

LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
COURSE OFFERING  
FALL SEMESTER 1997

TITLE: Politics and Policies in an Aging Population  
FACULTY: Professor Jacqueline L. Angel  
COURSE NUMBER: PA 388K (56270)  
MEETING: Wednesday 9:00 - 12:00  
ROOM: SRH 3.110

DESCRIPTION : There is widespread concern among policy makers about the growing number of older people in our society and the rising cost of providing medical care and support services to those who need them. This course will explore the impact of an aging population on social institutions and explore the potential utility of different approaches to responding to the long-term care needs of an increasingly ethnically and racially diverse aged population. The course will examine population processes shaping the age structure of U.S. society, focusing especially on recent changes in family structure.

To understand the needs of older adults and potential social policy responses to them, we will survey the scientific literature pertaining to demographic aspects of aging, intergenerational relationships, and income transfers. We will also investigate the organization and financing of health care for the elderly. The objective throughout the course is to assess alternative models for providing income, housing, health care, and social services to an increasingly older population. Toward this end, we will consider the process of policy formation, identify key players and interest groups, and contrast political ideologies regarding state and private responsibility for the elderly.

#### REQUIRED BOOKS

Olson, Laura Katz. 1994. The Graying of the World: Who Will Care for the Frail Elderly? Haworth Press: Binghamton, New York.

Schulz, James H. 1992. The Economics of Aging (fifth edition). Van Nostrand Reinhold: New York.

Moody, Harry. R. 1994. Aging: Concepts and Controversies. Pine Forge Press: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Rowland, Diane, Judith Feder, Alinda Salganicoff. 1993. (editors). Medicaid Financing Crisis: Balancing Responsibilities, Priorities, and Dollars. American Association for the Advancement of Science Press: Washington, DC.

Recommended articles for each topic area will be made available in the Public Affairs Library. Readings may occasionally be modified to suit the needs of the class, and additional material may be distributed during the course of the semester depending on student interest and the availability of time. Please feel free to discuss with me anything about the course. You can reach me at: [jangel@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jangel@mail.utexas.edu) or 471-2956.

#### Student Responsibilities

The class will follow a fairly standard seminar format. You will be responsible for familiarizing yourself with all listed readings and for participating in class discussions. Material to be emphasized during class discussions will be announced prior to each class meeting. The required books are available for purchase at the U.T. Co-op East (472-6156). In addition, a packet of supplemental readings could be purchased at Abel's Copies, 1906 Guadalupe

Street, 472-5353. I will also put copies of these materials on reserve at the Public Affairs Library.

### Course Requirements

Your course grade will be determined on the basis of the following requirements:

1. A 15 page library-based policy research paper involving an analysis of social policy with respect to older persons or with some particular aspect of aging that is of policy interest. The topic will be chosen by the student, early in the semester, and approved by the instructor;
2. A 10-15 minute oral presentation of a single article that will entail the following: describing the objectives of the article identifying the primary motivation giving rise to the research, noting its strengths and weaknesses, and preparing two questions from the article that have policy relevance; a group project that will involve organizing you into teams of approximately 4 or 5 students who will jointly be responsible for assembling a literature review on a specific public policy issue pertinent to aging populations. Each member of the group will present their own interpretation of the literature and as a class we will arrive at some conclusion about the state of knowledge.

Although class attendance will not be taken, it is strongly recommended since one-quarter of your final grade will be based on class attendance and participation.

### Grading

The research paper will count for 50 percent of your final grade; the oral presentations, 25 percent. Student participation in classroom discussion will be worth 25 percent of your final grade.

## Tentative Course Outline

### **Weeks 1, 2: August 30, September 6**

#### **I. An Introduction to Public Policy and Aging: The Politics of Age**

##### ***A. Historical perspectives***

###### ***1. The aged in preindustrial societies***

###### ***2. Modernization and the status of the elderly***

##### ***B. Power and politics today***

##### ***C. The Meaning of Power***

Moody, Prologue. pages IX - XXIV

Olson, Chp. 1.

Butler, Robert N. "Pacification and the Politics of Aging." International Journal of Aging and Human Development 5:393-395.

Derthick, Martha. "How Easy Votes on Social Security Came to an End." The Public Interest 54:94-105.

Fischer, D.H. 1979. "The Politics of Aging: A Short History." Journal of the Institute for Socioeconomic Studies 4(2):51-66.

