

WOMEN, HEALTH, AND AGING: POLICY ISSUES

Spring 2006

Wednesdays, 1-4 PM

DRAFT SYLLABUS

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Course Requirements:

(1) A fifteen (typed, double-spaced) paper will be due June 2. Students should submit a paragraph by April 21 discussing the paper topic. All papers should include both field work and library research; in addition, students should incorporate information from the readings, lectures, and class discussions whenever appropriate. You will be graded on writing as well as on your analysis and the thoroughness of your research. (See discussion on last page of syllabus)

(2) Oral presentation of the papers.

(3) Brief response papers. At the beginning of each class session, students should hand in a brief discussion (2-4 pages typed) of the readings for that day. The papers should answer the following questions: What are the main points made by the author in each selection? Which examples supporting these points were most compelling to you? Which were least compelling? These papers will not be graded individually but will contribute toward the final grade for class participation. (Papers not required for first set of readings)

(4) Class participation and discussion of readings. By 10 A.M. of the day of each class, send 2 or more discussion questions to eabel@ucla.edu.

Grading:

Paper	60%
Presentation of paper	10%
Class participation	30%

Reading:

Course Reader available at Course Reader Material, 1137 Westwood Blvd. (Tel: 443-3303)

April 4: INTRODUCTION

Readings:

Cole, "The Specter of Old Age: History, Politics, and Culture in an Aging America."

Ginn and Arber, "'Only Connect': Gender Relations and Ageing."

April 11: Economics

Readings:

Kessler-Harris, "Designing Women and Old Fools: The Construction of the Social Security Amendments of 1939."

Johnson, Sambamoorthi, and Crystal, "Gender Differences in Pensions Wealth."

Older Women's League, "The Path to Poverty: An Analysis of Women's Retirement Income."

Angell, "Buying Influence"

Smeedling, Estes, and Glasse, "Social Security in the 21st Century"

April 18: HEALTH/BEAUTY

Paper Topics Due

Readings:

Wendell, "Old Women Out of Control."

Felstiner, "Casing My Joints"

Crimmins, Kim, and Hagedorn, "Life With and Without Disease"

Gorman, "Gender Disparities in Adult Health"

Lindau, Leitsch, Lundberg, and Jermome, "Older Women's Attitudes, Behavior, and Communication about Sex and HIV"

Ehrenreich, "Welcome to Cancerland"

Sullivan, Cosmetic Surgery, chap. 4

Davis, "Cultural Dopes and She-Devils"

Dinnerstein and Weitz, "Jane Fonda, Barbara Bush, and Other Aging Bodies"

April 25: MENOPAUSE/SMOKING

Guest Speaker: Barbara Berman, Adjunct Professor, Health Services, and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Readings:

Lock, "The Politics of Mid-Life and Menopause"

Watkins, "Educate Yourself"

Kolata and Petersen, "Hormone Replacement Study."

May 2: NO CLASS

May 9: RATIONING/LONG TERM CARE

Readings:

Callahan, "Why We Must Set Limits."

Bell, "What Setting Limits May Mean."

Cassel, "The Limits of Setting Limits."

Binstock, "Scapegoating the Old"

Lamm, "Care for the Elderly: What about Our Children?"

Wallace, et al., "Long-Term Care and the Elderly Population" (OPTIONAL)

Harrington, "The Nursing Home Industry"
Harrington, et al., "California Nursing Home Search: A Policy Paper"

May 16: WORKERS

Readings:

D. Stone, "Caring by the Book"
Pear, "9 of 10 Nursing Homes Lack Adequate Staff, Study Finds"
D. Stone, "Why We Need a Care Movement"
R. Stone, "The Direct Care Worker"
Hondagneu-Sotelo, "The International Division of Caring and Cleaning Work"
Hochschild, "Love and Gold"
Rivas, "Invisible Labors"
Lan, "Among Women"
Parreñas, "The Care Crisis in the Philippines"

May 23: FAMILY CAREGIVING

Readings:

Minkler and Roe, chaps from Grandmothers as Caregivers
Jen, "Who's Irish?"
Gonzalez-Ramos, "The 18th of October 1999: In Memoriam"
Meyer, "Shifting the Burden Back to Families?"
Guberman and Maheu, "Aging and Caregiving in Ethnocultural Families"
Gerstel and Gallagher, "Caring for Kith and Kin: Gender, Employment"

May 30 and June 6: ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Papers Due June 2

PAPER TOPICS

Option I:

Select a health problem facing older women today and discuss it by answering questions such as the following: Why did you select this problem? To what extent does it affect various groups of women differently? What are the social and economic dimensions of the problem? What public policies affect the problem? What is known about its causes? What services in the Los Angeles area are available for women facing this problem? (In order to answer this question as well as the following ones, you should visit at least three relevant programs.) Who founded these various programs? What are their missions? To what extent do the programs address the social contexts of women's lives as well as their health problems? Do you consider these services adequate? To what extent are they available to all women, regardless of funding source? What public policies are needed to address this problem?

Option II:

Select a sub-group of elderly women in Los Angeles. This group can be defined in various ways, including race and ethnicity, geography, income level, sexual identity, and disease or disability. The papers should be based on background readings as well as with the staff of health care or social service agencies serving members of the group and representatives of the group itself. What are the special needs and concerns of this group of women? To what extent do available services in Los Angeles currently meet their needs? What policy changes are recommended to meet their needs more adequately?