SOC 6580 Sociology of Aging

I-Fen Lin
217 Williams Hall
Office phone number: 419-372-8517
Office hours: Tue and Thu 2:30-3:30 pm

SOC 6580 Sociology of Aging

I-Fen Lin
217 Williams Hall
Office phone number: 419-372-8517
Office hours: Tue and Thu 2:30-3:30 pm

Course Requirements

Class Participation. The class will follow a seminar format, with two students leading the discussion during each class meeting. Class discussion leaders distribute a list of discussion questions via email by 5 pm Tuesday prior to Wednesday class. Student leaders are not to summarize the material as it is assumed everyone is familiar with the readings. Instead, leaders will pose thoughtful, provocative questions to engage the class in an analysis of key topics that stem from the readings. Other students are expected to actively participate in class discussion. Attendance at all class meetings is expected.

Exam. There will be a comprehensive closed-book, closed-note exam during final exam week (December 13, Tuesday, 3:30-5:30 pm). The exam will be structured in a manner similar to prelims.

Term Paper. You will have the opportunity to explore a topic about aging families that is of interest to you through a term paper assignment (topic must be approved by the instructor). This term paper could be the front end of a research paper and a description of the data set and analytic sample that could be used to answer your research question(s) OR a complete research paper in which you will use an existing dataset to analyze aging families for the topic of your interest. A one page topic statement is due September 28. A working bibliography is due October 26. The final paper is due December 7. Students will present their papers to the class during the last two weeks of the semester.

Grading. Course grades will be roughly equally comprised of discussion performance (as a leader and a participant), term paper quality (including presentation), and final exam score.

Course Readings. The readings for this course will be available in Canvas. Be sure that you have read the assigned material prior to the class meetings.

Codes of Academic Conduct. Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, forgery, bribery/threats, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating academic dishonesty. Violations of academic integrity will be penalized with an F in the class and prosecution at the University level (for more detailed information, see Student Handbook).
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (August 24) Age-Period-Cohort Effects


Week 2 (August 31) Intimate Relationships in Later Life


Week 3 (September 7) Marital Dissolution: Widowhood and Divorce


Week 4 (September 14) Repartnering after Union Dissolution: Dating, LAT, and Cohabitation


**Week 5 (September 21) Spousal/Partner Caregiving**


**Week 6 (September 28) Parent-Child Relationships**


Week 7 (October 5) Stepfamily


Week 8 (October 12) Intergenerational Transfer: Downward Transfer


Week 9 (October 19) Intergenerational Transfer: Upward Transfer


Leopold, Thomas, Marcel Raab, and Henriette Engelhardt. 2014. “The Transition to Parent Care: Costs, Commitments, and Caregiver Selection Among Children.” *Journal of Marriage and Family*
Week 10 (October 26) Sibling Relationships


Week 11 (November 2) LGBT Older Adults


**Week 12 (November 9) Childlessness**


**Week 13 (November 16) Grandparents and Grandchildren**


**Week 14 (November 23) No class, Thanksgiving**

**Week 15 (November 30) Paper Presentations**

**Week 16 (December 7) Paper Presentations**

**Final exam is scheduled on December 13 (Tuesday) from 3:30-5:30 pm.**