### **Weeks 3, 4: September 13, 20**

#### **II. Demographic Processes and Population Age Structure, Fertility and Immigration, and the Politics of Population Growth**

##### ***A. The Succession of Cohorts and Age, Period, and Cohort (APC) Effects***

Moody, pp. 189-210.

Calasanti, Toni and Alessandro Bonanno. 1986. "The Social Creation of Dependence, Dependency Ratios, and the Elderly in the United States: A Critical Analysis." Social Science and Medicine 23:1229-1236.

Hobcraft, John, Jane Menken, and Samuel Preston. "Age, Period, and Cohort Effects in Demography: A Review."

Preston, Samuel H. 1984. "Children and the Elderly: Divergent Paths for America's Dependents." Demography 21:435-457.

##### ***B. Population Composition: Diversity among the Aged***

Moody, Reading 24

Suzman, Richard, David Willis, and Kenneth Manton. 1992. "A Demographic Portrait of America's Oldest Old." Pp. 17-49 in Richard M. Suzman, David P. Willis, and Kenneth G. Manton (eds.) The Oldest Old. New York:Oxford.

Bould, Sally, Beverly Sanborn, and Laura Reif. 1989. Eighty-five Plus: The Oldest-Old. Belmont, CA:Wadsworth. Chapter 8.

Angel, Jacqueline L. and Dennis P. Hogan. 1992. "The Demography of Minority Aging Populations." Journal of Family History 17:95-114.

**Optional:**

Johnson, Colleen L. 1994. "Differential Expectations and Realities: Race, Socioeconomic Status and Health of the Oldest-Old." International Journal of Aging and Human Development 38:13-27.

Markides, Kyriakos S. 1989. "Aging, Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Class, and Health: A Conceptual Overview." Pp. 9-21 in Aging and Health: Perspectives on Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Class, edited by Kyriakos S. Markides. Newbury Park, CA:Sage.

***C. Migration***

Bean, Frank D., George C. Myers, Jacqueline L. Angel, and Omer R. Galle. 1994. "Geographic Concentration, Migration, and Population Redistribution among the Elderly." Pp. 319-355 in Demography of Aging edited by Linda G. Martin and Samuel H. Preston. Washington, DC:National Academy Press.

Longino, Charles F. 1990. "Geographical Distribution and Migration." Pp. 45-63 in Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, edited by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. San Diego, CA:Academic.

**Optional:**

Angel, Jacqueline L. and Ronald J. Angel. 1992. "Age at Migration, Social Connections, and Well-being among Elderly Hispanics." Journal of Aging and Health 4:480-499.

Myers, George. 1985. "Aging and Worldwide Population Change." Pp. 173-198 in Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences, edited by R.H. Binstock and Ethel Shanas. Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York.

***D. Housing and Living Arrangements***

Lawton, M. Powell and Sally L. Hoover. 1981. "Housing for 22 Million Older Americans." Pp. 11-35 in M. Powell Lawton and Sally L. Hoover (eds.) Community Housing Choices for Older Americans. Springer, New York.

Lawton, M. Powell. 1985. "Housing and Living Environments of Older People." Pp. 450-478 in Robert H. Binstock and Ethel Shanas (Eds.) Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences. New York:Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Burr, Jeffrey A. and Jan E. Mutchler. 1992. "The Living Arrangements of Unmarried Elderly

Hispanic Females." Demography 29:93-112.

**Optional:**

Bishop, Christine E. 1986. "Living Arrangement Choices of Elderly Singles: Effects of Income and Disability." Health Care Financing Review 7:65-73.

Speare, Alden, Roger Avery, and Leora Lawton. 1991. "Disability, Residential Mobility, and Changes in Living Arrangements." Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences 46:S133-142.

Worobey, Jacqueline L. and Ronald J. Angel. 1990. "Functional Capacity and Living Arrangements among Unmarried Elderly Persons." Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences 45:S95-101.

**Week 5: September 27**

**III. The Economic Status of the Aged and Intergenerational Transfers**

Moody, Readings 21-22.

***A. Income and Assets: Thrift and Productivity in an Aging Society***

Crystal, Stephen and Dennis Shea. 1990. "Cumulative Advantage, Cumulative Disadvantage, and Inequality among Elderly People." Gerontologist 30:437-443.

Crystal, Dennis Shea, and Shereeram Krishnaswami. 1992. "Educational Attainment, Occupational History, and Stratification: Determinants of Later-life Economic Outcomes." Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences 47:S213-221.

Easterlin, Richard. 1987. "The New Age Structure of Poverty in America." Population and Development Review 13:195-208.

