OBJECTIVES:
This is a graduate level introduction to the demography of aging. The course is based on the premise that population aging will be one of the major demographic changes affecting social institutions throughout the world in the 21st century. The seminar integrates research from the fields of demography, sociology, economics, epidemiology, psychology and public health in order to help students to develop a broader understanding of the causes and consequences of population aging. A central focus throughout the course will be on the diversity of experiences by age, gender, socioeconomic status and health.

The course starts with a careful examination of the demographic foundations of population aging, both by focusing on macro and historical patterns as well as on trends in mortality, health and disability. After next examining aging from a life course perspective, we then devote the rest of the course to the relationship between aging and social institutions such as the family, the economy and public policy.

READINGS:
All required readings will be available to students in pdf form on Canvas. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class and to actively participate in class discussion. After the first week, students will rotate responsibility for leading class discussion. Each week, the discussion leader(s) are asked to send discussion questions to Professor Kahn by no later than noon on the Tuesday prior to class.

REQUIREMENTS:
In addition to contributing to class discussion, students are required to 1) write weekly summaries (3-4 sentences for each reading) and thought questions based on the readings (to be submitted to Professor Kahn and the discussion leaders by 9 p.m. Sunday night prior to the class in which they will be discussed), 2) co-lead class discussion with a fellow student several times during the semester, 3) complete a take-home midterm exam, designed to be comparable to a specialty exam question, and 4) develop a longer (15-20 page) research paper on a topic of your choosing related to the Demography of Aging. Students may either a) conduct an original research project, using one of the many publicly available datasets on the older population, or b) develop a research proposal, including a literature review and a detailed strategy for analysis. In either case, students must submit a brief description of their research topic no later than February 26. The final paper is due on May 7, when students will also present a brief overview of their project to the class.
GRADING:
Weekly Summaries and Discussion Questions: 10%
Take-home Midterm 30%
Term Paper: 40%
Class Participation: 20%

Schedule of Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Overview</td>
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<td><strong>DEMOGRAPHY OF AGING</strong></td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Demographic Causes of Population Aging</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Population Aging in Historical and International Context</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Mortality, Health &amp; Disability</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Aging and the Life Course</td>
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<td><strong>AGING AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS: THE FAMILY</strong></td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Family Structure &amp; Kin Availability</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Intergenerational Relations and Exchanges</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Social Support and Care-giving</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Living Arrangements at Older Ages</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>AGING AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS: THE ECONOMY</strong></td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Work &amp; Retirement</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Economic Well-being</td>
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<td><strong>AGING AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS: PUBLIC POLICY</strong></td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Social Security &amp; Medicare</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
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READINGS:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Jan. 29</td>
<td><strong>Introduction &amp; Overview</strong></td>
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**OPTIONAL:**

ASA: Aging in Contexts (selected articles on Aging topics in ASA’s magazine, *Contexts*)
Demographic Sources of Population of Aging

(2) Feb. 5  Demographic Causes of Population Aging

(3) Feb. 12  Population Aging in International Context
Frankenberg, Elizabeth and Duncan Thomas (2011) “Global aging.” Pp. 73-89 in Binstock & George (eds.). Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences
Select 3 from the following country chapters on population aging from the International Handbook of Aging, edited by Peter Uhlenberg. Springer:
  • Tomassini & Lamura: (Population Aging in Italy and Southern Europe.” Pp. 69-90.

(4) Feb. 19  Mortality, Health and Disability

OPTIONAL:

(5) Feb. 26 Aging and the Life Course
NOTE: Students should turn in a brief description of their paper topics (including a preliminary bibliography) today.


Aging and Social Institutions: the Family
(6) Mar. 5 Family Structure & Kin Availability


(7) Mar. 12 **Intergenerational Relations and Exchanges**

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<tr>
<th>Mar. 19</th>
<th>SPRING BREAK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>NO CLASS (Passover): Take Home Midterm (distributed on Mar. 26, due at noon on Mar. 28)</td>
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(8) Apr. 2 **Social Support and Caregiving**

(9) Apr. 9 **Living Arrangements at Older Ages**
Coleman, Marilyn and Lawrence Ganong. 2008. “Normative Beliefs about Sharing


**OPTIONAL:**
MetLife Report on Aging in Place 2.0 (Tenenbaum, 2010)

### Aging and Social Institutions: the Economy

**Apr. 16 Work & Retirement**


**OPTIONAL:**


**Apr. 23 Poverty & Economic Well-being**


Aging and Social Institutions: Public Policy

(12) Apr. 30  Social Security & Medicare

(13) May 7  Student Presentations (Final paper due today!)