Course Description

This is a newly designed course based on recent changes in the curriculum of the Population Studies Certificate Program. In the past, one theory and one method course were separately required but now they are combined into one. This may reduce the course content in either aspect but provides a better ground to effectively combine demographic theories and methods.

Demographic theories explain the causes and consequences of demographic processes and population structures. Demographic processes include fertility, mortality, nuptiality (i.e., union formation), and migration. Population structures focus on age and sex compositions. The demographic processes and structures are mutually causal. In addition, population structures have important social and economic implications for the society.

For the analysis of population processes and structures, demographers have developed various quantitative techniques that are unique to the field. Several interesting measures are used for the analysis of mortality, fertility, nuptiality, and migration. The methods of stable and stationary population models as well as population projections are used for the analysis of population structures. Although these various methods are developed for population studies, they also provide useful tools for a wide range of social science research.


Reference Readings for Demographic Techniques:

Note: This course does not require any computer skills, but you may have to use a spreadsheet program for fast calculation. There are many computer programs dealing with various demographic techniques, but we do not use them in this course.

Readings for Theories are listed in the course schedule below. All readings of the pdf format will be uploaded in Laulima.

Course Requirement

Attendance: There will be penalty for each absence.
Class Participation: Active participation is expected, and the following is required: (1) Presentation of the week: Students take turns to lead the class discussion based on the reading materials assigned; Each student will do at least twice during the semester (2) A brief introduction of a proposal for individual course projects at the 5th week, when it is due, and (3) Presentation of the final research outcomes of the individual research project in the final week of the semester. Presentations will comprise 15% of the final grade.

Course Paper: Students conduct individual research. The research may be based only on literature or based on empirical research either quantitative or qualitative. Data may be from a large-scale survey or other secondary sources, but collecting data for this course is strongly discouraged mainly because of time limitation.

Topics can be any issues related to population processes or structures, and they may be specific to a country or a region or more general or historical or contemporary. The paper should be at least 15-page long double-spaced, not including tables or figures. The combined number of tables or figures should not exceed 15. The course paper comprises 40% of the course grade.

Exam: There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final, each comprising 20% of the course grade (40% when combined). The exams are, in principle, non-cumulative but some key concepts are repeated.

Problem Sets: There will be 2 problem sets related to demographic techniques. All assignments combined, homework will comprise 5% of the course grade. Both the deadline and correctness of the answers matters.

**It is essential to read the relevant course materials before each class!**

Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Textbook Chapter</th>
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| 1. Jan 11 | Introduction: Major questions addressed in the course  
             Some Demographic Fundamentals  
             World population growth: History and prospects  
              CH 1 (Hinde) |
| (H) Jan 18 | |
| 2 Jan 25 | Population Theories: Early Theories (Malthus); Demographic Transition Theory: Second Demographic Transition Theory  


3 Feb 1 Mortality and Morbidity: Measures and Analysis
- Lexis chart
- Comparing Mortality-Standardization/Decomposition
- Life Table
- Health Expectancy

**Problem set #1**

4 Feb 9 Mortality Decline and Epidemiological Transition


(H) Feb 15

5 Feb 22 Marriage and Cohabitation: Measures and Trends
- Models of Family and Household Processes

**Research Proposal due: Class presentation and feedback**

6 Mar 1 Families and Households: Implications for the Population


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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take-home Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Princeton maps (handout).</td>
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<td>Mar 22</td>
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<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Socioeconomic Implications of Changing Population Structures</td>
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**Problem set #2**

UN World Population Aging, Recent Data


United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. *World Urbanization Prospect.* <recent data>


Piper and Roces. 2003. *Wife or Worker?*


Demeny, P. 2003. Population policy dilemmas in Europe at the dawn of the twenty-first
Final Take-home Exam
(Due May 10th)