DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING AND THE LIFE COURSE
Health Studies 352
Winter Quarter 2009 – Monday 3:00-5:50 PM
Room: The President’s Conference Room, NORC

Faculty
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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 one session, 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 Feb 16. 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 Feb 23. Students will present the paper topic and any findings during the last two course sessions of the quarter. The final paper is due Mar 20.

**Evaluation**

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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Critiques of student proposals</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Paper presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**COURSE OUTLINE**

01 JAN 12

*COURSE OVERVIEW
INTRODUCTIONS
DISCUSSION OF GENERAL THEMES IN POPULATION AGING

**SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF AGING**


Prologue and Introduction in Heat Wave

02 JAN 19

DEMOGRAPHIC APPROACHES/ASSESSMENT

Alwin, Hofer, and McCammon, Chap 2 in Handbook

Land and Yang, Chap 3 in Handbook


03 JAN 26

MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY/CHRONIC CARE/DISABILITY

George, Chap 18 in Handbook


Chap 1 in *Heat Wave*

04 FEB 2

**HEALTH CARE AND THE AGING POPULATION**

Moon, Chap 21 in *Handbook*


Chap 2 in *Heat Wave*

05 FEB 9

**LONG-TERM CARE/FAMILY STRUCTURE AND CAREGIVING**


Stone, Chap 22 in *Handbook*


Chap 3 in *Heat Wave*

06 FEB 16

**SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT/INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONS**

Moren-Cross and Lin, Chap 7 in *Handbook*

Silverstein, Chap 10 in *Handbook*

Krause, Chap 11 in *Handbook*

Holden and Hatcher, Chap 13, in *Handbook*


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


Chap 4 in *Heat Wave*
RACE, ETHNICITY, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND INEQUALITY


NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL CONTEXT: SOCIAL STRUCTURE, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL DISORDER

Longino and Bradley, Chap 5 in Handbook


Chap 5 in Heatwave


Conclusion and Epilogue in *Heat Wave*

09 MAR 9

**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


10 MAR 16

**LIFE COURSE APPROACHES/ LIFE COURSE METHODS AND MEASUREMENT**

O’Rand, Chap 9 in *Handbook*


11 MAR 16 (DISCUSS MEETING DATE/SCHEDULE)

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS