

Sociology 491-02/571: Sociology of the Life Course
Fall 2012
Tuesday 9:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Davison Hall 128 (Seminar Room)

Professor: Deborah Carr
Davison Hall 101C
E-mail: carrds@sociology.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment

This graduate-level course introduces students to the theories, methods, and substantive topics that exemplify the life course paradigm. The life course paradigm is based on four themes: (1) human lives are embedded in and shaped by historical context; (2) individuals construct their own life course through their choices and actions, within the constraints of historical and social circumstances; (3) life domains, including work, family, health, and social background are intertwined; and (4) the developmental impact of a life transition is contingent on when it occurs.

Life course research is interdisciplinary by nature and design. Studies of the life course typically incorporate sociology, history, psychology, demography, and – in recent years – behavioral genetics, and often tackle the complex debate over constancy and change in human development. With respect to substantive areas, the foci of life course studies range from social psychological outcomes such as stress, self-esteem, occupational values and cognitive complexity, to family roles, marital and fertility patterns, educational and occupational attainment, retirement, and deviance. A single semester can provide only a sampling of the current range of theory and empirical work on the life course. The objective is to acquire a way of thinking which can offer a point of departure for one's own research.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to (1) identify and critically assess the core themes of the life course paradigm; (2) understand the basic quantitative and qualitative research methods used to study the life course; (3) evaluate the ways that social context, social history, and social structures affect individual life courses; and (4) develop an independent research project that draws on the themes, concepts and methods of the life course paradigm.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor is required. Some familiarity with quantitative research methods also is recommended.

Required Reading: PDFs of all required journal articles and book chapters will be available via the course Sakai site.

Recommended Readings: Recommended readings may enrich your knowledge of the life course paradigm. Most recommended articles are either reference/background sources, innovative empirical evaluations of theory, or recent controversial works in the area of life course studies. Recommended books include influential classic and contemporary works in the field of life course studies and human development. Students are not expected to read the recommended books during the semester; rather, these books are suggested for future reference only. Recommended articles and chapters are available via the course Sakai site.

Overview of Course Requirements and Grading:

The course is organized as a seminar. I will provide an overview of each week's readings, but instruction also will take place in the context of student discussions, presentations, and exchanges focused on the readings. Course grades will be based on three requirements. *I will not give grades of "incomplete."*

(1) Leading a class discussion (10 percent of class grade).

Each week, one student will lead class discussion. The student leader(s) may base the discussion on the questions submitted by class participants, or may design a discussion that incorporates both assigned readings and his/her own research interests. Each week, class members will email 3-4 discussion questions to the discussion leader and professor, no later than noon Monday on the day prior to class.

(2) Participation in weekly discussion (20 percent of class grade).

This grade reflects participation in discussion, and the quality of the questions submitted each week. Students should read carefully so that they come to class with both insightful comments and questions. Students who read materials that are not on the syllabus but that are germane to the discussion should feel free to contribute this knowledge to the discussion; the class as a whole will benefit from the specialized knowledge of all participants

(3) Final research paper or proposal (70 percent of class grade).

The main course requirement is the preparation of an original research paper or research proposal (about 20-25 pages, double spaced). Each student will present a brief synopsis of their research project during the final class session. Paper topic and methodology will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The paper should define a research question, review relevant prior studies, and either: (1) analyze suitable data, and present the findings and their implications (research paper) or (2) propose a detailed strategy and justification for conducting an original research project (research proposal). Students are encouraged to use this class project to develop a qualifying paper, conference paper, dissertation prospectus, or journal article. Completion of the paper/proposal will proceed in four steps.

1. Each student will submit a brief (2-3 page) proposal **by the start of class on October 16th**. This brief proposal should describe your research question, the data or methodology to be used, and the analyses to be undertaken. You are encouraged to meet with me early in the semester to discuss your research plan.

2. OPTIONAL. A first draft of the paper/proposal is due **by 7 p.m. on Monday December 3**. Students who submit early drafts will receive feedback by Friday December 7, so that they may incorporate this feedback into their final class presentations.

3. Each student will make a 15 minute presentation to the class on **December 11**.

4. The final draft of the paper/proposal is due **no later than Monday December 17 at noon**. **I will not accept papers submitted after that deadline.**

For students planning to conduct secondary data analyses, many data sets are available through University of Michigan's Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu>). Among these data sets are the Adolescent Health Study (Add-Health), General Social Survey (GSS), Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), Longitudinal Study of Aging

(LSOA), Midlife in the United States (MIDUS), Monitoring the Future (MTF), National Longitudinal Study (NLS), National Survey of Black Americans (NSBA), National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH), Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) and the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS). Information on accessing data sets will be made available during the early weeks of the seminar.

