

HEALTH POLICY AND THE AGED

CHS 291 - - - Fall 2008

Steven P. Wallace, Ph.D.

Thurs 3-6pm Room CHS 61-235

office: 21-275A

email: Swallace@ucla.edu

phone: (310) 794-0910

Office Hours: 1-2pm Thursday
& 2:30-3:30pm Monday & by appt.

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:

At the health sciences bookstore:

- 1) Carroll L. Estes. Social Policy and Aging. Thousand Oakes, CA: Sage, 2001.
- 2) Rachel A. Pruchno and Michael A. Smyer. Challenges Of An Aging Society. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

(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.

Useful for background statistics:

- Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. Older Americans 2008: Key Indicators of Well-Being. Washington, DC. <http://www.agingstats.gov>
- 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: Advocacy or interest group analysis, 5-7 pages
Since this is an election year, it is particularly important and interesting to understand the positions of key advocacy and interest groups on aging issues, understand how they try to influence policy, see how the presidential candidates compare. For this brief paper, pick one group that has a stake in public policy for the elderly. Many are members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations in Washington, DC www.lcao.org; see also http://www.nysscpa.org/social_security/websites.htm. Examples are at the end of the syllabus. Do not pick a research organization that is not supposed to overtly engage in lobbying. For this organization, briefly describe the organization, the types of policy issues it takes a stand on, and what its interests are in the issue. Analyze the organization's position on an aging-related policy issue, highlighting the framing of the issue and at least one alternative framing. Briefly explain how they try to influence public opinion and/or policy makers. Research the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates (and/or parties) and see if they have a stated position on this issue. If they do, explain why you think they have that position. If they do not, explain what you think their position will be if faced with the issue. See <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/> and <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/>; also <http://www.ontheissues.org>. Be sure to reference class readings when appropriate.
- Assignment 2: Term Paper of your choice, 12-14 pages
Masters & Senior Students – Take an aging policy issue of your choice. Begin with a summary of the issue being discussed from a 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).

FYI, a good resource to look for writing term papers is “How to Research a Term Paper in Gerontology,” by Harry R. Moody at <http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline/termpaper.html>

Paper grades are based on whether you have developed a clear and convincing line of analysis (both technically and logically), cover the issues asked for in the assignment, provide original and/or creative ideas on the topic, and provide good documentation of your information.

- **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).

Everybody who makes an honest effort on the questions gets a check (full credit). Incomplete or mechanical questions get a "minus" (half credit). A particularly insightful, synthetic, or discussion-provoking SET of questions gets a plus (extra credit). For students whose final grade is borderline (e.g. A versus A-), the score on the discussion questions will be the deciding factor by counting towards your class participation grade.

Grading

Paper 1- 35%	Due: October 30
Paper 2 - 55%	December 11
Class participation - 10%	Each class

Class Topics & Readings:

1. September 25: Introduction

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

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, or on the Older Americans Act, see Chapter 2 of Gelfand]

2. October 2: Framing Policy Issues

H. Rick Moody. 2007. "Aging, Generational Opposition, and the Future of the Family." Chapter 7 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

Robert B. Hudson. 2007. "The Political Paradoxes of Thinking Outside the Life-Cycle Boxes." Chapter 11 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

John B. Williamson. 2007. "Social Security Reform and Responsibility across the Generations: Framing the Debate." Chapter 13 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

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

3. October 9: Health Policy Issues for Elders of Color
Guest Speaker: Valentine Villa, Ph.D., CSULA Department of Social Welfare and UCLA School of Public Health

Villa, Valentine, Steven P. Wallace, Anh Luu T. Huynh Hohnbaum. "The Aging Hispanic Population: Prescriptions for Health and Economic Security in Old Age." Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy. 18 (2006), 59-73.

Kyriakos S. Markides and Steven P. Wallace. 2007. Minority Elders in the United States: Implications for Public Policy. Chapter 8 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

Steven P. Wallace & Valentine M. Villa. 2009. "Healthy, Wealthy and Wise? Challenges to Income Security for Elders of Color." in Carroll Estes, Brooke Hollister, Leah Rogne, Brian Grossman (eds), Social Insurance, Social Justice, and Social Change. New York: Springer, 2009. (To be handed out)

4. October 16: Policy Process: Changing Public Policy for Older Adults

Thomas R. Oliver. 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>

Eric R. Kingson. 2007. "Setting the Agenda for Social Security Reform." Chapter 14 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

Robert H. Binstock. 2007. "Is Responsibility across Generations Politically Feasible?" Chapter 12 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, 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

[optional:

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

5. October 23: Medicare Policy

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2007. Medicare at a Glance. (2 pages) <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/1066-10.pdf>

