



SOCIOLOGY 3650: POPULATION AND SOCIETY

Fall 2013
MWF 9:40 AM – 10:30 AM
BEH S 112

Instructor: Pete Loebach, M.S.
Department of Sociology
Office: 412 BEH S
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Course Overview & Objectives:

Birth, death, aging, migration. These are essential social processes, a part of all societies. These processes also variably shape human societies. For instance, population growth or decline can be a great determinant of economic development. In another case, a country's health care system must meet the age structure and population size of a country. Demography is the study of these processes. It is field fundamentally grounded in empirical analysis.

In this course, students will be introduced into the central concepts and findings within the field of demography. We will review population trends across time and across cultures. We will discuss the wide reaching impacts of these trends. Students will also be given the tools to be able to conduct demographic analysis.

This course is divided into six units reflecting major division within the field of demography. Unit one is an introduction to the study of population and population growth. Unit two through four examine fertility, migration and mortality, respectfully. Unit five focuses on the age-sex structure and population aging. Unit six examines contemporary issues related to population and society—for example, the effect of wars and conflict on population change.

Prerequisites

Students must have completed SOC 3112 or FCS 3210 or ECON 3640 or PSY 3000 or an equivalent statistics course approved by the instructor prior to enrolling in SOC 3650

Required Readings

Population & Society: An Introduction to Demography (1st edition, Cambridge University Press)
ISBN: 978-0521872874

Evaluation & Assessment:

1) Assignments:

There will be six assignments throughout the term. These are designed for practice with calculating and interpreting demographic data. Detailed assignment sheets will be posted on Canvas prior to the due date. All assignments are due in-class on the assigned date in hard copy form. Late assignments turned in within 1 week will be penalized at least 5 points. No assignments will be accepted after one week past the due date

2) Exams

There will be three in-class exams, involving multiple choice questions, short answer, calculations and interpretations. A calculator and a single sheet of notes will be permitted for all exams. No make up exams will be given.

2) Reflection and Analysis Papers on the course texts. These papers will be two papers, 2-3 double-spaced pages in length and will each cover 12.5% of the final grade, for a total of 25% of final grade. More detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas.

- Mexican New York – paper due Mar 7
- The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down – paper due Apr 4

3) Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be taken on six random class periods throughout the semester. To receive full points, students must be present during five out of six class periods.

Expectations for Students:

I believe that we learn a great deal from one another's reflections on course materials, lived experiences, and reflections on current events, public policies, and their coverage in the mass media. I expect that all students will follow a few rules to help create a participatory & respectful class environment:

To arrive to class on time, and on a regular basis. It will be impossible to do well in this course without attending regularly (please inform me if you have university-sanctioned responsibilities, or a medical, family or other emergency that prevents your attendance).

To complete the assigned readings and assignments for the day.

To participate in classroom activities & discussions—as active & respectful listeners, discussants & classmates.

To show courtesy & respect to fellow students and others participating in the course at all times.

To follow the University of Utah code for student conduct (see below).

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: I expect that all students will strive to meet the goals described in the University of Utah's Student Code, which states "the mission of the University of Utah is to educate the individual and to discover, refine and disseminate knowledge. The University supports the intellectual, personal, social and ethical development of members of the University community. These goals can best be achieved in an open and supportive environment that encourages reasoned discourse, honesty, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Students at the University of Utah are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline and engage in the rigors of discovery and scholarship."

Following the Student Code, I adopt a zero-tolerance policy for academic misconduct in this course. "Academic misconduct," according to the University of Utah Student Code, "includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information... It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct." For detailed definitions and possible academic sanctions please see: <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Week	Topic	Readings	Tests, Quizzes, Papers

Week 1	Intro: What is Demography?		
Week2	What is Demography?		
Week 3	Population Growth		
Week 4	Population Growth		
Week 5	Fertility		
Week 6	Fertility		
Week7	Migration		
Week8	Migration		
Week 9	Mortality		

Week 10	Mortality		
Week 11	Mortality		
Week 12	Age Structure and Population Aging		
Week 13	Policy and Implications		
Week 14	Policy and Implications		
Week 15	Review and Summary		
Week 16	Review and Summary		