READING SCHEDULE

I. Introduction to the Life Course Paradigm

September 4: Introductions and Brief Overview of the Life Course Paradigm & Methods

Required Readings:

- Carr, Deborah. 2009. "Preface." Pp. XI-XVII in *Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development*, edited by Deborah Carr. Farmington Hills MI: Gale/CENGAGE Learning.
- Carr, Deborah. 2009. "Research Methods." Pp. 465-474 in *Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development*. Farmington Hills MI: Gale/CENGAGE Learning.
- Mair, Christine A. and Feinian Chen. 2009. "Correlation and Causation." Pp. 474-478 in *Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development*. Farmington Hills MI: Gale/CENGAGE Learning.
- Liu, Guangya and Feinian Chen. 2009. "Variables." Pp. 478-481 in *Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development*. Farmington Hills MI: Gale/CENGAGE Learning.

Recommended Books:

- Carr, Deborah (Ed.). 2009. *Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development, Volumes I-III*. Farmington Hills MI: Gale/CENGAGE Learning. (Note: Table of Contents is available at: <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~carrds/TOC.pdf>. Please let me know if you would like PDFs of particular entries and I will post them on Sakai or email them to you.)

September 11: Life Course Paradigm: Foundations, Themes and Expansions

Required Readings:

- Dannefer, Dale. 1984. "Adult Development and Social Theory: A Paradigmatic Reappraisal." *American Sociological Review* 49: 100-116, and responses: Baltes, Paul B., and John R. Nesselrode. 1984. "Paradigm Lost and Paradigm Regained: Critique of Dannefer's Portrayal of Life-Span Developmental Psychology." *American Sociological Review* 49:841-847; Dannefer, Dale. 1984. "The Role of the Social in Life-Span Developmental Psychology, Past and Future: Rejoinder to Baltes and Nesselrode." *American Sociological Review* 49: 847-850.
- Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1998. "The Life Course as Developmental Theory." *Child Development* 69(1):1-12.
- Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1994. "Time, Human Agency and Social Change: Perspectives on the Life Course." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 57:4-15.
- Linton, Ralph. 1942. "Age and Sex Categories." *American Sociological Review* 7:589-603.
- Mayer, Karl Ulrich. 2009. "New Directions in Life Course Research." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35: 413-433.
- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 1. "The Promise" (pp. 3-24).

Riley, Matilda White. 1987. "On the Significance of Age in Sociology." *American Sociological Review* 52:1-14

Recommended Articles:

- Cacioppo, J. T., Berntson, G. G., Sheridan, J. F., & McClintock, M. K. 2000. "Multilevel Integrative Analyses of Human Behavior: Social Neuroscience and the Complementing Nature of Social and Biological Approaches." *Psychological Bulletin* 126: 829–843.
- Freese, Jeremy, Jui-Chung, Allen Li, and Lisa D. Wade. 2003. "The Potential Relevances of Biology to Social Inquiry." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 233-56.
- Jacobs, Jerry A., and Scott Frickel. 2009. "Interdisciplinarity: A Critical Assessment." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35: 43-65.

Recommended Books:

- Brim, Orville G., Jr. and Jerome Kagan. 1980. *Constancy and Change in Human Development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Clausen, John A. 1986. *The Life Course: A Sociological Perspective*. New York: Prentice-Hall.
- Mortimer, Jeylan T., and Michael J. Shanahan (Eds.). 2006. *Handbook of the Life Course*. New York: Springer.
- Settersten, Richard A., Jr. 1999. *Lives in Time and Place: The Problems and Promises of Developmental Science*. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing Co.
- Settersten, Richard A. Jr., (Ed.). 2003. *Invitation to the Life Course: Toward New Understandings of Later Life*. Amityville, NY: Baywood.
- Shanahan, Michael and Ross MacMillan. 2007. *Biography and the Sociological Imagination*. New York: W. W. Norton.

September 18: Life Course Methods, Models, and Data Sources

Required Readings:

- Alwin, Duane F., and Richard T. Campbell. 2001. "Quantitative Approaches: Longitudinal Methods in the Study of Human Development and Aging." Pp. 22-43 in *Handbook of Aging & the Social Sciences, 5th edition*, ed. by Robert H. Binstock and Linda K. George. New York: Academic.
- Baron, Reuben M. and David A. Kenny. 1986. "The Moderator-Mediator Variable Distinction in Social Psychological Research: Conceptual, Strategic, and Statistical Considerations." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 51(6): 1173-1182.
- Cahill, Spencer, Gary Alan Fine, and Linda Grant. 1995. "Dimensions of Qualitative Research." Pp. 605-28 in *Sociological Perspectives on Social Psychology*, edited by Karen S. Cook, Gary Allan Fine, and James S. House. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Palmore, Erdmore. 1978. "When Can Age, Period and Cohort be Separated?" *Social Forces* 1:282-295.
- Small, Mario. 2011. "How to Construct a Mixed Methods Study: Recent Trends in a Rapidly Growing Literature." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37: 57-86.
- Wheaton, Blair. 2003. "When Methods Make a Difference." *Current Sociology* 51: 543-71.

Recommended Articles:

- Danigelis, Nicholas I., Melissa Hardy, and Stephen J. Cutler. 2007. "Population Aging, Intracohort Aging, and Sociopolitical Attitudes." *American Sociological Review* 72: 812-830.
- Hedstrom, Peter and Petri Ylikoski. 2010. "Causal Mechanisms in the Social Sciences." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36: 49-67.
- Miech, Richard A., Avshalom Caspi, Terrie E. Moffitt, Bradley R. Entner Wright, and Phil A. Silva. 1999. "Low Socioeconomic Status and Mental Disorders: A Longitudinal Study of Selection and Causation during Young Adulthood." *American Journal of Sociology* 104: 1096-1131.
- Petersen, Trond. 1993. "Recent Advances in Longitudinal Methodology." *Annual Review of Sociology* 19: 425-454.
- Singer, Burton H., Carol D. Ryff, Deborah Carr, and William Magee. 1998. "Linking Life Histories and Mental Health: A Person-Centered Strategy." *Sociological Methodology* 28:1-51.

Recommended Books:

- Elder, Glen H. and Janet Z. Giele. (Eds.). 2009. *The Craft of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Thousand Oaks, CA; Sage.
- Phelps, Erin, Frank F. Furstenberg, and Anne Colby (Eds.). 2002. *Looking at Lives: American Longitudinal Studies of the 20th Century*. New York: Russell Sage.

II. Paradigmatic Themes

A. Lives in Historical Time and Place

September 25: The Influence of Birth Cohort and Historical Context

Required Readings:

- Brown, Tony N., and Chase L. Lesane-Brown. 2006. "Race Socialization Messages across Historical Time." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 69: 201-213.
- Caren, Neal, Raj Andrew Ghoshal, and Vanesa Ribas. 2011. "A Social Movement Generation: Cohort and Period Trends in Protest Attendance and Petition Signing." *American Sociological Review* 76: 125-151.
- Carr, Deborah. 2002. "The Psychological Consequences of Work-Family Tradeoffs Across Three Cohorts of Men and Women." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 65(2): 103-24.
- Griffin, Larry J. 2004. "'Generations and Collective Memories' Revisited: Race, Region, and the Memory of Civil Rights." *American Sociological Review* 69: 544-557.
- Mannheim, Karl. 1952. "The Problem of Generations." Pp. 286-323 in *Essays on the Sociology of Knowledge*, edited by D. Kecskemeti. London: Routledge and Kagan.
- Ryder, Norman B. 1965. "The Cohort as a Concept in the Study of Social Change." *American Sociological Review* 30(6):843-61.
- Schuman, Howard and Jacqueline Scott. 1989. "Generations and Collective Memories." *American Sociological Review* 54:359-381.

Recommended Articles:

- Cotter, David, Joan M. Hermsen, and Reeve Vanneman. 2011. "The End of the Gender Revolution: Gender Roles Attitudes from 1977 to 2008." *American Journal of Sociology* 117: 259-289.

- Hout, Michael and Claude S. Fischer. 2002. "Why More Americans Have No Religious Preference: Politics and Generations." *American Sociological Review* 67: 165-90.
- Kertzer, David. 1983. "Generation as a Sociological Problem." *Annual Review of Sociology* 9:125-149.
- Percheski, Christine. 2008. "Opting Out? Cohort Differences in Professional Women's Employment Rates from 1960 to 2005." *American Sociological Review* 73: 497-517.

Recommended Books:

- Easterlin, Richard. 1987. *Birth and Fortune: The Impact of Numbers on Personal Welfare* (2nd ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Elder, Glen H., Jr., 1999 (1974). *Children of the Great Depression: Social Change in Life Experience* (25th Anniversary Edition). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- McAdam, Doug. 1990. *Freedom Summer*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Mintz, Steve. 2004. *Huck's Raft: A History of American Childhood*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard.
- Schaie, K. Walter and Glen H. Elder, Jr. (Eds.) 2005. *Historical Influences on Lives and Aging*. New York: Springer Publishing.

B. Human Agency and Structural Constraints

October 2: Agency and Planful Behavior

Required Readings:

- Clausen, John. 1991. "Adolescent Competence and the Shaping of the Life Course." *American Journal of Sociology* 96:805-842.
- Emirbayer, Mustafa and Ann Mische. 1998. "What is Agency?" *American Journal of Sociology* 103(4):962-1023.
- Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67: 747-776.
- Merton, Robert K. 1968 (1957) *Social Theory and Social Structure*. New York: The Free Press. Ch. 6 "Social Structure and Anomie" (pp. 175-214), Ch. 7 "Continuities in the Theory of Social Structure and Anomie" (pp. 215-248).
- Mirowsky, John and Catherine E. Ross. 2007. "Life Course Trajectories of Perceived Control and their Relationship to Education." *American Journal of Sociology* 112: 1139-82.
- Reynolds, John R. and Chardie L. Baird. 2010. "Is There a Downside to Shooting for the Stars? Unrealized Educational Expectations and Symptoms of Depression." *American Sociological Review* 75: 151-172.
- Scarr, Sandra and Kathleen McCartney. 1983. "How People Make Their Own Environments: A Theory of Genotype-Environment Effects." *Child Development* 54:424-35.

Recommended Articles:

- Corell, Shelley J. 2001. "Gender and the Career Choice Process: The Role of Biased Self-Assessments." *American Journal of Sociology* 106(6): 1691-1730.
- Marshall, Victor W. 2000. "Agency, Structure, and the Life Course in the Era of Reflexive Modernization." Paper presented at 2000 annual meetings of American Sociological Association, Washington, D.C.

- Sayer, Liana C., Paula England, Paul D. Allison, and Nicole Kangas. 2011. "She Left, He Left: How Employment and Satisfaction Affect Women's and Men's Decisions to Leave Marriages." *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 1982-2018.
- Shanahan, Michael J., Glen H. Elder, and Richard A. Miech. 1997. "History and Agency in Men's Lives: Pathways to Achievement in Cohort Perspective." *Sociology of Education* 70(1):54-67.
- Spenner, Kenneth I. and David L. Featherman. 1978. "Achievement Ambitions." *Annual Review of Sociology* 4:373-420.

Recommended Books:

- Clausen, John. 1993. *American Lives*. New York: Free Press.
- Davidson, Elsa. 2011. *The Burdens of Aspiration: Schools, Youth, and Success in the Divided Social Worlds of Silicon Valley*. New York: New York University Press.
- Erikson, Erik. 1950. *Childhood and Society*. New York: Norton.
- Gerson, Kathleen. 2011. *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Vaillant, George. 1977. *Adaptation to Life*. Boston: Little, Brown.

October 9: Constraints to Human Agency

Required Readings:

- Cavanagh, Shannon E., Catherine Riegler-Crumb, and Robert Crosnoe. 2007. "Puberty and the Education of Girls." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 70: 186-198.
- Crosnoe, Robert. 2007. "Gender, Obesity, and Education." *Sociology of Education* 80: 241-260.
- Dannefer, Dale. 2003. "Cumulative Advantage/Cumulative Disadvantage and the Life Course: Cross-Fertilizing Age and Social Science Theory." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 58: 327-337.
- Dohrenwend, Bruce P. 2000. "The Role of Adversity and Stress in Psychopathology: Some Evidence and its Implications for Research and Theory." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 41: 1-19.
- Freese, Jeremy. 2008. "Genetics and the Social Science Explanation of Individual Outcomes." *American Journal of Sociology* 114: S1-S35.
- MacLeod, Jay. 1995. *Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood*. New York: Westview Press. Ch 1. "Social Immobility in the Land of Opportunity" (pp. 3-10); Ch. 5. "The World of Work: Aspirations of the Hangers and the Brothers" (pp. 61-82), and Ch. 7. "Leveled Aspirations: Social Reproduction Takes its Toll" (pp. 112-134).
- McLanahan, Sara and Christine Percheski. 2008. "Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 257-276.
- Schafer, Markus H., Kenneth F. Ferraro, and Sarah A. Mustillo. 2011. "Children of Misfortune: Early Adversity and Cumulative Inequality in Perceived Life Trajectories." *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 1053-1091.

Recommended Articles:

- Kessler, Ronald C., Kristin D. Mickelson, and David R. Williams. 1999. "The Prevalence, Distribution and Mental Health Correlates of Perceived Discrimination in the United States." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 40: 208-230.

- Mayer, Karl-Ulrich and Urs Schoepflin. 1989. "The State and the Life Course." *Annual Review of Sociology* 15:187-209.
- McLeod, Jane D., and Timothy J. Owens. 2004. "Psychological Well-Being in the Early Life Course: Variations by Socioeconomic Status, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67: 257-278.
- Sharkey, Patrick and Felix Elwert. 2011. "The Legacy of Disadvantage: Multigenerational Neighborhood Effects on Cognitive Ability." *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 1934-1981.

