Course Description

Population studies/demography is a field of study about changes in human population structure and their influences on society at the macro level. This course will serve as a general introduction to the field of population studies. At the same time, we will examine a number of topics lying at the intersection of demography and sociology. This course is divided into two parts. In the first part, you will learn basic concepts and measures of demography, perspectives, and demographic trends. It includes overview of mortality, fertility, and migration that are essential demographic topics. The second part covers how population phenomena are intertwined with numerous social issues, such as poverty and inequality, family, labor market, globalization, urbanization, and social policy. To enhance your understanding of these population issues, this course will use various types of learning methods, such as videos, group project, and online quizzes as well as class lectures. These components will account for significant part of your final grades. In this course, we will focus on a variety of developmental issues in different countries (especially developing world) as well as in the U.S. context. For this reason, you need to keep a global perspective in reading, thinking, and conducting your research for this course.

Course Objectives

1) Students will get familiar with classical topics of demography such as mortality, fertility, and migration and important demographic techniques to measure population process. The ability to conduct demographic techniques will be developed through in-class exercises.

2) This course aims to give students the opportunities to think critically about demographic changes and how changes are related to other social organizations of human society, such as family, communities, labor market, country, and global world.

3) By the end of the semester, students should be able to develop a creative idea about demographic phenomenon of a particular country that they are interested
in. Also they will engage in cooperative learning group activities for their research project.

4) In particular, this course will provide graduate students with advanced demographic knowledge, a wide range of theoretical perspectives, and demographic techniques required for advanced population studies. Also, they would be able to conduct independent population research investigating significant population changes across the world.

Course Readings

For undergraduate and graduate students:

- Other reading materials from books, journal articles, and population bulletins are available on the D2L course website. Please check reading requirements every week beforehand on D2L.

For Graduate students:

- Graduate students will be asked to read following textbook in addition to John Weeks’ book and other basic reading materials assigned for undergraduate students; Samuel Preston, Patrick Heuveline, Michael Guillot, *Demography: Measuring and Modeling Population Processes*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2001. This book deals with advanced demographic techniques, methods, and measures that are necessary for deepening your knowledge of Demography. You don’t need to purchase the book. I will upload the required part on D2L.
- Also, graduate students will be required to read additional readings almost every week. The reading materials are indicated below the reading list for undergraduate students in the syllabus.

Course Requirements

- Students must attend class.
- Assigned readings should be completed before the class on the date for which they are assigned.
- This course is intended for juniors, seniors, and graduate students who have taken introductory level courses. Accordingly, it will deal with more intensive and in-depth level of materials requiring students to actively participate in discussion. Please come to class with several questions for discussion from the readings and stay active.
- A policy sheet is attached in this syllabus. Please read this carefully and be aware of the policies necessary for your situation.
Course Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Undergraduate students (%)</th>
<th>Graduate students (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Reaction Papers (5)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exams

You will have 2 non-comprehensive tests, which will account for 40 percent of your total grade (Each exam will account for 20 percent), and a final exam (20 percent). Final exam is comprehensive and will cover all the contents that you learn during the semester. The exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay questions. All exam questions are based on the readings, lectures, and films shown in class. There will be no make-up exams. If you miss the exam, you will be given an assignment in replacement of the missed exam. This chance to replace an exam with an assignment will be given only when the exam was missed due to extreme circumstances (with written evidence). Otherwise, replacement is not allowed.

Reaction Papers

I will occasionally ask you to write reaction paper. There are group discussion sections about various demographic topics, films, or your group project at the end of the class. Each individual will be asked to write a short reaction paper (2-3 paragraphs) for each group discussion. Reaction papers will account for 10 percent of your total grade.

Research Paper

For undergraduate students

Each student should pick one country and conduct a research project about demographic issues of the particular country. At the end of the semester, you should turn in a paper (12 pages, not exceeding 15 pages including tables and figures, double spaced, and 12 pt fonts). During the last week of the class, you will make a presentation of your project. I will be providing more detail later in the semester.

For graduate students

Graduate students will be required to submit a research paper at the end of the semester. The research paper should deal with a specific demographic topic and utilize appropriate data and method. The paper should be between 20 and 25 pages and it will be 50 percent of your total grade. I will ask the graduate students to meet with me
individually to discuss their paper topics during the second week of the semester. Throughout the semester, you will have 2-3 individual meetings with me to check the progress of the research. At the first meeting, we will discuss the timeline for the research paper.

D2L (Desire2Learn)
Electronic course support will be offered through the D2L. You will need to make extensive use of the D2L site to download course schedules, reading materials, class materials and lecture notes. Also, quizzes will be taken through D2L. Please check D2L on a regular basis for all course-related material, quizzes, grades, and reminders of important deadlines.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I. BASIC CONCEPTS AND MEASURES OF DEMOGRAPHY

Jan. 22: Introduction to the Course

Jan. 27: World Population Trends I – An Overview

Weeks, pp. 30-66

*Graduate students:* Preston et al., Ch. 1: Basic Concepts and Measures

Jan. 29: World Population Trends II
PRB. “2013 World Population Data Sheet”

*Graduate students:* Preston et al., Ch. 2: Age-Specific Rates and Probabilities


Feb. 5: Demographic Perspectives
Weeks, pp 75-90


---

**Feb. 10: Demographic Transition Theory**

Weeks, pp. 90-106.


Mary M. Kent and Carl Haub. 2005. “Global Demographic Divide.” *Population Bulletin 60*(4); 3-14


---

**Feb. 12: Population Composition & Distribution I**

Weeks, pp.308-327


---

**Feb. 17: Population Composition & Distribution II**

Weeks, pp. 327-352


---

**Feb. 19: Fertility I**


Weeks, pp. 197-220

**Graduate students:** Jungmin Lee and Paik, Myungho. 2006. “Sex Preferences and Fertility in South Korea during the Year of the Horse.” Demography 43(2): pp. 269-292.

---

**Feb. 24: Fertility II (Group project proposal due)**

Weeks, pp. 220-259.
Graduate students: Preston et al., Ch. 5 Fertility and Reproduction

Feb. 26: Mortality

Graduate students: Preston et al., Ch. 3: The Life Table and Single Decrement Processes

Mar. 3: Exam 1

Mar. 5: Health Disparities


Mar 10: HIV/AIDS

Graduate students: To be announced

Mar. 12: Film: The Age of AIDS

Mar. 16-23: Spring Break!!!

PART II. POPULATION AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Mar. 24: Migration I

Mar. 26: Migration II
- Weeks, pp. 280-282.


Mar. 31: Population Growth & Economic Development
- Weeks, pp. 441-468.
  Transitions in World Population, pp. 20-22.

Graduate students: Bloom, Canning, and Sevilla, Ch. 1, pp. 1-23.

Apr. 2: Population & the Environment (Guest lecturer: Oriol Mirosa)

Apr. 9: Population & Family


Apr. 14: Exam 2

Apr. 16: Urbanization I
- Weeks, pp. 353-390


Apr. 21: Urbanization II
Readings to be announced

Apr. 23: Demography of Labor Force


Graduate students: Work on Research Paper

Apr. 28: Poverty


Apr. 30: Film, “Poverty in America (2006)”

May 5: Population Policy

Weeks, pp. 488-535

Graduate students: Work on Research Paper

May 7: Presentation

May 12: Final Exam