Instructor: Caroline Cicero, PhD, MSW, MPL  
Email: cicero@usc.edu  
Office Hours:  
Class Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:50  
Class Room: Gero 224

Course Description:

Women play many roles and wear many hats throughout their lives. As they age through young adulthood, middle age, and their older years, they accumulate responsibilities, but they leave few previous roles behind. In this course, we will examine women’s longevity and the psychological, sociological, economic, and political implications of lifelong roles in their own families and in the world. While this course will examine negative influences of sexism, ageism, health and economic disparities and challenges facing women throughout their lifespans, it aims to equally highlight best practices in women’s aging through positive examples, accomplishments, health successes, role models, and opportunities for aging women.

Objectives:

Assignments:
This course requires you to think critically about the roles and images of women in society as they age. Engaged class participation and attendance is required, as is personal reflection about yourself, people with whom you have relationships, and real and virtual worlds in which you live.
PROPOSED Schedule:

Tuesday, 1/12/16:
   Introductions. Who are you?

Thursday, 1/14/16:
   What do you see? Faces of Women/Women on Screen
   Aging Women in Character Roles: Media and Stage
   Aging Women as Stereotypes: Advertising and Memes

Tuesday, 1/19/16:
   Who are They? What are the Numbers? Demography of Women and Aging
   Baby Boomer Women, Older Women, and the Oldest Old
   Race, Ethnicity, Economic Status and Immigrants
   Aging Lesbian, Bi, and Trans Women/Older Women Who Were Formerly Men

Thursday, 1/21/16:
   Changing Bodies-Fertility, Hair, Skin, Muscles, Bones, Eyes, Menopause, Sex
   What Aging Women Watch and Buy: Consumers

Tuesday, 1/26/16:
   Feminist Movement, Historical and Current, Where Do Older Women Stand Now?

Thursday, 1/28/16:
   Motherhood and Relationships with Growing and Adult Children

Tuesday, 2/2/16:
   Grandmothers, Grandmotherhood and Intergenerational Ties
   Older Women and Social Media

Thursday, 2/4/16:
   Love, Marriage and Divorce, Newly Married Lifelong Same Sex Partners
   Online Dating and Viagra

Tuesday, 2/9/16:
   Widowhood and Bereavement

Thursday, 2/11/16
   Economics of Women: Success and Disparities
   Breadwinners, Dependents, and Retirees

Tuesday, 2/16/16:
   Election Season Roundup: Women in Politics and Public Policy
   Aging Women as Voters, Advocates, Senators, and Presidential Candidates
Thursday, 2/18/16:  
Civic Engagement, Volunteers, and Encore Careers

Tuesday, 2/23/16:  
Housing America’s Aging Women, Living Together and Alone

Thursday, 2/25/16:  
Women and Food  
**Midterm Assignment Due**

Tuesday, 3/1/16:  
Oscar Roundup: Aging Women at the Box Office

Thursday, 3/3/16:  
Health, Health Care Access and Doctors

Tuesday, 3/8/16:  
Cancer  
Survivors, Survivor Culture, Think Pink. Deaths

Thursday, 3/10/16  
Aging Women in Sports, Pioneers, Outlook for the Future

Spring Break—March 14-18

Tuesday, 3/22/16:  
Who Designed This, and What Can an Older Woman Wear?: Women and Fashion

Thursday, 3/24/16:  
Women as Religious People and Spiritual Leaders  
How Women Die.

Tuesday, 3/29/16:  
Cosmetics and Anti Aging Markets

Thursday, 3/31/16:  
Women in Music, Women and Music

Tuesday, 4/5/16:  
Creativity and Aging, Older Women Making Art, Traditional and New

Thursday, 4/7/16:  
Alzheimer’s, Cognitive Change, and Long Term Care
Tuesday, 4/12/16:
Caregiving and Care Receiving

Thursday, 4/14/16:
Prisons, Aging Female Convicts, and What Does OITNB Tell Us About Aging?

Tuesday, 4/19/16:
Aging Women and the Military
   Active Duty and Administrative Roles
   Military Wives
   Younger Widows

Thursday, 4/21/16:
Women as Family Historians and Memory Keepers

Tuesday, 4/26/16:
Mentors and Role Models

Thursday, 4/28/16:
FINAL CLASS