Recommended Books:

- Blauner, Robert. 1989. *Black Lives, White Lives*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Damaske, Sarah. 2011. *For the Family?: How Class and Gender Shape Women's Work*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kahn, Shamus. 2010. *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

C. Linked Lives

October 16: Intergenerational Influences

Required Readings:

- Amato, Paul. 1996. "Explaining the Intergenerational Transmission of Divorce." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 58:628-40.
- Beller, Emily. 2009. "Bringing Intergenerational Social Mobility Research in the Twenty First Century: Why Mothers Matter." *American Sociological Review* 74: 507-528.
- DiMaggio, Paul. 1982. "Cultural Capital and School Success: The Impact of Status Culture Participation on the Grades of U.S. High School Students." *American Sociological Review* 47:189-201.
- D'Onofrio, Brian M., Eric Turkheimer, Robert E. Emery, K. Paige Harden, Wendy S. Slutske, Andrew C. Heath, Pamela A. F. Madden, and Nicholas G. Martin. 2007. "A Genetically Informed Study of the Intergenerational Transmission of Marital Instability." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 69: 793-809.
- Glass, Jennifer, Vern L. Bengtson, and Charlotte Chorn Dunham. 1986. "Attitude Similarity in Three-Generation Families: Socialization, Status Inheritance, or Reciprocal Effects." *American Sociological Review* 51:685-698.
- McLanahan, Sara and Larry Bumpass. 1988. "Intergenerational Consequences of Family Disruption." *American Journal of Sociology* 94:130-52.
- Stacey, Judith and Timothy J. Biblarz. 2001. "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?" *American Sociological Review* 66(2): 159-183.

Recommended Articles:

- Bronfenbrenner, Urie. 1986. "Ecology of the Family as a Context for Human Development: Research Perspectives." *Developmental Psychology* 22(6):723-42.
- Carr, Deborah. 2004. "'My Daughter Has a Career: I Just Raised Babies': The Psychological Consequences of Women's Intergenerational Social Comparisons." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67: 132-154.

- Carr, Deborah. 2005. "The Psychological Consequences of Midlife Men's Social Comparisons with their Young Adult Sons." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67: 240-50.
- Foner, Nancy and Joanna Dreby. 2011. "Relations Between the Generations in Immigrant Families." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37: 545-564.
- Rutter, Michael. 1998. "Some Research Considerations on Intergenerational Continuities and Discontinuities: Comments on the Special Section." *Developmental Psychology* 34(6):1269-73.

Recommended Books:

- Alwin, Duane F., R.L. Cohen, and T.M. Newcomb. 1991. *Political Attitudes Over the Life Span: The Bennington Women After Fifty Years*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Bowles, Samuel and Gintis, Herbert. 2011 (1976). *Schooling In Capitalist America: Educational Reform and the Contradictions of Economic Life*. New York: Haymarket.
- Kohn, Melvin L. 1969. *Class and Conformity: A Study in Values*. Homewood, IL: Dorsey Press.
- Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life, Second Edition with an Update a Decade Later*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Rossi, Alice and Peter Rossi. 1990. *Of Human Bonding*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.
- Sewell, William H. and Robert M. Hauser. 1975. *Education, Occupation and Earnings: Achievement in the Early Career*. New York: Academic Press.

D. Timing, Transitions and Trajectories

October 23: The Meaning of Transitions, Trajectories and Turning Points (IMPORTANT: Class will meet from 1:10-3:50 p.m. today)

Required Readings:

- Carr, Deborah and Tetyana Pudrovska. 2007. "Mid-Life and Later-Life Crises." Pp. 175-185 in *Encyclopedia of Gerontology*, 2nd edition, edited by James E. Birren. New York: Elsevier.
- George, Linda. 1993. "Sociological Perspectives on Life Transitions." *Annual Review of Sociology* 19:353-73.
- McLeod, Jane D., and Danielle L. Fettes. 2007. "Trajectories of Failure: The Educational Careers of Children with Mental Health Problems." *American Journal of Sociology* 113: 653-701.
- McLeod, Jane D. and Ronald Kessler. 1990. "Socioeconomic Status Differences in Vulnerability to Undesirable Life Events." *Journal of Health & Social Behavior* 31:162-172.
- Rindfuss, Ronald, C. Gray Swicegood, and Rachel A. Rosenfeld. 1987. "Disorder in the Life Course: How Common and Does it Matter?" *American Sociological Review* 52:785-801.
- Wheaton, Blair. 1990. "Life Transitions, Role Histories and Mental Health" *American Sociological Review* 55:209-223.

Recommended Articles:

- Fomby, Paula and Andrew J. Cherlin. 2007. "Family Instability and Child Well-Being." *American Sociological Review* 72: 181-204.
- Sweeney, Megan and Allan V. Horwitz. 2001. "Infidelity, Initiation and the Emotional Climate of Divorce: Are There Implications for Mental Health?" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 42(3): 295-309.

