

Aging & Social Policy
Gerontology, Political Science, and Sociology 3757
Instructor W. Binning
wcbinning@ysu.edu
Office: 4th floor Debartolo

Goals & Objectives of the Course

This course offers an overview of public policies that impact on the lives of the aging population in the United States. Particular attention will be given to the development of and the current issues related to Medicare and Social Security.

Oral Presentation:

The student will be expected make a 20 minute oral presentation and advocate for a distinct policy position on a Health Care or Retirement Income issue that impacts seniors. They are expected to identify a policy issue and offer a solution. Students will also make a group presentation on the Older Americans Act.

Texts: (Both are available in paperback)

Henry J. Aaron and Jeanne M. Lambrew, Reforming Medicare (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 2008).

Peter A. Diamond and Peter R. Orszag, Saving Social Security (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 2005).
(at the time of the selection of this text Orszag served as President Obama's OMB Director)

A number of additional readings will be assigned and made available on the WEB CT site for this course.

Course Outline:

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
1.	Introduction to the Course.	Read “Medicare Reform the Stakes” in Aaron.
2.	Medicare	Read Chapter 2 “Medicare Primer” in Aaron
3.	Medicare	Read Chapter 3 “Goals Performance and Options for Medicare: in Aaron
4.	Intro to Social Security	Read Chapter 1 “Introduction” in Diamond and Orszag Exam 1
5.	Social Security	Read: ‘A Brief Overview of Social Security’ in Diamond and Orszag “Goals for Social Security Reform” Chapter 3
6.	Medicare	Read: “Strengthening Medicare as a Social Insurance Program” in Aaron Topics for Oral Presentation Due.
7.	Medicare	Read: Chapters 5 and 6 in Aaron Assignment of Days for Oral
		Beginning in Week 8 – two days a week will be given to oral presentation.
8.	Social Security	Read “Social Security’s Long Term Deficit” Diamond Chapter 4

9. Social Security
Read “A Three Part Plan to Shore Up Social Security” Diamond Chapter 5

10. Social Security
Read “Social Security as Social Insurance”
Diamond Chapter 6
Exam 2

Teams of 3 students will prepare presentations on the Older Americans Act—Those presentations will be made in the the closing weeks of the Course

11. Social Security
Read “Individual Accounts” in Diamond Chapter 8

12. Social Security
Read “Individual Accounts in Diamond Chapter 8

13 Evaluation of Obama’s Health Care Proposal on Medicare

14 Building Automatic Solvency into
U.S. Social Security: Insights from
Sweden and Germany”
James Capretta WEB CT
Brookings
Policy Paper Due

15. Continuation of Capretta Review for Exam

FINAL as scheduled in YSU Final Schedule

GRADING:

There will be 2 exams and a final. They will be of equal value and there is the Oral presentations will be worth 40 percent of the grade.
A normal curve is used to determine letter grade.

Exam 1 30 points
Exam 2 30 points
Final 30 points
Oral Presentation 60 points

A 90% of the points
B 80% of the points
C 70% of the points
D 60% of the points

ATTENDANCE POLICY: If a student misses more than 3 classes there will be a drop in the letter grade..