Duncan, Greg, Martha Hill, and W. Rodgers. 1986. "The Changing Fortunes of Young and Old." American Demographics 8:26-34.

***B. Intergenerational Relationships, Generational Equity, Conflict, and Budgetary Reform***

Rosenbaum, Walter A. and James W. Button. 1993. "The Unquiet Future of Intergenerational Politics." The Gerontologist 33:481-490.

Kingson, Eric R. and Edward D. Berkowitz. 1994. "Social Security: Will Successive Generations Receive Fair Returns." Perspectives on Aging, 23:15-18.

Rhodes, Robert P. 1992. Health Care Politics, Policy, and Distributive Justice: The Ironic Triumph. State University of New York Press. Pp. 81-93.

Goldscheider, Frances K. and Calvin Goldscheider. 1989. "The New Family Economy: Residential and Economic Relationships among the Generations." Pp. 1-16 in Ethnicity and the New Family Economy: Living Arrangements and Intergenerational Financial Flows, edited by F.K. Goldscheider and C. Goldscheider. Boulder:Westview.

Eggebeen, David J. 1992. "Family Structure and Intergenerational Exchanges." Research on Aging 14:427-447.

Markides, Kyriakos S., J.S. Boldt, and L.A. Ray. 1986. "Sources of Helping and Intergenerational Solidarity: A Three Generations Study of Mexican Americans." Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences 41:506-51.

Kingson, Eric A. 1986. "Intergenerational Inequity: Why it Won't Work as a Framework for Policy." Pp. 129-159 in Kingson et al. Ties that Bind. Washington, DC Seven Lock Press.

**Optional:**

Bengston, Vern L. 1985. "Generations, Cohorts, and Relations Between Age Groups." Pp. 339-368 in Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences edited by Robert H. Binstock and Ethel Shanas. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Davis, Kingsley and Pietronella van den Oever. 1981. "Age Relations and Public Policy in Advanced Industrial Societies." Population and Development Review 7:1-18.

**Weeks 6, 7: October 4, 11**

**IV. Power, Participation, and Policy: Institutional and Non-institutional Forces**

***A. Senior power: social movement, interest group, or coalition?***

***B. Political attitudes and participation***

***C. The politics of government programs and policies***

Moody, pp. 179-187.

Glenn, Norval and T. Hefner. 1972. "Further Evidence on Aging and Party Identification." Public Opinion Quarterly 36:31-47.

Lammers, William W. 1983. "Electoral and Interest Group Behavior." Public Policy and Aging. CQ Press, Washington, DC. pages 51-67; "Executives, Bureaucracies, and Legislatures." pp. 69-87.

Foner, Anne. 1986. Aging and Old Age: New Perspectives. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall. Pages 85-98.

Schlesinger, Mark and Tae-ku Lee. 1993. "Is Health Care Different? Popular Support of Federal Health and Social Policies." Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and the Law 18:pp. 550-628.

Neugarten, Bernice L. 1974. "Age Groups in American Society and the Rise of the Young-old." Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 415(September):187-198.

Chiplin, Alfred J. 1989. "The Older Americans Act: Current Problems and Developments." Clearinghouse Review, pp. 677-690.

Cutler, Neal E. "Resources for Senior Advocacy: Political Behavior and Partisan Flexibility." Pp. 23-40 in P.A. Kershner (ed.) Advocacy and Age: Issues, Experiences, and Strategies.

University of Southern California Press, Los Angeles.

## **Weeks 8, 9**

### **V. Death and Taxes: The Economics of Morbidity and Mortality**

Moody Readings 4 and 5

#### **A. Age-related Physiological and Psychological Changes**

##### **1. Mental Health**

German, Pearl, S. Shapiro, and E.A. Skinner et al. 1987. "Detection and Management of Mental Health Problems of Older People by Primary Care Providers." Journal of the American Medical Association 257:489-493.

#### **Optional:**

Mirowsky, John and Catherine E. Ross. 1992. "Age and Depression." Journal of Health and Social Behavior 33:187-205.

Blazer, Dan. 1989. "Current Concepts: Depression in the Elderly." The New England Journal of Medicine 320:164-166.

Blazer, Dan, Dana C. Hughes, and Linda K. George . 1987. "The Epidemiology of Depression in an Elderly Community Population." The Gerontologist 27:281-280.

##### **2. Physical Health**

Wallace, Daniel J. 1979. "The Biology of Aging." Pp. 74-83 in Dimensions of Aging, edited by Jon Hendricks and C. Davis Hendricks. Cambridge, MA:Winthrop.