Recommended Readings:

- Ebaugh, Helen R.F. 1988. *Becoming an Ex: The Process of Role Exit*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Furstenberg, Frank, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and S. Philip Morgan. 1987. *Adolescent Mothers in Later Life*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gotlib, Ian H., and Blair Wheaton (Eds.). 1997. *Stress and Adversity over the Life Course*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

October 30: Transition to Adulthood

Required Readings:

- Crosnoe, Robert and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson. 2011. "Research on Adolescence in the Twenty-First Century." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37: 439-460.
- Furstenberg, Frank et al. 2004. "Growing Up is Harder to Do." *Contexts* 3: 33-41.
- Goldscheider, Frances and Julie DaVanzo. 1989. "Pathways to Independent Living in Early Adulthood: Marriage, Semiautonomy, and Premarital Residential Independence." *Demography* 26:597-614.
- Gonzales, Roberto G. 2012. "Learning to be Illegal: Undocumented Youth and Shifting Legal Contexts in the Transition to Adulthood." *American Sociological Review* 76: 602-619.
- Hauser, Robert M. and Douglas K. Anderson. 1991. "Post-High School Plans and Aspirations of Black and White High School Seniors: 1976-86." *Sociology of Education* 64(4):263-77.
- Maines, David R. and Monica J. Hardesty. 1987. "Temporality and Gender: Young Adults' Career and Family Plans." *Social Forces* 66(1):102-120.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2012. "Constructing Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty." *American Sociological Review* 77: 505-522.

Recommended Articles:

- Bearman, Peter S. and Hannah Bruckner. 2001. "Promising the Future: Virginity Pledges and First Intercourse." *American Journal of Sociology* 106 (4): 859-912.
- Hogan, Dennis and Nan Astone. 1986. "The Transition to Adulthood." *Annual Review of Sociology* 12:109-130.
- Longmore, Monica A., Wendy D. Manning, Peggy C. Giordano, and Jennifer L. Rudolph. 2004. "Self-Esteem, Depressive Symptoms and Adolescents' Sexual Onset." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67: 279-295.
- Rosenbaum, James E., Takehiko Kariya, Rick Settersten, and Tony Maier. 1990. "Market and Network Theories of the Transition from High School to Work." *Annual Review of Sociology* 16:263-99.
- Settersten, Richard A., Jr., 1998. "A Time to Leave Home and A Time Never to Return? Age Constraints on the Living Arrangements of Young Adults." *Social Forces* 76(4):1373-1400.

Recommended Books:

- Modell, John. 1989. *Into One's Own: From Youth to Adulthood in the United States, 1920-1975*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Mortimer, Jeylan F., and Reed W. Larson. 2002. *The Changing Adolescent Experience: Societal Trends and the Transition to Adulthood*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Newman, Katherine. 2011. *The Accordion Family: Boomerang Kids, Anxious Parents, and the Private Toll of Global Competition*. New York: Beacon Press.

- Osgood, D. Wayne, E. Michael Foster, Constance Flanagan, and Gretchen R. Ruth (Eds.). 2005. *On Your Own Without a Net: The Transition to Adulthood for Vulnerable Populations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Settersten, Richard A., Jr., Frank F. Furstenberg Jr., and Ruben M. Rumbaut (Eds.) *On the Frontier of Adulthood: Theory, Research, and Public Policy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Waters, Mary C., Patrick J. Carr, Maria J. Kefalas, and Jennifer Holdaway. 2011. *The Transition to Adulthood in the 21st Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

November 6: “Non-Normative” and “Off-Time” Transitions and Trajectories in Young Adulthood (ELECTION DAY! Please remember to vote!)

Required Readings:

- Bruckner, Hannah, and Karl Ulrich Mayer. 2004. “The De-Standardization of the Life Course: What it Might Mean? And, if it Means Anything, Whether it Actually Took Place?” *Advances in Life Course Research*.
- Ensminger, Margaret E., and Anita L. Slusarcick. 1992. “Paths to High School Graduation or Dropout: A Longitudinal Study of a First-Grade Cohort.” *Sociology of Education* 65(2):95-113.
- Furstenberg, Frank Jr., Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, and S. Phillip Morgan. 1987. “Adolescent Mothers and their Children in Later Life.” *Family Planning Perspectives* 19: 142-51.
- Giordano, Peggy C., Stephen A. Cernkovich, and Jennifer L. Rudolph. 2002. “Gender, Crime, and Desistance: Toward a Theory of Cognitive Transformation.” *American Journal of Sociology* 107(4): 990-1064.
- Massoglia, Michael and Christopher Uggen. 2010. “Settling Down and Aging Out: Toward an Interactionist Theory of Desistance and the Transition to Adulthood.” *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 543-582.
- Mollborn, Stefanie and Elizabeth Morningstar. 2009. “Investigating the Relationship between Teenage Childbearing and Psychological Distress using Longitudinal Evidence.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 50: 310-326.
- Williams, Kristi, Sharon Sassler, Adrienne Frech, Fenaba Addo, and Elizabeth Cooksey. 2011. “Nonmarital Childbearing Union History and Women’s Health at Midlife.” *American Sociological Review* 76: 465-486.

