Demography (working syllabus)

Instructor Information

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- Office Location: TBD
- Office Hours: TBD

Course Details

- Days: TBD
- Time: TBD
- Location: TBD

General Information

Description

This course is designed to provide students an introduction to the discipline of demography, in terms of theories, concepts, measures, and uses. We will cover what demographic data is, how to access it, statistics, and how demographic analyses can provide insights into a population. Students will learn about and how to calculate measures and patterns of fertility, mortality, migration, and others. Demography helps us to understand many aspects of our society, including the ages that we marry, how many children each family has, chances of divorce, the times a person might move, retirement age, and how long we live and what will be our cause of death.

Course Objectives

Provide a basic introduction on the terms, theories, concepts, measures, and uses of demography, including:

- Identifying and explaining the main demographic theories and their usefulness
- Acquire available demographic data
- Analyze and interpret demographic data
- Calculate demographic measures, such as fertility, mortality, migration, and others
- Complete a demographic profile using the theories, methods, and skills learned throughout the course.

Course Materials

Required Materials*

Lundquist, Jennifer Hickes, Douglas L. Anderton, & David Yaukey. 2015. *Demography: The Study of Human Population* (4th Edition).

All other reading and media materials will be provided by the instructor and available on the course website.

Course Requirements & Policies

Requirements

The format of this course is a combination of lecture, discussions, and in-class exercises based on demographic concepts and measures. It is important that you come to each prepared to participate. Preparation for the class includes having read the assigned text for each day, taking notes on the main points and key ideas, completing exercises and homework, and having prepared comments and questions related to the readings.

Grading

Your work will be graded on a point system, which will be converted to a percentage. In this course, there are 1,000 cumulative points available, which corresponds to a 100% scale. In some courses, students begin with a full grade, and points are deducted throughout the semester; this is not how I grade. In this course, everyone starts with zero points, and as you complete and turn in assignments, quizzes, and tests, points are added to your total. This is to ensure that students continue to work toward earning their grade, and not merely picking and choosing what assignments to focus on to "keep" their grade.

Grades are distributed as follows:

Attendance	150 points	15% of final grade
Participation	100 points	10% of final grade
Weekly Exercises	150 points	15% of final grade
Problem Sets	100 points	10% of final grade
Exams	300 points	30% of final grade
Demographic Profile	200 points	20% of final grade
Total	1,000 points	100%

Late or Missed Work

It is important to stay on task and complete your assignments on time. However, life circumstances sometimes get in the way. I will allow late work to be turned in no later than one class period late but will include a 10% reduction on any work that is turned in late. Any assignments turned in more than one class period late will not be accepted and will be given zero points.

There are some exceptions to the late work policy. First, if you are aware of an upcoming absence that will conflict with an in-class quiz, test, or assignment, you may complete an excused absence form.

Second, if you experience an unavoidable, verifiable, emergent, and extenuating circumstance preventing you from submitting work on time, you may have the opportunity to submit late work.

**Additional exceptions and policies regarding an inability to complete an assignment on time will be permitted based on college policies.

Attendance Policy

Students may miss a total of three class periods, no questions asked, without penalty. Once a student misses more than three class periods, each period missed beyond three will be a 50-point deduction, up to 150-point deduction, from the final grade.

Students may arrive to class up to five minutes late without penalty, any tardiness beyond five minutes will have a 20-point deduction, up to 100-point deduction, from the final grade. Any tardiness beyond 30 minutes will be considered as an absence.

Participation

It is vital that every student participates in the course to the extent that they are comfortable. This course is designed to function on discussion and debate, for this to work, everyone must come to class prepared and ready to participate. If you have any questions or concerns about your willingness or ability to participate, please let me know.

Weekly Exercises

The purpose of these weekly exercises is to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading and are prepared to discuss the topics we are covering in class. Additionally, these exercises will provide me with quick feedback as to how each student is doing with the concepts and measures we are using. I will post exercises related to the assigned reading at the end of the week, and students must submit their responses before class begins on the first day of class for the following week. We will review the answers together at the beginning of class.

Problem Sets

During the semester, there will be a few problem sets that students are required to complete. These problem sets will be similar to the weekly exercises in that they reflect the concepts and measures that we are learning from the reading and in class; however, they will be more in-depth and require more time and thought. The problem sets will help students to concretize the materials and prepare for the exams.

Exams

Exams will cover the chapters listed next to each exam on the course schedule. Even if we do not discuss a specific topic or section of the reading in class, it will be on the test. In addition to the readings, exams will also cover anything covered in class discussion.

Demographic Profile

The goal of this assignment is for students to apply and demonstrate the demographic skills acquired throughout the semester. This project will help you to utilize the demographic measures learned in the course and calculations you might use in future projects. You will be allowed to choose any state in the United States or nation for which you can find adequate demographic data. The profile will include a brief history of your chosen location, geography, population size, population distribution, population composition, primary industries, labor force and employment, measures of well-being, and any other statistics you find interesting. More information will be available on the course website and throughout the term.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
Week 1			
Class 1	Review syllabus and course introduction	Syllabus	
Class 2	What is Demography?	Ch. 1	
Week 2			
Class 1	Demographic Data	Ch. 2	
Class 2	Population Growth	Ch. 3	
Week 3			
Class 1	Population Growth	Ch. 3	Weekly Exercise
Class2	Age & Sex Structure	Ch. 4	
Week 4			
Class 1	Age & Sex Structure	Ch. 4	Weekly Exercise
Class 2	Mortality	Ch. 5	
Week 5			
Class 1	Mortality	Ch. 5	**Problem Set 1**
Class 2	Morbidity & Health	Ch. 6	
Week 6			
Class 1	Morbidity & Health	Ch. 6	Weekly Exercise
Class 2	**Exam 1**	**Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**	
Week 7			
Class 1	Preview of Demographic Profile	Examples posted online	State/Country for your profile
Class 2	Fertility	Ch. 7	
Week 8			
Class 1	Fertility	Ch. 7	Weekly Exercise
Class 2	Fertility	Ch. 7	
Week 10			
Class 1	Unions & Households	Ch. 8	Weekly Exercise
Class 2	Migration	Ch. 9	
Week 11			
Class 1	Migration	Ch. 9	**Problem Set 2**
Class 2	Urbanization	Ch. 10	
Week 12			
Class 1	Urbanization	Ch. 10	Weekly Exercise
Class 2	Population Diversity	Ch. 11	

Week 13			
Class 1	**Exam 2**	**Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11**	
Class 2	In-class work on profiles	**Come prepared with questions on your profile**	
Week 14			
Class 1	**Demographic Profile Presentations**		
Class 2	**Demographic Profile Presentations**		
Week 15			
Class 1	**Demographic Profile Presentations**		
Class 2	**Demographic Profile Presentations**		**Demographic Profile Due**

*Other possible texts include, but are not limited to: Preston, Samuel H., Patrick Heuveline, & Michel Guillot. 2001. *Demography: Measuring & Modeling Population Processes*.