Gibson, Rose C. and James S. Jackson. 1987. "The Health, Physical Functioning, and Informal Supports of the Black Elderly." Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly 65:(Supplement 2), 421-54.

##### **3. Disability**

Clark, Daniel O. and George L. Maddox. 1992. "Racial and Social Correlates of Age- Related Changes in Functioning." Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences 47:S222-232.

Angel, Ronald J., Jacqueline L. Angel, and Christine L. Himes. 1992. "Minority Group Status, Health Transitions, and Community Living Arrangements among the Elderly." Research on Aging 14:496-521.

Wolinsky, Fredric D. et al. 1984. "Measurement of the Global and Functional Dimensions of Health Status in the Elderly." Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences. 39:88-92.

##### **4. Mental and Physical Co-morbidity**

Brody, Elaine M., M.H. Kleban, and E. Moles. 1983. "What Older People Do About their Day-to-Day Mental and Physical Health Symptoms." Journal of the American Geriatrics Society

31:489-498.

## ***B. Long-term Care: Institutional and Community-based Services***

Olson, Chp. 2 - "Public Policy and Privatization: Long-term Care in the U.S."

Treas, Judith. 1977. "Family Support Systems for the Aged: Some Social and Demographic Considerations." The Gerontologist 17:486-491.

Rivlin, Alice M. and Josh M. Wiener. 1988. Caring for the Disabled Elderly; Who Will Pay? Washington, DC: Brookings Institution. Pages 167-202.

Merrill, Jeffrey. 1992. "A Test of Our Society: How and for Whom we Finance Long-term Care." Inquiry 29;176-187.

Doty, Pamela. 1896. "Family Care of the Elderly: The Role of Public Policy." Milbank Quarterly 64:34-75.

Kane, Rosalie and Robert L. Kane. 1987. Long-term Care: Principles, Programs, and Policies, Chp. 6. Home Care and Day Care, pp. 111-162. Chp. 7, Other Community long-term care services, pp. 163-222. New York:Springer.

Vladeck, Bruce C. 1980. Unloving Care: The Nursing Home Tragedy. pp. 7-29. New York:Basic.

### **Optional:**

Cohen, M.A., E.J. Tell, and S.S. Wallack. 1986. "The Lifetime Risks and costs of Nursing Home Use among the Elderly." Medical Care 24:1161-1172.

Liu, Korbin, Kenneth G. Manton, and Barbara Marzetta Liu. 1990. "Morbidity, Disability, and Long-term Care of the Elderly: Implications for Insurance Financing." The Milbank Quarterly 68:445-493.

Gornick, M. and M.J. Hall. 1988. "Trends in Medicare Utilization of SNF's, HHAs and Rehabilitation Hospitals." Health Care Financing Review (Annual Supplement):27-38.

Hendrick, S.C. and T.S. Inui. 1986. "The Effectiveness and Cost of Home Care: An Information Synthesis." Health Services Research 20:851-880.

### **Optional:**

Sankar, Andrea et al. 1986. "Prospective Payment: Systemic Effects on the Provision of Community Care for the Elderly." Home Health Care Services Quarterly. 7:93-117.

Morrissey, Michael, A., Frank A. Sloan and Joseph Valvona. 1988. "Medicare Prospective Payment and Posthospital Transfers to Subacute Care." Medical Care 26:685-698.

## ***C. Social Support and Dependency***

Olson, Chp. 10. "Japan's Welfare Vision: Dealing with a Rapidly Increasing Elderly Population."

Estes, Carroll and Juanita B. Wood. 1986. "The Non-Profit Sector and Community-based Care for the Elderly in the U.S." A Disappearing Resource?" Social Science and Medicine 23:1261-1266.

Brown, David K. 1983. "Administering Aging Programs in a Federal System." Pp. 201- 219 in Aging and Public Policy, edited by William P. Browne and Laura Katz Olson. Westport Ct:Greenwood.

Manton, Kenneth G. and Richard Suzman. 1992. "Forecasting Health and Functioning in Aging Societies: Implications for Health Care and Staffing Needs." Pp. 327-357 in Aging, Health, and Behavior, edited by Marcia G. Ory, Ronald P. Abeles, and Paula Darby Lipman. Newbury Park, CA:Sage.

Lowenthal, M.F. and B. Robinson. 1976. Pp. 432-456 "Social Networks and Isolation." In Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences (first edition) edited by R.H. Binstock and Ethel Shanas. New York:Van Nostrand Reinhold.

