Sociology 520: Techniques of Demographic Analysis 1
TuTh 9:30-10:45 in Hayes Hall 114, Spring 2013
Professor Kara Joyner (kjoyner@bgsu.edu)
237 Williams Hall, 419-372-7166
Office Hours (by appointment)
T.A.: Michael Yee Shui (myeesh@bgsu.edu)
Office Hours (MW 11am - 12pm)

Required Reading for the Course: Students are required to read assigned chapters from the
textbook below, in addition to articles listed under scheduled topics (available electronically).

University Press.

Course Description: This course introduces students to the basic methods of formal demography,
the study of population structure and change. These methods have widespread applicability in
social science, business, and government research. Topics include sources of demographic data;
basic measures of demographic components; construction of life tables; and models of
population dynamics. The course also covers recent articles that apply formal demographic
methods. In order to successfully complete this course, students must have a background in
statistical methods, in addition to experience working with Excel.

Format: I will lecture and generate discussion during some parts of the class. During other parts
students will share their answers to problem sets and will learn to manipulate demographic data
in a computer lab using Excel. In the event that students are not participating in discussions, they
will be assigned to prepare reviews of the articles and to lead the discussion of them. Students
will need to bring a calculator and/or laptop to class.

Grading: Grades will be based on assignments (25%); class attendance and participation (15%);
and exams (20% each). The exams will include questions comparable to ones in the problem
sets. The assignments will be circulated one week in advance of their due date; they must be
typed. Points will be deducted from late assignments. Students are expected to read the assigned
material before and after it is covered in the lectures.

Absences: Students are responsible for finding out about announcements made and material
covered during their absence. Regularly attending class attendance is very critical. If you
experience extenuating circumstances that lead to an absence during the semester, please contact
the instructor.

Important Dates:

Exam 1: Thursday, February 28th
Exam 2: Thursday, April 4th
Final exam: Thursday May 2nd from 8:30-10:30
Schedule:

Week 1 (1/8 & 1/10): Is Demography Destiny?

“Marriage by the Numbers”


Week 2 (1/15 & 1/17): Population Overview

Rowland: Introduction and Chapter 1


Week 3 (1/22 & 1/24): Population Change

Rowland: Chapter 2


Week 4 (1/29 & 1/31): Population Structure

Rowland: Chapter 3


Week 5 (2/5 & 2/7): Rates and Standardization

Rowland: Chapter 4


Week 6 (2/12 & 2/14): Decomposition

Selected pages from Preston, Heuveline, and Guillot (2000)

Week 7 (2/19 & 2/21): Mortality and Morbidity

Rowland: Chapter 6


Week 8 (2/26 & 2/28): Review & Exam

Week 9 (3/14): The Life Table

Rowland: Chapter 8

Week 10 (3/19 & 3/21): Life Table Applications


Selected pages from Preston, Heuveline, and Guillot (2000)


Rowland: Chapter 9

Week 12 (4/2 & 4/4): Review & Exam

Week 13 (4/9): Measures of Fertility

Rowland: Chapter 7 (pp. 220-250)

Week 14 (4/16 & 4/18): Marriage and Divorce

Rowland: Chapter 7 (pp. 251-255)


Notes: Classes are canceled 3/12 (CFDR Spring Symposia in lieu of class) & 4/11 (Population Association of America)