

Course Syllabus – Population and Development

Course Information

Course number –GEOG - 3372

Course title – **Population and Development**

Term – Spring 2015

Section – 001

Classroom – CB3 1.312

Time – Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 am -12:45 pm

Professor Contact Information

Name – Dr. Irina Vakulenko

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Office location – GR 3.213

Office hours – Tuesday/ Thursday 10:00-11:00 am; by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. General academic skills of analytical thinking, comparison, essay writing, working with statistical material, map and graph reading will be helpful.

Course Description

This course introduces you to population issues, concepts, theories and methods by encompassing the entire field of demography, including principle and practice. It offers an overview of various aspects of demographic growth and transition relating to changes in health and mortality, fertility, migration, age structure, urbanization, family and household structure. This course also examines the relations between population and development and their potential consequences from a sociological, economic and geographical perspective. Other topics include global variation in population size and growth, various demographic perspectives and their modern implications, environmental impacts, and population policy.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will learn fundamentals regarding the key components of demography: fertility, mortality and migration and their societal implications; understand the mechanisms underlying the demographic transition theory; be able to identify and manipulate key demographic components that range from the local to the global spatial scales and for different population segments. The students will get an opportunity to learn how these demographic trends of growth and transition affect their life in small and large ways. This course is intended to sharpen students' perception of population growth and change and increase their awareness of what is happening and why and to help prepare them to cope with a future that will be shared with billions more people than there are today.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Population. An Introduction to Concepts and Issues, 11th edition by Weeks, John R., Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-1-11-18597-8.

Suggested Course Materials

Students are expected to take lecture notes and complete assignments before due dates. Lecture material shall be complimented by reading the appropriate chapters in the book.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

#	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	1/13/15	Introduction to Demography.	Chapter 1
2	1/15/15	Demographic of Politics, Social Planning and Business.	Chapter 1
3	1/20/15	History of Population Growth.	Chapter 2
4	1/22/15	Geographic Distribution of World Population and Global Variations in Population Size and Growth.	Chapter 2 Countries choice is due.
5	1/27/15	Demographic Perspectives. Pre-modern Population Doctrines.	Chapter 3
6	1/29/15	Demographic Transition Theory and its Components.	Chapter 3
7	2/3/15	Sources of Demographic Data.	Chapter 4
8	2/5/15	Combining the Census and Vital Statistics.	Chapter 4
9	2/10/15	Test 1- 15% of the Final Grade	
10	2/12/15	Transition 1. Health and Mortality. Causes of Poor Health and Death.	Chapter 5
11	2/17/15	Measuring Mortality. Mortality and Inequality.	Chapter 5
12	2/19/15	Transition 2. Components of Fertility. Levels of Fertility.	Chapter 6
13	2/24/15	Fertility Control and Measures. Geographic Variability.	Chapter 6 Paper Draft: 3-4 pages of theoretical considerations for the NDP paper and mortality (1) tables, graphs, and analysis are due – 5%.
14	2/26/15	Transition 3. Internal Migration.	Chapter 7
15	3/3/15	Migration between Countries. Discussion.	Chapter 7
16	3/5/15	Test 2 – 15 % of the Final Grade	
17	3/10/15	Transition 4. The Concepts of Age and Sex. Impact of Mortality and Fertility on Age.	Chapter 8
18	3/12/15	Age Transitions at Work. Look into the future.	Chapter 8
19	3/24/15	Transition 5. Defining Urban Places. Urban Hierarchy and City Systems.	Chapter 9
20	3/26/15	Determinant of Urban Transition	Chapter 9
21	3/31/15	Urban Transition and Urban Evolution.	Chapter 9
22	4/2/15	Transition 6. Household Composition and Family Structure.	Chapter 10 Paper Draft: fertility (2), migration (3), and age (4) characteristics tables, graphs and analysis are due- 5%.
23	4/7/15	Changing Life Chances.	Chapter 10
24	4/9/15	Use and Abuse of Resources by Growing Population	Chapter 10
25	4/14/15	Test 3 – 15 % of the Final Grade	
26	4/16/15	Population and Food	Chapter 11

27	4/21/15	Human Impact on the Environment	Chapter 11
28	4/23/15	Managing the Transitions in the 21 st Century	Chapter 12
29	4/28/15	Population Policy in the USA	Chapter 12. NDP Paper - 25% of the Final Grade is due.
30	4/30/15	Review.	
31	TBA	Final Exam is TBA - 20% of final grade	Perfect attendance– 1 pt.

Grading Policy

All three tests are assigned 15% of total grade value each. A Research Paper on a National Demographic Profile Comparison* of a developed and a developing country is due on **April 23, 2015** (25% of total grade).

On-time submission of each part of the paper will be awarded a completion grade of total of 10%. The Final Exam on TBA will make other 20% of your grade. All graded material will be assigned a numerical value on a scale of 100. Letter Grades are given as follows: 97% and over A+; 93% to 96% A ; 90% to 92% A- ; 87% to 89% B+; 83% to 86% B; 80% to 82% B- ; 77% to 79% C+; 73% to 76% C ; 70% to 72% C- ; 67% to 69% D+ ; 63% to 66% D ; 60% to 62% D; Less than 60% F.

*Research paper is an on-going project during the semester. Guidelines with reference websites for statistical information are posted on e-learning. Every student will need to choose two countries for comparative analysis: one – developed, and the other one – developing. As we study population concepts and six demographic transitions one after another so should research progress reinforcing your practical skills of population characteristics and trends analysis. Two paper drafts are graded for timely completion (not just turning in). Research consultations are available during office hours and by appointment.

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance is crucial for the successful learning and will be taken each class. Many of my lectures and our discussions will include materials not found in the text. As a result a good set of class notes will be extremely helpful if plan excelling in this course. Attendance and class participation will be used as deciding factors for borderline students. No makeup tests. (Individual consideration may be given in case of overwhelming circumstances). Although extra help may be provided to students, the professor will not hold alternate lectures or release lecture notes to students. Respectful discussions of the topics being studied are encouraged.

If you wish to look at the ancillary syllabus material, a link to that material is as follows
<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.