**Optional:**

Cantor, Marjorie H. 1979. "The Informal Support System of New York's Inner City Elderly: Is Ethnicity a Factor?" Pp. 153-174 in Ethnicity and aging: Theory, Research, and Policy Volume 5, edited by Donald E. Gelfand and Alfred J. Kutzik. New York: Springer.

Wenger, G. Clare. 1986. "What do Dependency Measures Measure? Challenging Assumptions." Pp. 69-84 in Dependency and Interdependency in Old Age, edited by Chris Phillipson, Miriam Bernard, and Patricia Strang. London:Croom Helm.

**Weeks 10,11: November 1,8**

**VII. Age-Related Role Transitions: Changing Expectations**

***A. Work, Retirement, and Pensions***

Schulz. Chp. 1,3,4, and pp. 166-169.

**Optional:**

Neugarten, Bernice L., J.W. Moore, and J.C. Lowe. 1965. "Age Norms, Age Constraints, and Adult Socialization." American Journal of Sociology 70:710-717.

Crystal, Stephen. 1982. America's Old Age Crisis pp. 3-21 and 141-192. Basic Books, New York.

Rossi, Alice. 1980. "Life-span Theory and Women's Lives." Signs 6:4-32.

DeViney, Stan and Angela M. O'Rand. 1988. "Gender-Cohort Succession and Retirement among Older Men and Women, 1951-1984." Sociological Quarterly 29:525-540.

George, Linda, Gerda Fillenbaum, and Erdmore Palmore. 1984. "Sex Differences in the Antecedents and Consequences of Retirement." Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences 39:S364-371.

***B. The Family Life Cycle***

Spanier, Graham B. and Paul C. Glick. 1980. "The Life Cycle of American Families." Journal of Family History 5:97-111.

Angel, Ronald J. and Jacqueline L. Angel. 1993. Painful Inheritance: Health and the New

Generation of Fatherless Families (Chp. 1). Madison, WI:University of Wisconsin.

**Optional:**

Elder, Glenn H. 1978. "Family History and the Life Course." Pp. 17-64 in Transitions: The Family and the Life Course in Historical Perspective edited by Tamara K. Hareven. New York:Academic

***C. Grandmothers, Single Mothers, Parenting***

Moody, Reading 19

Burton, Linda M. 1992. "Black Grandparents Rearing Children of Drug-Addicted Parents: Stressors, Outcomes, and Social Service Needs." The Gerontologist 32:744-751.

**Optional:**

Hogan, Dennis P. 1987. "Demographic Trends in Human Fertility, and Parenting Across the Life Span." Pp. 315-349 Parenting Across the Life Span edited by Jane B. Lancaster, Jeanne Altmann, Alice S. Rossi, and Lonnie R. Sherrod. New York:Aldine de Gruyter.

Minkler, Meredith, Kathleen M. Roe, and Marilyn Price. 1992. "The Physical and Emotional Health of Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren in the Crack Cocaine Epidemic." The Gerontologist 32:752-761.

Burton, Linda M. and Vern L. Bengtson. 1985. "Black Grandmothers: Issues of Timing and Continuity of Roles." Pp. 61-77 in Vern L. Bengtson and Joan Robertson (editors) Grandparenthood. Beverly Hills, CA:Sage.

Gratton, Brian. 1987. "Familism Among the Black and Mexican-American Elderly: Myth or Reality?" Journal of Aging Studies 1:19-32.

**\*\*\*\*\*FIRST COMPLETE DRAFT OF PAPER DUE\*\*\*\*\***

**Week 12: November 15**

**VII. Old Age Security and the Baby Boom Generation**

***A. The Social Security Act: Income support***

- 1. Old Age Assistance, Title I***
- 2. Old Age Insurance, Title II***
- 3. Supplemental Security Income, Title XVI***

Schulz, chapters, 5, 6, 9

Moody, pp. 255-294

Achenbaum, William A. 1986. Social Security: Visions and Revisions. Cambridge University:London, Chp. 6, Pages 124-141.

Kerrey, Robert and Simpson, Alan K. 1995. "How to Save Social Security." The New York Times. Tuesday, May 23.

Quadagno, Jill. 1988. The Transformation of Old Age Security. Chicago:University of Chicago. Chp. 6, Pages 125-151.

Myles, John. 1984. Old Age in the Welfare State. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. Pp. 105-121.

