Course Overview
Population and Society is a graduate course that introduces students to the study of social demography and population studies. This course will provide students with a basic introduction to the core topics of demography (mortality, fertility, migration) but also contemporary extensions into the fields of health, aging, and families. In class, we will cover the tools and methods used by social demographers to measure and model population change, and to make predictions about population growth. In addition, we will explore various sources and types of data used in demographic research.

Course Objectives
At the completion of the class, students will
- Understand basic demographic processes (fertility, mortality, and migration) and their implications to societies’ social, economic, and political structures.
- Identify reliable sources of data and use basic demographic techniques to analyze them.
- Interpret global, national, and local events within an appropriate demographic context.

Readings and Course Materials
All assigned readings will be available on the course Canvas page, or available through JSTOR.

Course Requirements
Class participation. [30%] Every student is expected to be prepared to comment and engage in discussion over the readings assigned for that week. At the beginning of each class period, we will have a lightening round where several students will each have a minute to present a contemporary population topic that is in the popular press. This can be about a specific country or region, about a specific policy or some aspect of demographic process (i.e., fertility, mortality, and migration), population health, etc.

The first week students will be randomly assigned to lead class discussion with a peer. For weeks that you are not a discussion leader, you will compose at least two discussion questions based on the readings. These questions can be on two separate readings or on general issues that address the theme of the weekly topic. Post your questions to Canvas discussion board no later than Sunday at midnight.

Class participation will be evaluated weekly and as follows:
0: Did not attend
1: Attended, little to no scholarly participation.
2: Attended and participated.
3: Attended and demonstrated comprehensive understanding of the readings.
Discussion leadership will be evaluated as follows:
0: Did not attend
1: Did not display good comprehension of materials or weak engagement with other participants.
2: Displayed good comprehension of materials, weak engagement with others.
3: Active engagement with class members and good comprehension of materials.

Investigation. [10%] Throughout the semester, we will investigate sources of demographic data. Each student will be assigned a source of data used in demographic research and will prepare a short 15 minute presentation. I will consult with students to help identify data sources, web sites, etc.

Midterm Exam [20%] and Final [40%]. There will be an in-class midterm and a final. Details will be discussed in class.

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Course Schedule and Assigned Readings
(Subiect to change with advanced notice)

WEEK 1. January 8. Introduction and Course Overview
Investigate:
World Population Prospects: Key Findings and Advanced Tables. 2017 Revision.
Key terms: population balancing equation, demographic transition theory

WEEK 2. January 15. NO CLASS MLK DAY

WEEK 3. January 22. Demographic Transition Theories / Population Bomb

For further reading:
Key Terms: population momentum, cohort v period, doubling time


For further reading:


Investigate:


10 facts on the state of global health - World Health Organization

Key Terms: Epidemiological transition, infant mortality, prevalence, incidence

**WEEK 5. February 5. Disparities in Health and Mortality in the United States**


For further reading:


Investigate: Center for Disease Control, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/world-population-pyramid
The Equality of Opportunity Project- Health

Key Terms: *Crude death rate, age-adjusted death rate, life expectancy, years of potential life lost*

**WEEK 6. February 12. Fertility Transition in Contemporary Context**


For further reading:


Investigate: The human fertility database.

Key terms: *Total fertility rate, parity progression ratios*

**WEEK 7. February 19. Family Change in low- and middle-income countries.**


Investigate: DHS Surveys

Key Terms: *Singulate mean age at marriage, crude divorce rate*

**WEEK 8. February 26. In class midterm.**

**WEEK 9. March 5th. NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK.**
**WEEK 10. March 12th. The Demography of Diversity and Inequality in the US**


For further reading:

*Diversity and Disparities America Enters a New Century* John Logan Editor. Russel Sage Foundation


Investigate:

https://demographics.virginia.edu/DotMap/

USSCHOOLS: Desegregation court cases and school demographic data

Global Census - Race

http://www.censusscope.org/

Key Terms: gini index, dissimilarity index, entropy

**WEEK 11. March 19- Immigration and its impact on society**


For further reading:


See syllabus for SOC 7260
Key Terms: *migrant stock, migrant flow, net migration*

**WEEK 12. March 26. Immigration to the US – selection and unintended consequences**


For further reading:
See syllabus for SOC 7260

**Investigate:** [https://www.ifitweremyhome.com/](https://www.ifitweremyhome.com/)

**WEEK 13. April 2. Urbanization, Poverty and the Environment**


For further reading:

Key Terms: *Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (FGT), Kuznets curve, IPAT equation*

For further reading:


Key Terms: demographic dividend, sex ratio, disability ratios


Investigate: Ten key forecasts for the US population in 2017. PAA.

UN Projections and Estimates

Key terms: stable population, stationary population, cohort component

WEEK 16. April 23. TBA

WEEK 17: EXAM MONDAY 30TH 3:30 -5:30 Location TBA