READING:


Handouts: Additional articles may be assigned in the class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course provides an overview of the significant sociological perspectives, social issues, and social science research pertaining to the phenomenon of aging. The course will 1) examine the major theories of social aging, 2) analyze the changing demographic trends and the political economy issues facing aging societies; 3) describe how the broader societal context affects the nature of family relationships, community involvement, and the experiences of retirement and widowhood among the elderly; and 4) examine the current issues in health and social service delivery for care of the elderly.

The course examines a substantive field, which has major social policy as well as personal significance in contemporary life. It is intended that this course provide a sociological foundation from which interested students can pursue further academic work leading either to a research career, planning and administrative careers, or a clinical career in the field of social gerontology. The course also offers a service learning option where students can volunteer in a long-term care program in order to link the concepts and issues in this course and with actual, concrete experiences in our community.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are encouraged to visit the instructor during scheduled office hours regarding any problems in the course or for the purpose of pursuing topics of discussion beyond what is possible during the regular class period.

Attendance is required, and absence from the class will be penalized. (10% of final grade)

Reading and Class Participation: The syllabus indicates weekly reading assignments, and it is expected that students read the relevant materials before each class and to actively participate in class discussion. (10% of final grade)
Essay (Class Presentation Optional): Students should write a short paper related to any issues of aging discussed in class—7 to 8 pages in double space (if tables or figures are presented, the text should be minimum 5 pages). If students present the paper in class, extra-credit will be awarded.

(Paper is due on the presentation date: NOV30, DEC 2, or DEC 7)
(20% of the final grade)

Exams: Two exams, a midterm and a non-cumulative final, will be given. Make-up exam will be allowed only under emergency situations.

Midterm Exam - Tuesday, October 14 (30%)
Final Examination - Tuesday, December 14, 12:00 –2:00 (30%)

Assistance with Disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services.

Scholarly Integrity: Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms. (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Student Conduct Code, Section H. Academic Dishonesty, Part 2, Page 6).

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I  THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AGING

Week 1  August 24-26  The Social Definitions of Aging

T  Sociology and the study of aging
R  Myths and realities of aging

Quadagno, Aging and the Life Course:
Ch. 1  The Field of Social Gerontology  pp. 2-25.
Ch. 6  Biological Perspectives on Aging  pp. 120-147.
Week 2  August 31-Sep 2  Psychological & Life-Course Perspective on Aging

T Psychological models of the life course
R Social context and the life course

Quadagno, Aging and the Life Course:
Ch. 7 Psychological Perspectives on Aging  pp. 148-174.
Ch. 2 Life Course Transitions  pp. 26-45

Week 3  September 7-9  Theories of Disengagement and Continuity

T Disengagement theory, activity theory, and continuity theory
R Modes of adaptation to life changes

Quadagno, Aging and the Life Course:
Ch. 2 Life Course Transitions  pp. 26-45
Ch. 3 Theories of Aging: Micro Theories  pp. 46- 57.

Week 4  September 14-16  Modernization Theory and Social Processes

T Modernization and aging
R Age roles, age integration and segmentation

Quadagno, Aging and the Life Course:
Ch. 3 Theories of Aging: Macro Theories  pp. 58-69

PART II  DEMOGRAPHY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AGING

Week 5  September 21-23  The Demography of Aging

T Changes in life expectancy and population structure
R Social composition of the elderly category

Quadagno, Aging and the Life Course:
Ch. 4  Demography of Aging pp. 70-93.

Week 6  September 28-30  The Social Security System

T The U.S. Social Security System
R The social security crisis and issue

Quadagno, Aging and the Life Course:
Ch. 5  Old Age and the Welfare State pp. 94-104.
Week 7  October 5-7  Economics of Aging

T  Economic status of the aged
R  Public and private income sources

Ch. 14  The Economics of aging, pp. 326-351.

Week 8  October 12-14  The Political Economy of Retirement

T  Structural factors in patterns of retirement
   The private pension system & Alternatives to economic dependency

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:

R  (MID-TERM EXAM)

Week 9  October 19-21  Economic Inequality: Class, Ethnicity and Gender

T  Class, ethnicity and gender among the elderly
R  Age-related consumption patterns

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
   Ch. 15  Poverty and Inequality pp. 352-375.

Week 10  October 26-28  The Political Economy and The Elderly

T  Political participation of the elderly
R  Intergenerational politics

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
   Ch. 16  The Politics of Aging  pp. 376-397.

PART III SOCIAL CONTEXT, RELATIONSHIPS AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Week 11  Nov 4  Adaptation to Retirement and Senior Activities

R  Retirement transitions and life styles

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
   Ch. 10  Work and Retirement: Adjusting to Retirement pp. 242-250.

Week 12  Nov 9  Family Relationships

T  Family relationships, friendships, and widowhood
T Household composition and residential changes

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
Ch. 8 Family Relationships and Social Support Systems, pp. 176-203.

**Week 13  November 16-18  Social Networks and Community**

T (CURRENT ISSUES ON AGING—STUDENT PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION)

R Retirement communities and life care arrangements
R Health problems and access to care

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
Ch. 9 Living Arrangements pp. 204-225.
Ch. 5 Old Age and the Welfare State: Health Care pp. 104-119.

**Week 14  November 23  Health Care and the Medical System**

T Medicare and financing health care
T Public policy and federal initiatives: The administration on aging

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
Ch. 11 Health and Health Care pp. 252-275

**Week 15  November 30-Dec 2  The Long-Term Care Continuum and Financing**

T (CURRENT ISSUES—STUDENT PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION)

R Family caregiving and community-based services

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
Ch. 12 Caring for the Frail Elderly pp. 276-301.

**Week 16  December 7-9  Social Aspects of Dying and End of Life Issues**

T (CURRENT ISSUES ON AGING—STUDENT PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION)

R Residential institutional care continuum
R End of life decision-making and care for the dying

Quadagno, *Aging and the Life Course*:
Ch. 13 Dying, Death and Bereavement pp. 302-325.

**FINAL EXAM:** Tuesday December 14, 12:00—2:00