Overview
This is a course in population aging and its social, economic and political ramifications. It will examine basic models of demographic and health transitions, trends in aging and health status, characteristics of medical care and long-term care, and the implications of these for the development of public policy. Emphasis will be placed on life course approaches to the study of aging. Specific topics include health, functional status, and well-being; socioeconomic status and inequality; family structure and living arrangements; formal and informal long-term care; early life predictors of health and longevity; generational equity; neighborhood social context. We will begin with micro-level considerations such as health and functional status. We then shift the unit of analysis to family formation and social networks. Finally, we close with neighborhood effects. We will use the City of Chicago as case study. We will examine the extent to which age, and aging neighborhoods, shape political and social forces in our community. To extend this theme, we will explore in depth the 1995 Chicago heat wave; we will pay particular attention to the roles that social isolation and neighborhood social context play in the lives of older adults.

Text/Readings
Required:


Readings will be posted on the Chalk website.

Suggested resources:


**Course Requirements**

For the course to be successful, all readings must be completed prior to class. Each student is expected to lead the discussion for at least one or two sessions, using the required and/or suggested readings to create a framework (suggested readings will be determined by course participants). To lead the discussion, the student should prepare a brief overview of the session and its readings and create a list of at least four discussion questions for the group. These should be posted to the Chalk Discussion Board prior to class. Students are encouraged to bring in supplemental materials to round out the discussion. Students are also encouraged to respond to Discussion Board postings.

Students will write a paper on a topic of their interest related to the demography of aging. The paper may be a review of the literature or an empirical investigation. It may be an extension of a work-in-progress, but must be an original contribution to that greater project. A three to five-page proposal for the paper is due Oct 22. The proposal should include a statement of the problem, the theoretical or conceptual framework, and the methodological approach. Students will share the proposal with two classmates. These “reviewers” will prepare a one-page critique of the proposal, with specific questions and suggestions for the paper. The critiques are due Nov 6. Students will present the paper topic and any findings during the last two course sessions of the quarter. The final paper is due Dec 7.

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critiques of student proposals</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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**COURSE OUTLINE**

1. **SEPT 24**

   **COURSE OVERVIEW**
   **INTRODUCTIONS**
   **DISCUSSION OF GENERAL THEMES IN POPULATION AGING**

   NO READINGS

2. **SEPT 26**

   **SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF AGING**


Prologue and Introduction in *Heat Wave*

3 OCT 1

**DEMOGRAPHIC APPROACHES/ASSESSMENT**

Alwin, Hofer, and McCammon, Chap 2 in *Handbook*


4 OCT 3

**MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY/CHRONIC CARE**


Chap 1 in *Heat Wave*
5 OCT 8

DISABILITY AND ACTIVE LIFE EXPECTANCY

George, Chap 18 in Handbook


6 OCT 10

HEALTH CARE AND THE AGING POPULATION

Moon, Chap 21 in Handbook


Chap 2 in Heat Wave

7 OCT 15

FAMILY STRUCTURE AND CAREGIVING


8 OCT 17

FORMAL AND INSTITUTIONAL LONG-TERM CARE

guest speaker
Adedeze Akamigbo, PhD
Posdoctoral Fellow
Center for Health and the Social Sciences
University of Chicago

Stone, Chap 22 in Handbook


Chap 3 in Heat Wave

9 OCT 22

SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

Moren-Cross and Lin, Chap 7 in Handbook

Krause, Chap 11 in Handbook


Putnam, R.D. *Bowling Alone*. (Chapter 20, Health and happiness).


10 OCT 24

**ECONOMIC STATUS/INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONS**

Silverstein, Chap 10 in *Handbook*

Holden and Hatcher, Chap 13, in *Handbook*


Chap 4 in *Heat Wave*

11 OCT 29

**RACE, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND INEQUALITY**


**12 OCT 31**

**MIGRATION AND COMMUNITY CHANGE**

Longino and Bradley, Chap 5 in *Handbook*


Chap 5 in *Heatwave*

**13 NOV 5**

**AGING IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY AND THE LATINO PARADOX**


14 NOV 7

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL CONTEXT: SOCIAL STRUCTURE, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL DISORDER


Conclusion and Epilogue in *Heat Wave*

15 NOV 12

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL CONTEXT: SOCIAL NETWORKS, COLLECTIVE EFFICACY AND THE CASE OF THE CHICAGO HEAT WAVE

Guest Lecture:
Christopher Browning
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
Ohio State University


**LIFE COURSE APPROACHES**

O’Rand, Chap 9 in *Handbook*


**LIFE COURSE METHODS AND MEASUREMENT**


A RETURN TO AGE, PERIOD, AND COHORT

Guest Lecture:
Yang Yang
Assistant Professor
Dept of Sociology
University of Chicago


Land and Yang, Chap 3 in Handbook


19 NOV 26

CROSS-NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES (ON EARLIER THEMES)


20  NOV 28
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

21  DEC 3
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS