George. (pp. 19-44)


Suggested and/or References:


III. Measuring Mortality; The Life Table, Special Problems at Older Ages

Trends in Older Age Mortality; Increases in Life Expectancy
Projections of Mortality; Differentials in Older Age Mortality
Causes of Death: Measurement and Differentials


Suggested and/or Reference:


IV. Measuring Health, Morbidity and Disability at Older Ages
Incidence and Prevalence of Various Impairments
Active Live Expectancy, Problems and Estimates
Issues Arising for Oldest-Old


V.A. Major Issues in Mortality, Morbidity

The "Compression" of Mortality/Morbidity

Heterogeneity and Frailty; Crossover Effects

Manton, Kenneth G. 1990. "Mortality and morbidity." Chapter 4 in Binstock and George. (pp.64-90)


Suggested and/or Reference:

V.B. Other Measurement Issues

Changes in Composition Over Time
Changes in Status Over time
Survey Design Issues


VI. Characteristics of the Elderly

Physical and Emotional Well-being
Economic Status
Labor Force and Retirement
Marital Status and Living Arrangements
Support and Exchanges
Measurement and Theoretical Issues

*Matras, Judah. 1990. "The social demography of aging II: Life years, the life course, and the family cycle." Chapter 3 in Dependency, Obligations, & Entitlements: A New Sociology of Aging, the Life Course and the Elderly. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. (pp. 40-61)


Reference:

*Taeuber, Cynthia M.  Sixty-Five Plus in America *

*Bureau of the Census, An Aging World II,  International Population Reports, P95/92-3 *

Suggested:

*Antonucci, Toni C. 1990. "Social supports and social relationships."  Chapter 11 in Binstock and George. (pp. 205-226) *

*Markides, Kyriakos S., Jersey Liang and James S. Jackson. 1990. "Race, ethnicity, and aging: Conceptual and methodological issues."  Chapter 6 in Binstock and George. (pp.112-129) *

VII. Modelling the Determinants and Consequences of Demographic Events (micro level); Determinants of Mortality, Morbidity, Migration and Living Arrangements; Consequences of Migration, Marital Status Change; Analyzing Support and Exchange Systems


Suggested and/or Reference:

VIII. Social Consequences of Population Aging; Health Budgets and Expenditures  
April 7  
Social Welfare Program; Family and Generational Structures;  
Economic Security and Savings; Economic Development/Productivity  
Social Mobility/Social Status; Intergenerational Relations


*Habib, Jack. 1990. "Population aging and the economy." Chapter 17 in Binstock and George. (pp.328-345) *


**Suggested and/or Reference:**


*Keith, Jenny. 1990. "Age in social and cultural context: Anthropological perspectives." Chapter 5 in Binstock and George. (pp. 91-111) *

IX. Other Topics
Sources of Data on Aging; Special Considerations
in Survey Research and Censuses; Qualitative Approaches;
Life Course Analysis; Simulations; Longitudinal Studies;
Case and Country Studies


Suggested and/or References:
