

HEALTH POLICY AND THE AGED

CHS 291 - - - Fall 2007

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Thurs 3-6pm Room CHS 61-235

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Overview

It is impossible to ignore older adults when examining health policy issues. The increasing number of elderly in the United States, lengthening lifespans, and the predominance of chronic illness and disability as the most common national health issues all draw attention to how health policy and the aging of the American population interact. This course is designed to provide students with skills in both policy process and policy analysis as applied to key health policy issues affecting acute care, long-term care, and health promotion for older persons. We will examine both current controversies involving health policy for older persons and critical issues that are not currently in the news. In addition, the course will provide an analytic framework for examining the forces that propel and retard reform of the health care system.

"American medicine... stands now on the brink of chaos. Much of US medical care ... is inferior in quality, wastefully dispensed, and inequitably financed... The time has come for radical change." Forbes 1970.

Required readings:

Purchase at health sciences bookstore:

Estes, Carroll L. Social Policy and Aging. Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage, 2001.

Hudson, Robert B. The New Politics of Old Age Policy. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 2005.

(Optional; helpful for those who want to know more about the full range of aging services)

Gelfand, Donald. Aging Network : Programs & Services. 6/e New York: Springer, 2006.

Get for background statistics:

- Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. Older Americans Update 2006: Key Indicators of Well-Being. Washington, DC. <http://www.agingstats.gov/update2006/>
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Merck Institute, The State of Aging & Health in America, 2007. <http://www.cdc.gov/aging/saha.htm>
- Steven P. Wallace, Nadereh Pourat, Vilma Enriquez-Haass, Alek Sripipatana. 2003. Health of Older Californians: County Data Book. LA, CA: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pubID=77>

Additional readings are available on-line and must be downloaded by each student to read on-line or printed to read as paper copy. A CD with pdf files is also available for printing at Westwood Copies, Gayley at Weyburn (310) 208-3233.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To provide an understanding of selected current issues facing policy makers in health policy as it affects the aged.
- 2) To develop a historical perspective on the relationship between health policy and the health care system as a means for understanding the current underdevelopment of preventive and social health measures.
- 3) To provide an introduction to different perspectives used in analyzing public policy and the policy process.
- 4) To sensitize students to different possible strategies of influencing health policy for the elderly and others.

Requirements:

Paper Assignments

- Assignment 1: 12-16 pages

Masters & Seniors – Take an aging policy issue of your choice. Begin with a summary of the issue being discussed from an aging policy perspective. Describe why this is a significant problem and why it merits a public policy solution. Then summarize the history of the issue, provide an analysis of the key actors involved in the debate, the underlying values invoked, key policy changes (or blocked policies), and the current status of the issue.

Doctoral – Your paper should follow the above, but take a more “critical” and analytic perspective. Following the approach of the Estes book, include an analysis of who holds the underlying power in your policy area and how they frame the issue in a way that benefits some groups over others. Conclude with suggestions for what you consider optimal (versus politically feasible) policies and explain why you favor them.

Everyone - Don't forget to include citations to class readings when appropriate. Be sure to follow format rules at end of this syllabus; at least 50% of citations in papers must be from published sources - i.e. they must be from books or journals (on-line journals count as published; white papers from an industry website do not).

To get you started you will submit a one page proposal that identifies your topic, its significance, and what you plan to cover by November 1. You also need to include on a second page citations of at least five references (at least three published) that are specific and appropriate to your topic.

- Assignment 2: 4-6 pages

(Everyone) Take the topic of your term paper and convert it to a policy memo. Address it to the most appropriate audience; if appropriate target it to the LA County Department of Public

Health. It needs to briefly define the problem, identify the client (e.g. LA County Department of Public Health), and provide a rationale for government intervention (i.e., why local government is the most appropriate actor to intervene); identifies the main factors affecting the problem (i.e., is there a causal model associated with the problem); identifies at least two alternative solutions; summarizes the criteria that will be used to evaluate the alternatives and apply them (but leave the final decision for the Department about which to choose). It should also include as an attachment a list of bibliographic references and data sources. This will be forwarded to LADPH.

See Guidelines for Analyzing Cases and Preparing Memos: Univ of N.C.

http://people.uncw.edu/imperialm/UNCW/PLS_308_Summer/PLS_308_Sum_guidelines.htm&
Maxwell School <http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/acbrooks/Policy%20memo%20instructions.pdf>

- **Class Participation**

Beginning the second class session, each student will prepare one discussion question for *each* of the required chapters or articles for each class period (see end of syllabus for examples of questions). These questions are requested the night before class, but no later than noon the day of class. We will use these questions as the basis for class discussion of the required materials.

They can be e-mailed swallace@ucla.edu or faxed (310-794-2686 before 6pm the prior day).

Grading

Proposal - 5%	Due: November 1
Paper 1 - 45%	November 22
Paper 2 - 35%	December 14
Class participation - 10%	Each class

Class Topics & Readings:

1. September 27: Introduction

Hudson, Robert B. "Contemporary Challenges to Age-Based Policy." Pp. 1-22 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Holstein, Martha B. "A Normative Defense of Universal Age-Based Public Policy." Pp. 23-41 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Myles, John. "What Justice Requires: A Normative Foundation for U.S. Pension Reform." Pp. 42-64 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

[for more information on the Older Americans Act, see Chapter 2 of Gelfand]

2. October 4: Identifying Policy Problems

Herd, Pamela, Eric R. Kingson. "Reframing Social Security: Cures Worse than the Disease." Pp. 183-204 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

O'Rand, Angela. "When Old Age Begins: Implications for Health, Work and Retirement." Pp. 109-128 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Estes, Carroll L., Steven P. Wallace, Karen Lynkins, Elizabeth Binney. "The Medicalization and Commodification of Aging and the Privatization and Rationalization of Old Age Policy." Pp. 45-60 in Estes, Social Policy and Aging (text).

3. October 11: Health Policy in an Aging Society

Wallace, Steven P. 2005. "The Public Health Perspective on Aging." Generations. 29(2), 5-10.
http://www.generationsjournal.org/generations/gen29-2/article_thepublichealth.cfm

Lang, Jason E., Margaret J. Moore, Andree C. Harris, and Lynda A. Anderson. 2005. "Healthy Aging: Priorities and Programs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." Generations. 29 (2): 24-29. http://www.asaging.org/publications/dbase/GEN/Gen29_2.lang.pdf

Gonyea, Judith G. "The Oldest Old and a Long-Lived Society: Challenges for Public Policy." Pp. 157-180 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Mangin, Dee, Kieran Sweeney, and Iona Heath. 2007. "Preventive health care in elderly people needs rethinking." BMJ. 335(7614):285-7. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/335/7614/285>

World Health Organization. 2002. Active Aging: A Policy Framework. Geneva, Switzerland.
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/WHO_NMH_NPH_02.8.pdf Skim pp. 12-32, read pages 33-56.

[See also <http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active/en/index.html> for more issues if interested. For additional information specific to the U.S. if interested, see Chapter 6 in Gelfand]

4. October 18: Policy Process: Changing Public Policy for Older Adults

Binstock, Robert H. "The Contemporary Politics of Old Age Policies." Pp. 265-293 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Freeman, Iris C. (2004). "Advocacy in Aging Policy: Working the Bills on Capitol Hill(s)." Generations, 29(1): 41-47. http://www.asaging.org/publications/dbase/GEN/Gen.28_1.Freeman.pdf

Cohen, Elias S. 2004. "Advocacy and Advocates: Definitions and Ethical Dimensions." Generations, 28(1): 9-16. http://www.asaging.org/publications/dbase/GEN/Gen.28_1.Cohen.pdf

Callahan, James J. 2004. "The World of Interest Group Advocacy: An 'Insider's' View." Generations, 28(1): 36-40. http://www.asaging.org/publications/dbase/GEN/Gen.28_1.Callahan.pdf

Applebaum, Robert, et al. "Using Local Tax Levies to Fund Programs for Older People: Good Politics and Good Policy?" Pp. 294-304 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

For AARP policies on key issues, see http://www.aarp.org/issues/policies/policy_book/

[optional: Oliver TR. 2006. "The Politics of Public Health Policy." Annual Review of Public Health." 27:195-233.

<http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.publhealth.25.101802.123126>]

5. October 25: Medicare Policy

Kalu, Kalu N. 2005. "Competing Ideals and the Public Agenda in Medicare Reform." Administration & Society. 37(1): 23-56. Go to Melvyl search, <http://melvyl.cdlib.org/> and enter journal title in search "journal title (exact)". Select journal, then click on "Available online" at UCB. Follow links to article.

