

## Syllabus (provisional)

Bruce Jacobs  
Harkness 337

Fall 2013  
Office Hours: MW 10:00 – 11:00

### PSC 245/245W

#### AGING AND PUBLIC POLICY

The requirements for this course consist of two papers of moderate length (6 pages) and a longer policy analysis assignment (10-12 pages). The schedule for these is listed on page 3. Papers handed in late will have their grades reduced. To pass the course, all assignments must be submitted. Students are expected to attend class and use materials from lectures along with the assigned readings when writing the papers. There are two books for purchase: The Generational Equity Debate (eds. Williamson et. al) and The New Politics of Old Age Policy Second Edition (Hudson),. al.) Both are in paperback. Most of the other readings will be available on electronic reserve. Some of the articles and books will be on reserve only. Readings with a "\*" are optional (but recommended). Readings with "\*\*\*" are also optional and may be found at the web addresses listed below.

Several of the readings are in The Green Book (2008) A U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means publication). It can be accessed on the web at:  
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/singlepages.aspx?NewsID=10490>

#### I. Myths and Realities of Aging (9/1 – 9/ 8)

65+ in the United States (passim) <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p23-209.pdf>

Jacobs, "Ideas, Beliefs and Aging Policy"

Haddad, "Edna's Feeling Achy"

Samuelson, "United in Denial"

Binstock, "Transcending Intergenerational Equity" in Marmor and Smeeding, Economic Security and Intergenerational Justice\*

#### II. Rationales for Public Sector Programs (9/8 – 9/15)

Kingson, Ties That Bind, Ch. 1

The New Politics of Old Age Policy, Chs

Moon and Mulvey, Entitlements and the Elderly, pp. 37-44

#### III. Economic Well-Being (9/22 – 10/04)

Steuerle and Bakija, Retooling Social Security for the 21st Century, Ch.6\*

Moon and Mulvey, pp. 11-28

Cook and Kramek, "Measuring Economic Hardship Among Older Americans"

The Green Book Appendix E

#### IV. Social Security Retirement Benefits (10/6 – 10/27)

Sights and Sounds of Social Security <http://www.ssa.gov/history/mpeg/videosound.html>

Understanding the Benefits of The Green Book , Section 1

The Trustees Report 2010 <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TRSUM/index.html>

Social Security <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10024.pdf>

Krugman on Social Security <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/16/opinion/16krugman.html>

Munnell, "A Bird's Eye View of the Social Security Debate"

Munnell, Social Security's Financial Outlook  
<http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib-8-5f.pdf?phpMyAdmin=43ac483c4de9t51d9eb41>

Munnell et. al., "The Social Security Fix-It Book."  
[http://crr.bc.edu/special\\_projects/the\\_social\\_security\\_fix-it\\_book.html](http://crr.bc.edu/special_projects/the_social_security_fix-it_book.html)

Williamson et.al., The Generational Equity Debate, Ch. 11

The New Politics of Old Age Policy, Chs.

2010 Trustees Report <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TRSUM/index.html>

How To Calculate Your Benefit \*\* <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10070.html>

## V. Other Retirement Income (10/27 -11/1)

Munnell and Perun, "An Update on Private Pensions"

[http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib\\_50.pdf?phpMyAdmin=43ac483c4de9t51d9eb41](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_50.pdf?phpMyAdmin=43ac483c4de9t51d9eb41)

Jacobs, "The National Potential of Home Equity Conversion" (pp. 496-500)

Rich and Porter, "Increasingly, The Home is Paying for Retirement"

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/24/business/24wealth.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/24/business/24wealth.html?_r=1&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin)

Supplemental Security Income, <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/11000.pdf>

The Green Book, Section 2

## VI. Health Care Overview

Developments in Aging, Vol. 3, Ch. 4

### B. Medicare (acute care) (11/8 – 11/17)

Buntin and Huskamp, "What is Known About the Economics of End-of-Life Care?"

Feder and Moon, "Can Medicare Survive Its Saviors?"\*

[http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=can\\_medicare\\_survive\\_its\\_saviors](http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=can_medicare_survive_its_saviors)

Medicare and You 2010 <http://www.medicare.org/Documents/medicareandyou2010.pdf>

The Trustees Report 2010 <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TRSUM/index.html>

Ross and Walker, "Misled on Medicare"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/15/opinion/15walker.html>

Moon, "How Beneficiaries Fare Under the New Medicare Drug Bill"

[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr\\_doc/Moon\\_MedicareRxdrug\\_ib\\_730.pdf?section=4039](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Moon_MedicareRxdrug_ib_730.pdf?section=4039)

The New Politics of Old Age Policy Ch

### C. Long-Term Care (Medicaid) (11/17 – 11/29)

A Call for Action (Pepper Commission Report), chs. 3,4

Munnell e. al. , "Long Term Care Costs" [http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib\\_9-7.pdf](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_9-7.pdf)

Doty, Liu and Wiener, "An Overview of Long-Term Care"

Weissert, "Hard Choices.."

Jacobs and Weissert, "Using Home Equity to Pay for Long-Term Care"

Jacobs, "The National Potential," pp. 500-503\*  
Moon and Mulvey, Ch. 6  
Short et. al., "Public and Private Responsibility for Financing Nursing Home Care"

## VII. Housing (11/29)

Jacobs, "Housing New York State's Elderly Population" in Wolkoff, Housing New York Developments in Aging, Vol. I, Ch. 9  
Chao, "Exploring Mortgage Options for the Elderly"  
<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20100821/BUSINESS/8210324/Exploring-mortgage-options-for-seniors>

The New Politics of Old Age Policy, Ch

## VIII. The Future (12/1 – 12/13)

### A. What's Fair?

Williamson et.al., The Generational Equity Debate, Chs. 1-3, 5-10  
Kingson et. al., Ties That Bind, chs. 6-9\*  
Kingson and Berkowitz, "Is Social Security Fair?" in Social Security and Medicare  
Moon and Mulvey, Ch. 7  
Samuelson, "Our Kid's Will Pay the Bill"

### B. Targeting and Rationing - Policy and Politics

Jacobs, "'Means-Testing' vs. 'Targeting' Programs for the Elderly"  
Social Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Ch. 14  
Holden and Smeeding, "The Poor, The Rich and the Elderly Caught in Between"\*  
Jahnigen & Binstock, "Economic and Clinical Realities..." in Binstock and Post, Too Old for Health Care?  
Moon and Mulvey, pp. 44-51, 56-84, 96-127, 149-158

## Written Assignments

	<u>Handed Out</u>	<u>Due</u>
Paper #1	10/14	10/27
Paper #2	11/13	11/25
Policy Analysis	12/2	12/16