DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING AND THE LIFE COURSE
Health Studies 352
Fall Quarter 2005 – Monday/Wednesday – 1:30-2:50 PM

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, then shift the unit of analysis to family formation and social networks, then to 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 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. Students are encouraged to bring in supplemental materials to round out the discussion.

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 24. 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 7. Students will present the paper topic and any findings during the last two course sessions of the quarter. The final paper is due Dec 9.

Evaluation
Class participation 30%
Paper proposal 10%
Critiques of student proposals 10%
Paper presentation 10%
Final Paper 40%

COURSE OUTLINE

1 SEPT 26

COURSE OVERVIEW
INTRODUCTIONS
DISCUSSION OF GENERAL THEMES IN POPULATION AGING
NO READINGS

2 SEPT 28

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF AGING

Hagestad and Dannefer, Chap 1 in Handbook


Prologue and Introduction in *Heat Wave*

3 OCT 3

**DEMOGRAPHIC APPROACHES/ASSESSMENT**

Hayward and Zhang, Chap 4 in *Handbook*

Serow, Chap 5 in *Handbook*


4 OCT 5

**MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY/CHRONIC CARE**

Kane and Kane, Chap 22 in *Handbook*


Chap 1 in *Heat Wave*

5 OCT 10

**DISABILITY AND ACTIVE LIFE EXPECTANCY**


**6 OCT 12**

**HEALTH CARE AND THE AGING POPULATION**

Feder, et al., Chap 21 in *Handbook*


Chap 2 in *Heat Wave*

**7 OCT 17**

**FAMILY STRUCTURE AND CAREGIVING**

Pearlin, et al., Chap 13 in *Handbook*


**8 OCT 19**

**FORMAL AND INSTITUTIONAL LONG-TERM CARE**


Chap 3 in *Heat Wave*

9 OCT 24

**SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT**

Krause, Chap 15 in *Handbook*


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

10 OCT 26

**ECONOMIC STATUS/INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONS**

Crown, Chap 19 in *Handbook*


Chap 4 in *Heat Wave*
11 OCT 31

RACE, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND INEQUALITY

Williams and Wilson, Chap 9 in Handbook


12 NOV 2

MIGRATION AND COMMUNITY CHANGE

Longino, Chap 6 in Handbook


13 NOV 7

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL CONTEXT: SOCIAL STRUCTURE, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL DISORDER


14 NOV 9

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


15 NOV 14

**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


Conclusion and Epilogue in *Heat Wave*
LIFE COURSE APPROACHES

O’Rand, Chap 11 in Handbook


LIFE COURSE METHODS AND MEASUREMENT

Singer and Ryff, Chap 3 in Handbook


18 NOV 23

HOUSING AND THE AGING NEIGHBORHOOD

Guest Lecture (tentative):
Paul W. Shadle
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP
Chicago
Jacques Sandberg
Director of Community Planning
Illinois Facilities Fund
Chicago

Maddox, Chap 23 in Handbook


Chap 5 in Heat Wave

19 NOV 28

CROSS-NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES (ON EARLIER THEMES)


20 NOV 30

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS