This course meets in the School of Nursing, Room NOA-250, 4:00-6:30 p.m., every Wednesday (with one exception) from January 16 through April 23, 2008. The exception is March 12, during the "Spring Break." The required readings are preassembled for students by the instructor and will be handed out in class.

The instructor is available to meet with students with disabilities to discuss academic accommodations. In addition, the University's Coordinator of Disability Services can be contacted at 368-5230.

The objectives of the course are to enable students to: (1) obtain an introductory sense of social aspects of aging that are relevant to public policy; (2) gain some familiarity with the underlying political processes through which U.S. public policies are adopted and implemented (and not adopted and implemented), and how they shape the substance of policies; (3) learn the political features, implications, and political contexts of the major policies affecting older persons in the United States; (4) have an understanding of the political behavior of older people and old-age-based interest groups, and their impact on politicians and public policy; and (5) become familiar with the major problems and challenges involving old-age policies in the twenty-first century, and the policy options and political issues involved in dealing with those challenges.

There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. There will not be a term paper. Although only the required readings for the course are listed below, most of these readings contain a wealth of literature references for students who wish to pursue selected topics in greater depth. In addition, the instructor will serve as a resource for additional literature as requested. Material presented in class sessions will complement the required readings. Some concepts and information will be introduced in class, only.

PART I: INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW
Required Reading (2 weeks)


PART II: POLICIES ON AGING AND THE CONDITIONS THAT THEY ADDRESS

Required Reading (6 weeks)

Week 3


Week 4

“The Company Pension: Altruism or Self-Interest?” Ch. 5, pp. 87-109, in Schulz and Binstock.

“The Pension Lottery: Personal Pension Accounts,” Ch. 6, pp. 111-135, in Schulz and Binstock.

Week 5


Week 6


Week 7


Week 8


Binstock, Robert H., "From the Great Society to the Aging Society -- 25 Years of the Older Americans Act, Generations, XV, no. 3 (1991), pp. 11-18.


PART III: THE POLITICS OF POLICIES ON AGING

Required Reading (2 weeks)

Week 9

“A Gerontocracy? The Politics of Aging,” Ch. 9, pp. 201-222, in Schulz and Binstock.


Week 10


PART IV: EMERGENT TRENDS AND ISSUES

Required Reading (4 weeks)

Week 11

“Framing Issues for an Aging Nation,” Ch. 10, pp. 223-235 in Schulz and Binstock.


Week 12


Week 13


Clinton Proposes Agenda to Help Seniors and Their Families Afford Quality Long-Term Care, campaign press release, December 8, 2007.

Week 14