Neuman P, Kitchman Strollo M, Guterman S, et al. 2007. "Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Progress Report: Findings From A 2006 National Survey Of Seniors." Health Affairs Web Exclusives. Sep-Oct;26(5):w630-43. Epub Aug 21. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/hlthaff.26.5.w630v1?ijkey=wpOorB7zwSX6c&keytype=ref&siteid=healthaff>

Davis K, Schoen C, Doty M, Tenney K. 2002. "Medicare versus private insurance: rhetoric and reality." Health Affairs (Millwood). Jul-Dec; Suppl Web Exclusives:W311-24. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/hlthaff.w2.311v1>

Lynn, Joanne , David Adamson. 2006. Redefining and Reforming Health Care for the Last Years of Life. Research Highlights. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.
http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2006/RAND_RB9178.pdf

Wallace, Steven P. 2006. Evidence-based Policy and Practice: Prospects and Perils. Gerontologist. 46: 409-413. <http://gerontologist.gerontologyjournals.org/cgi/reprint/46/3/409>

6. November 1: Long-term care (paper proposal due)

Feder J, Komisar HL, Niefeld M. 2000. Long-term care in the United States: an overview. Health Affairs. May-Jun;19(3):40-56. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/19/3/40>

Komisar, Harriet L., Lee Shirey Thompson. 2007. National Spending for Long-term Care. Fact Sheet. Washington, DC: Georgetown University. <http://ltc.georgetown.edu/pdfs/natspendfeb07.pdf>

Grogan, Colleen M. "The Politics of Aging within Medicaid." Pp. 219-243 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Pandya, Sheel M., Kari Wolkwitz, Lynn Friss Feinberg, 2006. Support for Working Family Caregivers: Paid Leave Policies in California and Beyond. San Francisco: National Center on Caregiving. http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=1679

[optional if interested in the topic: Feinberg LF, Newman SL. A study of 10 states since passage of the national family caregiver support program: policies, perceptions, and program development. Gerontologist. 2004 Dec;44(6):760-9. <http://gerontologist.gerontologyjournals.org/cgi/content/full/44/6/760>]

Lynch, Marty and Carroll L. Estes. "The underdevelopment of community-based services in the U.S. Long-term care systems: A structural analysis." Pp. 201-215 in C.L. Estes, Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

[for additional information if you are interested, see Chapters 13-15 in Gelfand]

7. November 8: Critical Perspectives in Aging Policies and Politics **Guest speaker, Tony Kuo, MD, MPH, Director, Office of Senior Health, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

Estes, Carroll L., Karen W. Linkins, Elizabeth A. Binney. 2001. "Critical perspectives on aging." Pp. 23-44 in C.L. Estes, Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

Estes, Carroll L., Robert R. Alford, Anne Hays Egan. "The Transformation of the Nonprofit Sector." Pp. 61-94 in Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

Estes, Carroll L. "Crisis, the Welfare State, and Aging." Pp. 95-117 in C.L. Estes, Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

Marty Martinson and Meredith Minkler. 2006. "Civic Engagement and Older Adults: A Critical Perspective." Gerontologist. 46(3): 318-324.

<http://gerontologist.gerontologyjournals.org/cgi/content/full/46/3/318>

8. November 16: Who benefits from aging policy?

Harrington Meyer, Madonna. "Decreasing Welfare, Increasing Old Age Inequality: Whose Responsibility Is It?" Pp. 65-89 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Teles, Steven M. "Social Security and the Paradoxes of Welfare State Conservatism." Pp. 90-107 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Estes, Carroll L., Jane L. Mahakian, Tracy A. Weitz. "A Political Economy Critique of 'Productive Aging.'" Pp. 187-199 in C.L. Estes, Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

Estes, Carroll L., Charlene Harrington, David N. Pellow. "The Medical-Industrial Complex." 165-185 in C.L. Estes, Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

–or–

Close, Liz, Carroll L. Estes, Karen W. Linkins. "The Political Economy of Health Work." Pp. 217-230 in C.L. Estes, Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

November 23: Thanksgiving

9. November 30: Gender, Race, and Policy Solutions (plus, how to write a policy memo)

Estes, Carroll L., "Sex and gender in the political economy of aging." Pp. 119-135 in C.L. Estes, Social Policy and Aging. (Text)

McDaniel, Susan A. 2004. "Generationing gender: Justice and the division of welfare." Journal of Aging Studies. 18(1): 27-44. Via <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

