

Chapter 2: Global Aging and Older Immigrants in the United States

Chapter Context

This chapter explores the aging human population all over the world, and the global demographic shift that will affect all aspects of society from economics to living arrangements. It also addresses the lives of older adults who immigrated to the U.S. and may face distinctive challenges related to their immigrant status.

Outcome-based Outline

Outcome	Learning Objectives	Interactivity
Critical Thinking	2.2 Analyze the economic implications of rapidly aging industrialized countries	x.x [interactive] (if app)
	2.3 Assess the effects on a country's workforce needs due to the older population, including its impact on immigration laws	
	2.4b Assess its impact on immigration laws	
Knowledge of Subject Matter (or Discipline)	2.1a Identify global trends in aging	
	2.1b Highlight the countries that are aging faster than others and what can be learned from them	
Cultural Competence	2.4a Describe how elders in different countries are affected by immigration patterns, including the migration of younger adults from rural to urban areas	
	2.5a Recognize immigration patterns in the United States	

	2.5b Describe the challenges that older immigrants and refugees may encounter in a new country and culture	
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PowerPoint Presentation

Download the PowerPoint Presentation for this chapter here.

Discussion Question Bank

This discussion question bank provides a listing of discussion questions (1-2 per module) which are included for in-class use.

Module	Discussion Question(s)
2.1 Global Trends in Aging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss why population aging is occurring in just a few developed countries like Japan, Italy, and the United States, or why it is a widespread phenomenon there. What two main factors contribute to population aging? 2. What are some reasons that younger adults often leave rural areas and their elder parents behind?
2.2 Economic Implications for Industrialized Countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why it is important to develop and maintain databases about aging with variables such as economics, health, and social support? How are the different variables selected? How are they related?
2.3 Older Europeans in the Workforce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are some of the personal reasons that people have to work or retire? What are some reasons why organizations would maintain or replace older workers?
2.4 Older Adults in Traditional Societies and the Impact of Modernization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to modernization theory, what challenges might older adults from traditional societies find after immigrating to a modern, urban society?
2.5 Immigrants to the United States	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considering ethnicity, culture, and economic factors, discuss what kinds of families tend to live in multigenerational households? 2. What are the reasons that an elder might choose to live in an ethnic enclave like Chinatown in any major city rather than live with their adult children in a larger home in the suburbs?

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Research Assignments

The following research assignments pertain to the main topics and/or themes of the chapter. Please respond by writing a paper consisting of 1000-1500 words.

Studying Global Aging as a Means of Cross-Cultural Analysis

Explain why it is important, socially and economically, to compare and contrast elders and aging in many nations and within nations. Discuss how "*cross-cultural analysis*" could be used to improve our current social system (including health care) for older immigrants and native-born elders, and the generations that succeed them. Discuss how cross-cultural analysis of aging could be helpful in improving and creating innovations in different professions (e.g. social work, health care and wellness professions, law).