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
   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.


(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* (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)*


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


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

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


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


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


(7) Transitions, Trajectories, and Turning Points \( (9 + 16 + 15 = 40 \text{ units}) \)


(A) Transition to Adulthood \( (16 \text{ units}) \)


**(B) Work Transitions and Trajectories** (15 units)


(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)


