Population Studies 650, Introduction to Population
Cross-listed with Sociology 650 and Public Health 651
Spring semester 2011
TTh, 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.
Burns Hall 2012
Instructor: Robert D. Retherford

This syllabus contains two parts:
(1) A course description, titled “Introduction to Population”
(2) A schedule of lectures, assigned readings, examinations, etc.

INTRODUCTION TO POPULATION

A. Purpose and nature of the course

Population Studies 650 (PPST 650) is the basic population course in the Global Health and Population Studies Program (GHAPS), previously known as the Population Studies Program. Population Studies 650 is cross-listed with Sociology 650 (SOC 650) and Public Health 651 (PH 651).

PPST 650 focuses on the causes and consequences of population change. Major questions of population theory and policy are taken as points of departure. The attempt to answer these questions entails the use of statistical evidence and techniques of demographic analysis. The course will cover basic demographic measures and techniques at the beginning of the course, but the coverage of demographic methods will not be extensive.

Aside from an undergraduate social statistics course (covering elementary regression analysis), Population Studies 650 has no prerequisites and is open to graduate students in any field who wish to relate the study of population to their other interests. For students wishing to specialize in population studies, the course will serve as an introductory course at the graduate level.

B. Procedures

The instructor will give a prepared lecture at each class meeting, which will relate to the assigned reading pertaining to the lecture topic. Students should therefore familiarize themselves with the assigned reading prior to the lecture. Questions and discussion during lectures are invited. Most lectures will be in the form of PowerPoint presentations. Paper copies of these PowerPoint presentations will be distributed at the start of each lecture.

Office hours are TTh from 3-4 p.m. at the instructor’s office in Burns 2007 (adjacent to the room where the course will be taught), or by appointment.
C. **Assignments**

In most cases, one or two readings are assigned for each lecture. A thorough grasp of a highly selected list has seemed desirable. Reading assignments are limited also to allow time for preparation of a research paper.

There is no textbook for the course. Readings are mostly journal articles or book chapters. All course readings are posted as downloadable pdf files on the course website (except for one reading where a Wikipedia URL is given).

A research paper of approximately 15 double-spaced pages is required (maximum length is 20 double-spaced pages). Ideally the topic of the paper should be decided by February 10, one month into the course. Students are encouraged to scan briefly the entire reading list during the first two or three weeks of the course in order to get a better sense of possible topics for the research paper.

D. **Examinations and grading**

In addition to the research paper, the course will include a midterm examination and a final examination. Both the midterm and final examinations will be in-class examinations (not take-home). The midterm examination, research paper, and final examination will be weighted 30, 30, and 40 percent respectively in the determination of the final course grade. There will also be some short lab exercises early in the course involving calculation of a few basic demographic measures. The exercises will be corrected, graded, and returned but will not count toward the final course grade unless not turned in.

E. **About the Global Health and Population Studies Program**

The GHAPS website provides a description of the GHAPS program. To access the website, use the following URL:

http://www.hawaii.edu/publichealth/ghaps/

[Note: At the time of this writing (November 23, 2010), searching for GHAPS on the University of Hawaii website does not work well. It often brings up outdated versions of the GHAPS website.]
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**LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

*Note: All readings, handouts, exercises, and also this syllabus are available as downloadable pdf files in a folder named “Course readings and other materials” on the course website. In this folder, readings are identified by author. Filenames for handouts begin with the word “Handout”, so all the handouts are grouped together in this folder. Likewise, filenames for exercises begin with the word “Exercise”.*

**Jan 11**  
INTRODUCTION: MAJOR QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN THE COURSE  
No reading assignment

**Jan 13**  
WORLD POPULATION GROWTH: HISTORY AND PROSPECTS  
Wikipedia, *World Population* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population). (I was not able to make a decent pdf, so you need to get to the article through the internet.)

**Jan 18**  
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA SOURCES AND BASIC MEASURES  
PRB (Population Reference Bureau). 1998. *Population Handbook*. (To be read over the course of the next three class periods, including this one. This reading will be your basic reference on demographic methods during the remainder of the course. The lectures will indicate which measures you should know well.)

Retherford, R. D. *Lexis Diagram* (handout)  
Exercise 1 to be distributed. 
(Note: Exercises are due one week after they are distributed, to be turned in at the start of class.)

**Jan 20**  
BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC MEASURES – 2  
Retherford, R. D. *Life Table* (handout)  
Exercise 2 to be distributed.
Jan 25  BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC MEASURES – 3

Retherford, R. D. *TFR, GRR, NRR, Mean Age at Childbearing, Intrinsic Rate of Natural Increase* (handout)

Turn in Exercise 1.
Exercise 3 to be distributed.

Jan 27  MORTALITY DECLINE AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRANSITION


Turn in Exercise 2.

Feb 1  EARLY POPULATION THEORIES: MALTHUS; THEORY OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION (guest lecturer: Minja Choe)


Turn in Exercise 3.

Feb 3  SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC THEORIES OF FERTILITY TRANSITION – 1 (term paper topic to be identified by this date)


Feb 8  SOCIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC THEORIES OF FERTILITY TRANSITION – 2


Feb 10  FERTILITY REGULATION – 1


Feb 15  FERTILITY REGULATION – 2


Feb 17  FERTILITY REGULATION – 3


Feb 22  MARRIAGE AND FAMILY – 1


Feb 24  MARRIAGE AND FAMILY – 2


Mar 1 INTERWEAVING OF TECHNIQUE AND THEORY IN UNDERSTANDING FERTILITY TRENDS – 1


Princeton maps (handout).

Mar 3 INTERWEAVING OF TECHNIQUE AND THEORY IN UNDERSTANDING FERTILITY TRENDS – 2


Mar 8 MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Mar 10 SECOND DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION TO FAR-BELOW-REPLACEMENT FERTILITY – 1


Mar 15 SECOND DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION TO FAR-BELOW-REPLACEMENT FERTILITY – 2


Mar 17 HIV/AIDS IN ASIA (guest lecturer: Tim Brown)


Mar 21-25 No class (spring recess)
Mar 29  AGE-SEX STRUCTURE OF POPULATIONS


Mar 31  INTERNAL MIGRATION, URBANIZATION, METROPOLITAN DECONCENTRATION


Apr 5  INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION


Apr 7  ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF POPULATION CHANGE


Apr 12  GENETIC AND EVOLUTIONARY ASPECTS OF POPULATION CHANGE


Apr 14  ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF POPULATION CHANGE – 1


**Apr 19**  
**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF POPULATION CHANGE – 2**  
(guest lecturer: Andrew Mason)


**Apr 21**  
**EVOLUTION OF POPULATION POLICIES**


**Apr 26**  
**RECENT EFFORTS TO RAISE FERTILITY IN LOW-FERTILITY COUNTRIES**


**Apr 28**  
**HEALTH EXPECTANCY AND RELATED TOPICS**


**May 3**  
**REVIEW SESSION**

No assignment

**May 9**  
**TERM PAPER DUE BY 12 NOON**

**May 12**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Burns Hall 2012**