Sheel M. Pandya. "Racial and Ethnic Differences Among Older Adults in Long-Term Care Service Use." Washington, DC: AARP Public Policy Institute. 2005. http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/fs119_ltc.pdf

Wallace Steven P., Villa Valentine M. 2003. "Equitable health systems: cultural and structural issues for Latino elders." Am J Law Med. 2003;29(2-3):247-67. [<http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/> , click legal research, click law reviews, enter "Latino elders" in Keyword and change Date option to previous 5 years, select article]

Flippen, Chenoa A. "Minority Workers and Pathways to Retirement." Pp. 129-156 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

10. December 7: Aging Policy in the 21st Century

Pynoos, Jon, Christy M. Nishita. "The Changing Face of Senior Housing." Pp. 244-263 in R.B. Hudson, ed., The New Politics of Old Age Policy. (Text)

Riggs, Judith A. A "Family Caregiver Policy Agenda for the Twenty-first Century." Generations, 27(4): 68-73. http://www.asaging.org/publications/dbase/GEN/Gen.27_4.Riggs.pdf

Friedland, Robert B., Laura Summer. 2005. "Policy Choices Matter." Pp. 75-87 in Demography Is Not Destiny, Revisited. New York: Commonwealth Fund.
http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/789_friedland_demographynotdestinyII.pdf?section=4039

Penny Hollander Feldman, Pamela Nadash, and Michal Gursen. "Improving Communication Between Researchers and Policy Makers in Long-Term Care." Gerontologist 41(3):312-21, 2001.
<http://gerontologist.gerontologyjournals.org/cgi/reprint/41/3/312>

Optional: Institute for the Future (for Archstone Foundation). Fault Lines in the Shifting Landscape: The Future of Growing Older in California B 2010. Menlo Park, CA: 1999. At http://www.archstone.org/usr_doc/33534.pdf

December 14: final papers due (5 pm)

Some Basic Style Rules for Papers

1. Please type your paper, double space, 1" margins. Include a title page with your name, assignment title, and course number. On the paper itself include page numbers but do not repeat your name (a different running head is OK).
2. Avoid using the passive voice. Money was raised to solve the problem (passive voice). The community raised money to solve the problem (active voice).
3. Avoid the "royal we." If you alone did something, say "I did it."
4. Avoid gendered language when you are speaking generally. E.g. "humanity" for mankind, people live longer vs. man lives longer, personnel vs. manpower.
5. Descriptive subheadings are useful to help guide the reader through the text and ease transitions between topics.
6. Be sure to cite the source of your ideas and data that come from material you have read. You need the citation whether you are using a direct quote or not. Include a bibliography of works cited within the paper. Be sure to include the authors, year, full title, publisher's location, and publisher (for books); authors, year, full title, full journal name, volume number, and page numbers (for journals).
7. ALWAYS cite required class readings where appropriate.
8. Make sure you follow the instructions for the paper fully. If the directions say to "compare and contrast," be sure that you have a section comparing, and another contrasting.
9. **STYLE:** If you are already familiar with a standard academic style (e.g. APA), you can follow those guidelines. If you are unsure about style, several excellent reference works, include: the Chicago Manual of Style (the most comprehensive); The Elements of Style by Strunk & White (most common short work); the American Psychological Association style manual (comprehensive, common in psychology and medicine); You can also look at any journal, like the Gerontologist or AJPH, to see how they format articles. The last page of most journals gives a brief description of how to format citations. Whatever style you follow, **be consistent**.
10. Information from the internet needs a full citation, such as: United Nations. United Nations Principles for Older Persons. In: U.N. Division for Social Policy and Development; 2002. <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/iyop/iyoppop.htm#Care> Last Updated: 14 March 2000.

Sample Questions (week 1)

(Note: The point of the questions is to *apply* information and concepts from the readings and to generate class discussions on relevant topics).

1) Trends

How much of the change of aging politics from supporting growth in aging programs to supporting cuts in aging programs was due to the increases in spending on the elderly? (Hudson article)

2) Concepts

Holstein write about the importance of “dignity” as a key value in policy making. Is that more important in old age (as she argues) than younger ages? Why should it be a more important value (as she argues) than other values in evaluating policy options. How is it tied to justice and solidarity?

3) Comparisons / cross-article issues

What are the implications of prioritizing intergenerational justics (Myles) versus dignity (Holstein)?

Note: questions that draw on multiple articles, especially including articles from earlier class periods, are particularly good!