Recommended Articles:

- Morgan, S. Philip and Ronald C. Rindfuss. 1999. “Reexamining the Link of Early Childbearing to Marriage and Subsequent Fertility.” *Demography* 36(1):59-75.
- Sampson, Robert and John Laub. 1992. “Crime and Deviance over the Life Course.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 18:63-84.
- Schnittker, Jason and Andrea John. 2007. “Enduring Stigma: The Long-Term Effects of Incarceration on Health.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 48: 115-130.
- Staff, Jeremy and Derek A. Kraeger. 2008. “Too Cool for School? Violence, Peer Status, and High School Dropout.” *Social Forces* 87: 445-471.
- Uggen, Christopher. 2000. “Work as a Turning Point in the Life Course of Criminals.” *American Sociological Review* 65(4): 529-560.

Recommended Books:

- Furstenberg, Frank F., Jr. 1976. *Unplanned Parenthood: The Social Consequences of Teenage Childbearing*. New York: Free Press.
- Laub, John H., and Robert J. Simpson. 2006. *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard.
- Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas. 2011. *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood before Marriage, With a New Preface, 3rd edition*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

November 13: Class cancelled for Gerontological Society of America annual meetings

November 20: Work Transitions and Trajectories

Required Readings:

- Budig, Michelle J., and Paula England. 2001. "The Wage Penalty for Motherhood." *American Sociological Review* 66: 204-225.
- Han, Shin-Kap and Phyllis Moen. 1999. "Clocking Out: Temporal Patterning of Retirement." *American Journal of Sociology* 105(1):191-236.
- Johnson, Monica Kirkpatrick, Rayna Amber Sage, and Jeylan T. Mortimer. In press. "Work Values, Early Career Difficulties, and the U.S. Economic Recession." *Social Psychology Quarterly*.
- McBrier, Debra Branch, and George Wilson. 2004. "Going Down? Race and Downward Occupational Mobility for White-Collar Workers in the 1990s." *Work and Occupations* 31: 283-322.
- Pienta, Amy Mehraban and Mark D. Hayward. 2002. "Who Expects to Continue Working After Age 62? The Retirement Plans of Couples." *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 57: S199-S208
- Presser, Harriet. 2004. "The Economy that Never Sleeps." *Contexts*.
- Stier, Haya, Noah Lewin-Epstein, and Michael Braun. 2001. "Welfare Regimes, Family-Supportive Policies, and Women's Employment along the Life Course." *American Journal of Sociology* 106 (6): 1731-60.

Recommended Articles:

- Atchley, Robert C. 1982. "Retirement as a Social Institution." *Annual Review of Sociology* 8:263-87.
- Dechter, Aimee R., and Glen H. Elder, Jr. 2004. "World War II Mobilization in Men's Work Lives: Continuity or Disruption for the Middle Class." *American Journal of Sociology* 110: 761-793
- Newman, Katherine S. 1988. *Falling from Grace: The Experience of Downward Mobility in the American Middle Class*. New York: Vintage Press. Ch. 2 "The Extent of Downward Mobility" (pp. 20-41) and Ch. 4 "The Downwardly Mobile Family" (pp.95-142).
- Torche, Florencia. 2011. "Is A College Degree Still the Great Equalizer? Intergenerational Mobility across Level of Schooling in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 117: 763-807.
- Wilensky, Harold L. 1961. "Orderly Careers and Social Participation: The Impact of Work History on Social Integration in the Middle Mass." *American Sociological Review* 26: 521-39.

Recommended Books:

- Adams, G. A. and T. A. Beehr (Eds). 2003. *Retirement: Reasons, Processes and Results*. New York: Springer.
- Fuchs, Victor. 1983. *How We Live: An Economic View of Lives from Birth to Death*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

- Kohli, Martin, et. al. (Eds.) 1991. *Time for Retirement: Comparative Studies of Early Exit from the Labor Force*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Moen, Phyllis and Patricia Roehling. 2005. *The Career Mystique*. Lanham, MA: Rowan & Littlefield.
- Newman, Katherine. 1988. *Falling From Grace*. New York: Free Press.