## **Week 13: November 22**

### **VIII. The Social Security Act (continued)**

#### **A. Health Security**

##### **1. Medicaid, Title XIX**

##### **2. Medicare, Title XVIII**

##### **3. Social Services, Title XX**

Rowland et al. 1993. Chapters 1,4,5, & 7

Moon, Marilyn. 1993. "Placing Medicare in Context." pp. 1- 23. In Medicare Now and in the Future. Washington, DC:The Urban Institute.

Coughlin, Theresa A., Leighton Ku, and John Holahan. 1994. Medicaid since 1980: Costs, Coverage, and the Shifting Alliance between the Federal Government and the States. Pp. 1-10.

Health Care Financing Administration. 1995. "Medicare at 30: Preparing for the Future." Journal of the American Medical Association. 274:259-282.

## **Week 14: November 29**

### **IX. Future Policy Directions for Gerontonic Health and Social Services: An Agenda for the Year 2000**

Moody, Reading 20.

Schulz, Chp. 9

National Academy on Aging. 1994. Old Age in the 21st Century. A Report to the Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Maxwell School, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

World Bank. 1994. "Averting the Old Age Crisis." World Bank Policy Research Report, Oxford University Press.

Torres-Gil, Fernando M. (nd) Assuring Quality Services for Today's Aged While Planning for Tomorrow's Aging Needs Unpublished paper.

Shindul-Rothschild, Judith and John B. Williamson. 1991. "Future Prospects for Aging Policy Reform." pp. 325-340 in Critical Perspectives on Aging: The Political and

Moral

Economy of Growing Old, edited by Meredith Minkler and Carroll L. Estes. Amityville, NY: Baywood.

## **Week 15: December 6**

Final draft, peer-review critiques of policy research paper, and student presentations.

## Instructions for Policy Research Paper

As your syllabus notes, one-half of your course grade will be based on your library-based research paper. In order to help you direct your choice of a topic and to be certain that you understand the format of the paper itself, I am providing you with a list of possible topics and some additional information on the structure of the paper. Of course, you may choose some other topic. I can help you with the selection if you come and see me.

The paper itself is to consist of approximately 15 pages (no longer) of text. Since this is a seminar on social policy with respect to aging, your paper should deal with some policy-related issue confronting older Americans. For this assignment, you can use professional writings for the general public, for a scholarly audience, and also what we discuss in class and discover in our readings. You might choose to write on some aspect of one of the following issues or any other topic you wish to learn more about, given you check with me first.

1. An evaluation of a specific aging policy. For example,

How do systemic factors, such as income, living arrangements, societal attitudes, and the private sector, interest groups, and the cost and visibility of a program influence the development of major aging-related policies?

- Social Security
- Older Americans Act
- Medicare
- Supplemental Security Income
- Medicaid
- Social Service and Home Care programs
- Housing assistance

2. The consequences of the increasing racial and ethnic diversity on the older population:
  - How does acculturation and structural assimilation affect the health and welfare of older Mexican Americans?
  - What factors affect the need for and the use of long-term care among minority elderly Americans over sixty-five?
  - The role of the community in improving the lives of Mexican Americans over the age of sixty-five.
3. The impact of retirement age on the Social Security system:
  - What impact have age-related changes in retirement patterns had on the Social Security system and on private pension plans?
  - Evaluate the elimination of mandatory retirement amendment to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and its effect on employment among older workers.
4. The financing and organization of medical care, including:
  - the evolution of managed care, in particular, the HMO, SMO, PPO, and

capitation

-federal attempts to control costs, e.g., prospective-based reimbursement systems, for the seriously impaired aged

-how might the reliance on the family for the care of the elderly be enhanced by the selective use of targeted formal assistance, e.g., Medicaid waivers

5. The health and consequences of elderly migration:

-effects of population aging on the demand for health and social services

-costs of long-term care for states and cities

-income effects of return migration from the Sunbelt

As noted on your syllabus, the paper should consist of the following components:

A. A clear statement of the question.

B. A review of literature to place the question in context and to outline what is known. This will involve some library work in which you read research journal articles, book chapters, government documents, books, newspapers, and even interviews. I will say more later on specific sources for these topics.

C. A critique of what has been done and an evaluation of the systemic factors, political participants and roles, and program characteristics that affect policy formation. For example, what are the benefits of expanding Medicare benefits to cover long-term care services? What are the dangers? The objective is to demonstrate that you have a clear understanding of the issues involved.

D. A conclusion in which you briefly summarize what you have learned and in which you make your own policy recommendations based on your new and informed insights.