

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
AGING AND THE LIFE COURSE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM READING LIST

Committee members (2021): William Magee (chair), Blair Wheaton, and Ethan Fosse

Digital access to reading list materials for: [PDFs](#), [RDF \(Zotero\)](#), and [RIS \(EndNote, Mendeley\)](#) formats (password is 725spadina)

### Summary

1. [Introduction to the Life Course Paradigms: Themes and Foundations](#) (16 units)
2. [Life Course Methods, Models, and Data Sources](#) (15 units)
3. [The Influence of Birth Cohort and Historical Context](#) (15 units)
4. [Agency and Planful Behavior Across the Life Course](#) (10 units)
5. [Inequality Over the Life Course](#) (46 units)
  - a. [Effects of Early Life on Later Life](#)
6. [Linked Lives: Social Connections Across the Life Course](#) (29 units)
  - a. [Families and the Life Course/Intergenerational Relationships](#)
  - b. [Family Transitions in the Life Course](#)
  - c. [Aging and Social Networks](#)
7. [Transitions, Trajectories, and Turning Points](#) (40 units)
  - a. [Transition to Adulthood](#)
  - b. [Work Transitions and Trajectories](#)
8. [Age Norms and Subjective Identity](#) (14 units)
9. [\(De\)Standardization of the Life Course and Technology](#) (2 units)
10. [The Welfare State and the Life Course](#) (8 units)

**Total:** 195 article units

### Reference Materials

*Note: Items listed in Reference Materials are books and other collected works in which chapters and articles listed in reading list come from (denoted by †). Reference Materials are not included in article unit counts.*

Binstock, Robert H., and Linda K. George, eds. 2006. *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*. 6th ed. Burlington, MA: Academic Press.

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George, Linda K., and Kenneth F. Ferraro, eds. 2016. *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*. 8th ed. London, UK: Academic Press.

Diehl, Manfred, and Hans-Werner Wahl, eds. 2015. *Subjective Aging: New Developments and Future Directions*. Vol. 35. New York: Springer.

Elder, Glen H., and Janet Z. Giele, eds. 2009. *The Craft of Life Course Research*. New York: Guilford Press.

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Ryff, Carol D., and Victor W. Marshall, eds. 1999. *The Self and Society in Aging Processes*. New York: Springer.

Settersten, Richard A., ed. 2003. *Invitation to the Life Course: Toward New Understandings of Later Life*. Amityville, NY: Baywood.

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### **(1) Introduction to the Life Course Paradigms: Themes and Foundations (16 units)**

‡Dannefer, Dale, Jessica Kelley-Moore, and Wenxuan Huang. 2016. "Opening the Social: Sociological Imagination in Life Course Studies." Pp. 87–110 in *Handbook of the Life Course*. Vol. 2, edited by M. J. Shanahan, J. T. Mortimer, and M. Kirkpatrick Johnson. New York: Springer.

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‡Giele, Janet. 2009. "Life Stories to Understand Diversity: Variations by Class, Race, and Gender." Pp. 236–57 in *The Craft of Life Course Research*, edited by G. H. Elder Jr. and J. Z. Giele. New York: Guilford Press.

†George, Linda K. 2003. "Life Course Research: Achievements and Potential." Pp. 671–80 in *Handbook of the Life Course*, edited by J. T. Mortimer and M. J. Shanahan. New York: Springer.

Kohli, Martin. 1988. "Aging as a Challenge for Sociological Theory." *Ageing and Society* 8:367–94.

Mayer, Karl Ulrich. 2009. "New Directions in Life Course Research." *Annual Review of Sociology* 35:413–33.

McAdams, Dan. 2005. "Studying Lives in Time: A Narrative Approach." *Advances in Life Course Research* 10:237–58.

Moen, Phyllis. 2001. "Constructing a Life Course." *Marriage and Family Review* 31:97–109.

†Moen, Phyllis and Elaine Hernandez. 2009. "Social Convoys: Studying Lives in Time, Context, and Motion." Pp. 258–79 in *The Craft of Life Course Research*, edited by G. H. Elder Jr. and J. Z. Giele. New York: Guilford Press.

Pearlin, Leonard. 2010. "The Life Course and the Stress Process: Some Conceptual Comparisons." *Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 65B(2):207–15.

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

†Settersen, Richard. 2006. "Aging and the Life Course." Pp. 3–19 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*. 6th ed., edited by R. H. Binstock and L. K. George. Burlington, MA: Academic Press.

†Shanahan, Michael J., Jeylan T. Mortimer, and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson. 2016. "Introduction: Life Course Studies—Trends, Challenges, and Future Directions." Pp. 1–26 in *Handbook of the Life Course*, edited by M. J. Shanahan, J. T. Mortimer, and M. Kirkpatrick Johnson. New York: Springer.

## **(2) Life Course Methods, Models, and Data Sources (15 units)**

†Alwin, Duane F., Scott M. Hofer, and Ryan J. McCammon. 2006. "Modeling the Effects of Time: Integrating Demographic and Developmental Perspectives." Pp. 20–38 *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*. 6th ed., edited by R. H. Binstock and L. K. George. Burlington, MA: Academic Press.

\*Daniel, Rhian, and Bianca L. De Stavola. 2019. "Mediation Analysis for Life Course Studies." Pp. 1–40 in *Pathways to Health*, edited by G. B. Ploubidis et al. Dordrecht, NL: Springer.

Fitzhugh, Sean M., Carter T. Butts, and Joy E. Pixley. 2015. "A Life History Graph Approach to the Analysis and Comparison of Life Histories." *Advances in Life Course Research* 25:16–34.

\*Fosse, Ethan, and Christopher Winship. 2019. "Analyzing Age-Period-Cohort Data: A Review and Critique." *Annual Review of Sociology* 45:467–92.

