

## Critical Issues in Aging #2

This is an addendum to the handout "Critical Issues in Aging." It contains a list of issues related to the elderly that was discussed during class session of Psyc 345 during spring 2001. Along with the original handout on this topic, it could be used to select possible topics for group projects or individual papers. Possible advocacy issues are identified with (\*).

- \* abuse and neglect. Data on current situation; possible solutions.
- \* ageism: bias and discrimination; negative attitudes (in society; TV; movies; magazines).
- \* Alzheimer's disease.
- \* death. Fear of death; funerals; options for funerals (cremation, etc.); expenses. See also euthanasia.
- \* death of spouse.
- \* euthanasia; end-of-life choices; living wills; health care surrogates: what these all are; choices; differing attitudes; legal issues; moral issues.
- \* elder abuse.
- \* employment: continued opportunities; discrimination; trends; future possibilities.
- \* fears. Fear of death.
- \* health care. (or medical treatment). Problems; discrimination; E.R. treatment.
- \* Hospice. What it is; options; funding.
- \* housing for the elderly: options, costs, definitions, pros and cons of different types. Include concept of "continuing care" communities, retirement communities.
- \* independence: is it important; how to encourage it.
- \* long term care insurance: definitions; options; how to evaluate; pros and cons.
- \* loneliness: causes; how to cope; how can it be reduced. Also: isolation.
- \* medical treatment: see Health Care.
- \* medicare. What it is; funding; future concerns and options.
- \* neglect. See also abuse.
- \* nursing homes: criteria for selecting; problems with; abuse in.
- \* nutrition.
- \* poverty: data; how widespread; impact; social support that exists now; possibilities for support; comparisons with support offered in other countries (some less than USA, some more than USA).
- \* recreation for the elderly.
- \* retirement. Pensions and financials planning. Planning for the non-financial, "personal side of retirement."
- \* respite care. What it is; how to encourage it. (See also Hospice.)
- \* role changes. Desirable changes; undesirable changes.
- \* sex and sexuality; changes; misconceptions; opportunities; problems in nursing homes; discrimination.
- \* social security now and in the future. Definitions; current status; potential problems; options being considered now by congress.
- \* substance abuse: widespread, often undetected. Data on how widespread; programs; solutions.
- \* transportation: current services; problems; solutions.
- \* wills. Leaving estate for the kids. Laws. Options.