Kalu, Kalu N. 2005. "Competing Ideals and the Public Agenda in Medicare Reform." Administration & Society. 37(1): 23-56. <http://aas.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/37/1/23>

Bruce Stuart. 2007. "Assessing the Returns from the New Medicare Drug Benefit." Chapter 16 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

Christine E. Bishop. 2007. "Prescription Drugs and Elders in the Twenty-First Century." Chapter 17 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

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. October 30: Long term care issues (Paper 1 due)

Congressional Research Service. 2007. Long-Term Care: Consumers, Providers, Payers, and Programs. Washington, DC: CRS. Read pp. 1-4, 15-20, 35-36, and 45. Quickly skim other sections. <http://openocrs.cdt.org/getfile.php?rid=57633>

Charles J. Fahey. 2007. "The Ethics of Long-Term Care: Recasting the Policy Discourse." Chapter 3 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

Martha B. Holstein. Long-Term Care, Feminism, and an Ethics of Solidarity. Chapter 6 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

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 6: Critical Perspectives in Aging Policies and Politics

Estes, Carroll L. 2001. "Political Economy of Aging." Pp. 1-19 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 13: Who benefits from aging policy?

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)

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

W. Andrew Achenbaum, Thomas R. Cole. Transforming Age-based Policies to Meet Fluid Life-Course Needs. Chapter 10 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

**9. November 20: Analysis of the Presidential Elections & Implications for Health Policy (speaker); End of life care (readings)
Guest Speaker: E. Richard Brown, Ph.D., Director UCLA Center for Health Policy Research & Professor UCLA School of Public Health**

Nancy Neveloff Dubler. 2007. "The Legal Aspects of End-of-Life Decision Making." Chapter 1 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

Daniel C. Marson. 2007. "Assessing Competency to Make Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Clinician and Patient." Chapter 2 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

Lucy Feild. 2007. "Religiousness and Spirituality at the End of Life: Challenges and Opportunities." Chapter 4 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

November 27: Thanksgiving

10. December 4: Aging Policy in the 21st Century

Steven P. Wallace and L. Cricel Molina. 2008. "Federal Poverty Guideline Underestimates Costs of Living or Older Persons in California." Health Policy Research Brief. Los Angeles: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Elder_Index_PB_022608.pdf
AND Wider Opportunities for Women. 2008. "Elders Living on the Edge." Washington, DC: WOW. http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/eess0208_pdf/wow_supp.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

Norella M. Putney, Vern L. Bengtson, and Melanie A. Wakeman. 2007. "The Family and the Future: Challenges, Prospects, and Resilience." Chapter 5 in Pruchno, Challenges Of An Aging Society, Text.

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>

December 11: 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.

Examples of groups involved in policy advocacy

- Broad based senior advocacy groups
 - AARP - largest membership organization of seniors, centrist www.aarp.org
 - Alliance for Retired Americans - labor union sponsored www.retiredamericans.org
 - National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare - liberal www.ncpssm.org
 - Seniors Coalition - conservative, www.senior.org

- Population & service specific advocacy & service groups
 - National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) www.nicoa.org
 - Family Caregiver Alliance www.caregiver.org
 - National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care www.nccnhr.org

- Disease related groups
 - Alzheimers Association www.alz.org
 - National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF) www.nof.org
 - Compassion & Choices (right to die) www.compassionandchoices.org

- Provider Groups
 - National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA) www.nadsa.org
 - American Association of Homes and Services For the Aging (AAHSA) - nonprofit nursing homes www.aahsa.org
 - National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) www.n4a.org

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

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. The following are examples of different types of questions that you could raise.

1) Concepts

Can we talk about “Healthy Aging” and ways to promote it without including a focus on disease and disability? Is it as compelling to a policy maker to pass laws that promote healthy aging as it is to pass laws that reduce a dread disease like Alzheimers?

2) Implementation and policy implications of ideas

The CDC's agenda to promote healthy aging is admirable and the ideas expressed in the Lang et al. paper sound like great recommendations. I am however skeptical about the possibility of their implementation. The article mentioned a lot of research being done but did not mention in detail how these ideas would be integrated in existing structures and where funding from such programs would come from. Who would advocate for these ideas and how would they attract policy attention?

3) Comparisons / cross-article issues

Both “Public Health Perspective on Aging” and the CDC Agenda article set out directions for policy and practice. What are the key differences between the two?

4) OK to ask clarification questions, too

In “Preventive Health Care in Elderly People Needs Rethinking,” are the authors arguing that more research needs to be done to find more appropriate preventative health measures for the elderly? Or are they suggesting that preventative health care is futile for the elderly & that treatment should be focused on just relieving pain (ie. hospice, palliative care)?

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