Study Guide on Chapter 10: Living Arrangements (February 20th)

This chapter provides an overview of living arrangements for seniors, including a look at household structure, aging in place, and the continuum of alternative living arrangements. These are the questions to focus on:

• How do an extended family’s living arrangements change in response to the changing needs of different generations?
• With whom do most older people live?
• What kind of housing do older people have, and what housing problems do they face?
• What are the benefits and drawbacks of shared housing, board and care homes, and assisted living facilities?
• What is a continuing care retirement community, and what is life in such a community like for an older person?

Assignment: Outline your strategy for one of the following options:
Option One: Aging in Place. Imagine that you are a family member or social worker helping a single older person to remain living in their home. Indicate how you and the family could mobilize and access familial and community resources, financial assistance, home maintenance and utilities assistance, home visitor programs, home health care, and other services provided through senior centers (like transportation and meals).

Option Two: Alternative Living Options. Imagine that you are a family member or social worker helping an older couple to find alternative living options. You can decide on their state of health, but one main component is that they don’t feel able to take care of the family home. How would you go about presenting the options to them? How would you evaluate the various options, including the range of services, affordability, quality of life, and so on?

Internet Resources Related to Aging and Inequality:
1. The Administration on Aging (http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/): The Profile on Older Americans is updated annually, and includes data on living arrangements of seniors in all settings.
2. The National Institute on Senior Housing (http://www.ncoa.org/nish/nish.htm) includes reports on research about senior living environments and alternatives. This is an excellent site for students to find the latest research on access to housing and the impact of various living environments and services.
3. The American Seniors Housing Association (http://www.seniorshousing.org) provides research and publications on various topics related to senior housing including national data on senior housing communities, absorption trends, Fair Housing Act/Americans with Disabilities Act compliance in senior housing, the regulatory handbook for ALFs and CCRCs, and many other resources.
4. Senior HousingNet (http://www.seniorhousing.net). This is one of several national directories on senior living alternatives that can be searched by state and city.