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\*†Mikolai, Julia, and Mark Amos. 2020. "Studying Individuals Across the Lifecourse: A Review of Longitudinal Methods." Pp. 40–55 in *Handbook on Demographic Change and the Lifecourse*, edited by J. Falkingham, M. Evandrou, and A. Vlachantoni. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

†Moore, Ravaris, and Jennie E. Brand. 2016. "Causality in Life Course Studies." Pp. 515–40 in *Handbook of the Life Course*. Vol. 2, edited by J. T. Mortimer, M. J. Shanahan, and M. Kirkpatrick Johnson. New York: Springer.

\*Piccarreta, Raffaella, and Matthias Studer. 2019. "Holistic Analysis of the Life Course: Methodological Challenges and New Perspectives." *Advances in Life Course Research* 41:100251.

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Wheaton, Blair. 2003. "When Methods Make a Difference." *Current Sociology* 51(5):543–71.

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### (3) The Influence of Birth Cohort and Historical Context (15 units)

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†Elder, Glen H., Jr., and Linda K. George. 2016. "Age, Cohorts, and the Life Course." Pp. 59–86 in *Handbook of the Life Course*. Vol. 2, edited by J. T. Mortimer, M. J. Shanahan, and M. Kirkpatrick-Johnson. New York: Springer.

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### (4) Agency and Planful Behavior Across the Life Course (10 units)

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\*Holman, Daniel, and Alan Walker. 2020. "Understanding Unequal Ageing: Towards a Synthesis of Intersectionality and Life Course Analyses." *European Journal of Ageing*.

Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67:747–76.

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* 75:151–72.

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.

**(5) Inequality Over the Life Course (18 + 28 = 46 units)**

Abramson, Corey M. 2015. *The End Game: How Inequality Shapes Our Final Years*. Boston, MA: Harvard University Press. **(5 article units)**

†Browning, Christopher R., Kathleen A. Cagney, and Bethany Boettner. 2016. "Neighborhood, Place, and the Life Course." Pp. 597–622 in *Handbook of the Life Course*. Vol. 2, edited by J. T. Mortimer, M. J. Shanahan, and M. Kirkpatrick Johnson. New York: Springer.

\*Case, Anne, and Angus Deaton. 2017. "Mortality and Morbidity in the 21st Century." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* Spring:397–476.

\*†Fasang, Anette Eva, and Karl Ulrich Mayer. 2020. "Lifecourse and Social Inequality." Pp. 22–39 in *Handbook on Demographic Change and the Lifecourse*, edited by J. Falkingham, M. Evandrou, and A. Vlachantoni. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

House, James S., Paula M. Lantz, and Pamela Herd. 2005. "Continuity and Change in the Social Stratification of Aging and Health over the Life Course: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Longitudinal Study from 1986 to 2001/2002 (Americans' Changing Lives Study)." *Journals of Gerontology: Series B* 60B(Special Issue II):15–26.

Kahn, Shamus. 2011. *Privilege: The Making of an Adolescent Elite at St. Paul's School*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. **(5 article units)**

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### **(A) Effects of Early Life on Later Life (28 units)**

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Clarke, Phillipa, Jeffrey Morenoff, Michelle Debbink, Ezra Golberstein, Michael R. Elliott, and Paula M. Lantz. 2014. "Cumulative Exposure to Neighborhood Context: Consequences for Health Transitions over the Life Course." *Research on Aging* 36:115–35.

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\*DiPrete, Thomas. 2020. "The Impact of Inequality on Intergenerational Mobility." *Annual Review of Sociology* 46(1):379–98.

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Ferraro, Kenneth F., and Melissa F. Farmer. 1996. "Double Jeopardy, Aging as Leveler, or Persistent Health Inequality? A Longitudinal Analysis of White and Black Americans." *Journal of Gerontology* 51B:S319–28.

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Montez, Jennifer K., and Mark D. Hayward. 2014. "Cumulative Childhood Adversity, Education, and Active Life Expectancy among U.S. Adults." *Demography* 51:415–35.

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**(6) Linked Lives: Social Connections Across the Life Course (11 + 11 + 7 = 29 units)**

**(A) Families and the Life Course/Intergenerational Relationships (11 units)**

Amato, Paul and J. Cheadle. 2003. "The Long Reach of Divorce: Divorce and Child Well-being across Three Generations." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. 67(1):191–206.

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### **(B) Family Transitions in the Life Course (11 units)**

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.

Cherlin, Andrew J., P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, and Christine McRae. 1998. "Effects of Parental Divorce on Mental Health Throughout the Life Course." *American Sociological Review* 63:239–49.

Fomby, Paula, and Andrew J. Cherlin. 2007. "Family Instability and Child Well-Being." *American Sociological Review* 72:181–204.

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Settersten, Richard, and Gunhild Hagestad. 1996. "What's the Latest? Cultural Age Deadlines for Family Transitions." *The Gerontologist* 36(2):178–88.

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### **(C) Aging and Social Networks (7 units)**

Connidis, Ingrid Arnet. 2014. "Age Relations and Family Ties over the Life Course: Spanning the Macro-Micro Divide." *Research in Human Development* 11:291–308.

†Cornwell, Benjamin, and Markus H. Schafer. 2016. "Social Networks in Later Life." Pp. 181–205 in *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*. 8th ed., edited by L. George and K. F. Ferraro. Oxford, UK: Elsevier.

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Settersten, Richard A., Jr. 2015. "Relationships in Time and the Life Course: The Significance of Linked Lives." *Research in Human Development* 12:217–23

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**(7) Transitions, Trajectories, and Turning Points (9 + 16 + 15 = 40 units)**

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