November 27: Family Transitions in Adulthood

Required Readings:

- Amato, Paul R. 2010. "Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 650-666.
- Manning, Wendy D., Monica A. Longmore, and Peggy C. Giordano. 2007. "The Changing Institution of Marriage: Adolescents' Expectations to Cohabit and Marry." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 69: 559-575.
- Manning, Wendy D., and Pamela Smock. 2005. "Measuring and Modeling Cohabitation: New Perspectives from Qualitative Data." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 67 (4): 989-1002.
- Oppenheimer, Valerie Kincaide. 1988. "A Theory of Marriage Timing." *American Journal of Sociology* 94(3): 563-91.
- Sassler, Sharon. 2010. "Partnering across the Life Course: Sex, Relationships, and Mate Selection." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 557-575.
- Settersten, Richard and Gunhild Hagestad. 1996. "What's the Latest? Cultural Age Deadlines for Family Transitions." *The Gerontologist* 36(2):178-88.
- Smock, Pamela J., and Fiona Rose Greenland. 2010. "Diversity in Pathways to Parenthood: Patterns, Implications, and Emerging Research Directions." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 576-593.
- Umberson, Debra, Tetyana Pudrovska, and Corinne Reczek. 2010. "Parenthood, Childlessness, and Well-Being: A Life Course Perspective." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 612-629.

Recommended Articles:

- Bennett, Neil. 1989. "The Divergence of Black and White Marriage Patterns." *American Journal of Sociology* 95:692-722.
- Carr, Deborah, James S. House, Ronald C. Kessler, Randolph M. Nesse, John Sonnega, and Camille Wortman. 2000. "Marital Quality and Psychological Adjustment to Widowhood Among Older Adults: A Longitudinal Analysis." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 55B(4):S197-207.
- Glick, Paul. 1947. "The Family Life Cycle." *American Sociological Review* 12:164-74.
- Sweeney, Megan M. 2010. "Remarriage and Stepfamilies: Sites for Family Scholarship in the 21st Century." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 667-684.
- Teachman, Jay D., L.M. Therow, and K.D. Crowder. 2000. "The Changing Demography of America's Families." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 62(4): 1234-46.

Recommended Books:

- Clarke, Averil. 2011. *Inequalities of Love: College-Educated Black Women and the Barriers to Romance and Family*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Gerson, Kathleen. 1985. *Hard Choices: How Women Decide About Work, Career and Motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Gerson, Kathleen. 1993. *No Man's Land: Men's Changing Commitment to Family and Work*. New York: Basic Books.

Thornton, Arland, William G. Axinn, and Yu Xie. 2010. *Marriage and Cohabitation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

December 4: Death, Dying and End-of-Life Issues

Required Readings:

- Carr, Deborah. 2012. "Death and Dying in the Contemporary United States: What are the Psychological Implications of Anticipated Death?" *Social and Personality Psychology Compass* 6/2: 184-195.
- Carstensen, Laura, Helene Fung, and Susan T. Charles. 2003. "Socioemotional Selectivity Theory and the Regulation of Emotion in the Second Half of Life." *Motivation and Emotion* 10:103-123.
- George, Linda K. 2002. "Research Design in End-of-Life Research: State of Science." *The Gerontologist* 42 (Special Issue): 86-98.
- Hallberg, Ingalil R. 2004. "Death and Dying from Old People's Point of View. A Literature Review." *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research* 16: 87-103.
- Umberson, Debra and Meichu D. Chen. 1994. "Effects of a Parent's Death on Adult Children: Relationship Salience and Reaction to Loss." *American Sociological Review* 59: 152-168.
- Zimmermann, Camilla and Gary Rodin. 2004. "The Denial of Death Thesis: Sociological Critique and Implications for Palliative Care." *Palliative Medicine*: 121-8.

Recommended Articles:

- Carr, Deborah. 2003. "A 'Good Death' for Whom? Quality of Spouse's Death and Psychological Distress among Older Widowed Persons." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 44: 215-32.
- Carr, Deborah. 2009. "Who's to Blame? Perceived Responsibility for Spouse's Death and Psychological Distress among Older Widowed Persons." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 50:359-375.
- Cornwell, Benjamin, Edward O. Laumann, and L. Philip Schumm. 2008. "The Social Connectedness of Older Adults: A National Profile." *American Sociological Review* 73: 185-203.
- Elwart, Felix and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2006. "Widowhood and Race." *American Sociological Review* 71: 16-41.
- Pessin, Hayley B., Barry Rosenfeld, and William Breitbart. 2002. "Assessing Psychological Distress near the End of Life." *American Behavioral Scientist* 46: 357-72.
- Wray, Matt, Cynthia Colen, and Bernice Pescosolido. 2011. "The Sociology of Suicide." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37: 505-528,

Recommended Books:

- Archer, John. 1999. *The Nature of Grief: The Evolution and Psychology of Reactions to Loss*. New York: Routledge.
- Berns, Nancy. 2011. *Closure: The Rush to End Grief and What it Costs Us*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Christakis, Nicholas. 2001. *Death Foretold: Prophecy and Prognosis in Medical Care*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kellehear, Allan. 2007. *A Social History of Dying*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. 1975. *Death: The Final Stage of Growth*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

December 10: Student Presentations

Have a nice winter break!!