

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791785003321
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Titolo	Aging, society, and the life course [[electronic resource] /] / Leslie A. Morgan and Suzanne R. Kunkel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Springer Pub. Co., c2011
ISBN	1-283-01932-9 9786613019325 0-8261-1938-7
Edizione	[4th ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (374 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	KunkelSuzanne MorganLeslie A
Disciplina	305.26
Soggetti	Older people - United States Aging - United States Gerontology - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Rev. ed. of: Aging : aging, society and life course. 3rd ed. 2006.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; Chapter 1: Aging and Society; Dimensions of Aging; Physical Aging; Psychological Aging; Social Aging; Societal Aging; Ways of Categorizing People by Age; Chronological Age; Functional Age; Life Stage; The Rise of Old Age as a Social Category; Generational Consciousness; The Aging Population as a Social Force; The Life Course and Old Age; Social Perspectives on Aging; Social Gerontology; Summary; Web Wise; Key Terms; Questions for Thought and Discussion; Chapter 2: Studying Aging; Why Do We Conduct Research?; The Role of Theory How Do We Conduct Research on Aging?Age as a Variable; Sorting Out Age, Period, and Cohort Effects; Designs and Methods Targeted to Research on Aging; Longitudinal/Panel Studies; Secondary Analysis; Qualitative, Quantitative, or Combined Methods; Event History Analysis; Life History and Reminiscence; Other Special Issues in Studying Aging; Cohort-Centrism, Dynamism, and Limits of Current Knowledge; Sociology of Knowledge and Research Activism; Applying Theory: Cohort Size and Life Chances: The Easterlin Hypothesis; Summary; Web Wise; Key Terms; Questions for Thought and Discussion

Topical Essay: Will They Play the Rolling Stones at the Nursing Home?
Chapter 3: An Aging World: Demographic Perspectives; The Aging of Societies; Applying Theory: Demographic Transition Theory; How Do Populations Age?; Measures of Population Aging; Global Aging; Demographic Characteristics of the U.S. Aging Population; Living Arrangements; Geographic Distribution; Gender Composition; Increasing Diversity; Centenarians; Interpreting and Using Demographic Data; The Fallacy of the Demographic Imperative; Summary; Web Wise; Key Terms; Questions for Thought and Discussion
Chapter 4: The Aging Individual in Social ContextSetting the Stage: Psychology of Aging; Human Development and Aging; Social Context and Individual Aging; Environmental Gerontology; Social Context; The Life Course; Social Time; Social Roles; Age Norms; Structural Lag; Life Course Perspective in Gerontology; Summary; Web Wise; Analyzing Theory: The Emergence of Developmental Science; Key Terms; Questions for Thought and Discussion; Topical Essay: Love, Sex, and Longevity; Chapter 5: Aging and the Family: Personal and Institutional Contexts; The Family as an Institution
The Meanings of GenerationAspects of Family Variation; Core Norms and Expectations of Family Relationships; Independence and Dependence; Voluntarism and Obligation; Applying Theory: Family Life Cycle Theory and Individual Dependency in the Family; Families as a Personal Network; Strengths in Later-Life Families; Continuity and Change in Later-Life Families; Key Familial Roles and Relationships; Spouses/Aging Couples; Grandparents; Families as Caregivers; Context of Caregiving: Family Norms of Mutual Assistance; Intergenerational Support; Family Members as Caregivers to Frail Elders
Caregiver Burden and Rewards

Sommario/riassunto

This is a comprehensive textbook for both undergraduate and graduate level courses, detailing the impact of societal forces on the aging process. The book focuses on the diversity of the older population, examining it from micro/macro perspectives in order to understand aging and the life course as social phenomena. This latest edition examines significant changes in the field of social gerontology, such as the paradigms of aging and the life course, the baby boomer cohorts as they approach retirement and later life, the growing interest in global aging, and civic engagement. This text encoura
