SOCIOLOGY 566

THE SOCIOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING

WINTER 1993

Instructor: Linda Waite

Meeting Time: Tuesday 2:00pm to 4:30pm

Classroom: SS

Office: NORC 162

Office Hours: immediately after class and by appointment

Telephone: 702-0784 (NORC) 708 835-8451 (home)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will examine various demographic, social, economic, policy issues of living in an aging society. We will cover population changes that cause populations to become older, the implications of those changes for social relations between and within the generations, the economic demands of an aging society, and issues of social participation, intergenerational equity, health and health care.

The class will follow a seminar format, with discussion of the assigned readings by the class. Students must read all assignments prior to class; preparedness and participation in class discussions will be included in the grade for the course. Students will also complete several short critiques of assigned articles.

In addition, over the quarter students will select a topical area of special interest to them and prepare an annotated bibliography on that issue or topic. Students will also prepare a research paper--actually the first half of a research paper, including statement of the problem, background, hypotheses, and data.
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

March 30 & April 1  The causes of population aging: Past demographic change, Projections for the future
April 6  Aging in Other Times and Places
April 8 & 13  Social Consequences of Population Aging
April 13 & 15  Economic Consequences of Population Aging
April 20 & 22  Generational Conflict in an Aging Society
April 27  Widowhood and Loss
April 29  Midterm
May 4  Intergeneration Relations
May 6  Social and Political Participation
May 11 & 13  Work and Retirement
May 18 & 20  Health and Health Care
May 25  Memorial Day  No Class
May 27  Public Policies: Social Security, Medicare, Mandatory Retirement
June 1  Ethical Issues in an Aging Society
June 3  Final Exam

1. Causes of Population Aging: (March 30 & April 1)


2. Aging in Other Times and Places (April 6)


3. Social Consequences of Aging (April 8 & 13)


4. Economic Consequences of Aging (April 13)


5. Generational Conflict in an Aging Society (April 20 & 22)


Wynne, E., "Will the Young Support the Old?" in Pifer and Bronte, Our Aging Society, pp. 243-261.
6. **Death, Widowhood and Loss** (April 27)


The Bereavement Gap, *American Demographics* ??

7. **Midterm** (April 29)

8. **Intergeneration Relations:** (May 4)


9. **Social and Political Participation:** (May 6)


10. **Work and Retirement:** (May 11 & 13)
11. Health and Health Care: (May 18 & 20)

A. Individual Health and Aging.


B. Health Care


12. Memorial Day--no class

13. Public Policies: Social Security, Medicare, Mandatory Retirement (May 27)


14. Ethical Issues in an Aging Society (June 1)


15. Final Exam

Additional Readings for Graduate Seminar

