

Syllabus

Bruce Jacobs
Harkness 337

Fall 2008
Office Hours: MW 1:00- 2:30

PSC 245/245W

AGING AND PUBLIC POLICY

The requirements for this course consist of two papers of moderate length (6 pages) and a longer policy analysis assignment (10-12 pages). The schedule for these is listed on page 3. Papers handed in late will have their grades reduced. To pass the course, all assignments must be submitted. Students are expected to attend class and use materials from lectures along with the assigned readings when writing the papers. There are three books for purchase: The Generational Equity Debate (eds. Williamson et. al), The New Politics of Old Age Policy (Hudson), and Medicare: Preparing for Challenges in the 21st Century (Reischauer et. al.) All are in paperback. Most of the other readings will be available on electronic reserve. Some of the articles and books will be on reserve only. Readings with a "*" are optional (but recommended). Readings with "***" are also optional and may be found at the web addresses listed below.

Several of the readings are in The Green Book (A U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means publication). It can be accessed on the web at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Documents.asp?section=813>

I. Myths and Realities of Aging (9/3 – 9/10)

65+ in the United States (passim) <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p23-209.pdf>

Taeuber, "Diversity, The Dramatic Reality" *

Jacobs, "Ideas, Beliefs and Aging Policy"

Haddad, "Edna's Feeling Achy"

Samuelson, "United in Denial"

Binstock, "Transcending Intergenerational Equity" in Marmor and Smeeding, Economic Security and Intergenerational Justice*

The Green Book, Appendix A-Data on the Elderly*

II. Rationales for Public Sector Programs (9/10 – 9/17)

Kingson, Ties That Bind, Ch. 1

The New Politics of Old Age Policy, Chs 2 - 4

Moon and Mulvey, Entitlements and the Elderly, pp. 37-44

III. Economic Well-Being (9/24 – 10/01)

Steuerle and Bakija, Retooling Social Security for the 21st Century, Ch.6*

Cook and Kramek, "Measuring Economic Hardship Among Older Americans"

IV. Social Security Retirement Benefits (10/8 – 10/27)

Sights and Sounds of Social Security <http://www.ssa.gov/history/mpeg/videosound.html>

Understanding the Benefits of Social Security <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10024.pdf>

The Green Book, Section 4

Munnell, "A Bird's Eye View of the Social Security Debate"

Munnell, Social Security's Financial Outlook 2008

<http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib-8-5f.pdf?phpMyAdmin=43ac483c4de9t51d9eb41>

Williamson et.al., The Generational Equity Debate, Ch. 11
The New Politics of Old Age Policy, Chs. 5 and 9
2008 Trustees Report <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/TR/TR08/>
How To Calculate Your Benefit ** <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10070.html>

V. Other Retirement Income (10/27 -10/29)

Munnell and Perun, "An Update on Private Pensions"
http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_50.pdf?phpMyAdmin=43ac483c4de9t51d9eb41
Jacobs, "The National Potential of Home Equity Conversion" (pp. 496-500)
Rich and Porter, "Increasingly, The Home is Paying for Retirement"
The Green Book, Section 5
Supplemental Security Income, <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.pdf>

VI. Health Care

A. Overview (11/3)

The Green Book, Appendix B
Developments in Aging, Vol. 3, Ch. 4

B. Medicare (acute care) (11/5 – 11/12)

Reischauer et. al., Medicare: Preparing for Challenges in the 21st Century, Chs. 2-4, 6, 7
The Green Book, Section 9
Buntin and Huskamp, "What is Known About the Economics of End-of-Life Care?"
Feder and Moon, "Can Medicare Survive Its Saviors?"*
http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=can_medicare_survive_its_saviors
Medicare and You 2008 <http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/10050.pdf>
Moon, "How Beneficiaries Fare Under the New Medicare Drug Bill"
http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Moon_MedicareRxdrug_ib_730.pdf?section=4039

The New Politics of Old Age Policy Ch 10

C. Long-Term Care (Medicaid) (11/17 – 11/24)

A Call for Action (Pepper Commission Report), chs. 3,4
Doty, Liu and Wiener, "An Overview of Long-Term Care"
Weissert, "Hard Choices.."
Jacobs and Weissert, "Using Home Equity to Pay for Long-Term Care"
Jacobs, "The National Potential," pp. 500-503*
Gleckman, "How Can We Improve Long-Term Care Financing?"
http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_8-8.pdf
Kassner, "Home and Community-Based Services and Supports for Older People"
http://www.aarp.org/research/longtermcare/programfunding/fs90r_hcbltc.html

VII. Housing (11/24)

Jacobs, "Housing New York State's Elderly Population" in Wolkoff, Housing New York
The New Politics of Old Age Policy, Ch 12

VIII. The Future (12/1 – 12/10)

A. What's Fair?

Williamson et.al., The Generational Equity Debate, Chs. 1-3, 5-10
Kingson et. al., Ties That Bind, chs. 6-9*
Kingson and Berkowitz, "Is Social Security Fair?" in Social Security and Medicare
Samuelson, "Our Kid's Will Pay the Bill"

B. Targeting and Rationing - Policy and Politics

Jacobs, "Means-Testing' vs. Targeting' Programs for the Elderly"
Social Security in the 21st Century, Ch. 14
Holden and Smeeding, "The Poor, The Rich and the Elderly Caught in Between"*
Jahnigen & Binstock, "Economic and Clinical Realities..." in Binstock and Post, Too Old for
Health Care?

Written Assignments

	<u>Handed Out</u>	<u>Due</u>
Paper #1	10/13	10/29
Paper #2	11/12	11/24
Policy Analysis	12/1	12/12