

Sociology 360

Population Problems SPRING 2017

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Office Hours
Tues. 2-4
Thurs., 2:00-3:00
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GOALS OF THE COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to population concepts and issues. You will become acquainted with a number of perspectives, and will gain an appreciation for the ways in which population concepts relate to important social issues and problems, especially environmental concerns.

REQUIRED READING:

- Weeks, John R. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues. 12th ed. Wadsworth, 2016.
- Readings on electronic reserve, D2L, and the World Wide Web

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams: Three exams will be given. Each will count for one-third of your grade before your discussion and project grades are added in. No make-up exams will be given.

Discussion Preparations: Each member of the class is required to participate in one informal class discussion as a member of a panel. The presentations will include a brief summary of an article or chapter (which will be designated in advance) and a discussion of the major issues raised in the reading. A one-page outline describing your panel's plan is to be handed in on the day of the discussion before the discussion begins.

Class Projects: Each member of the class is required to prepare a class presentation on a critical issue related to population. You are encouraged to work in groups but you may do an individual project if you wish. Your report should discuss existing policies and debates surrounding the issue, and examine the consequences and effectiveness of current policies in contrast with alternative approaches. Group members will present their work to the class in roundtable discussions. Feel free to take a stand on the issue as a basis for class discussion.

Your project must conform to one of the following assignment options:

1. Environment - Select a specific environmental issue (e.g., air or water pollution) in a particular locale in the U.S. or in another nation and discuss the factors involved in creating and solving the problem, including population factors.
2. Prepare a report on the most salient demographic issues facing a nation of your choice. How serious is the problem, what are its causes, and how can it be solved? Be sure to include the demographic factors related to the issue.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class, and remain for the entire session. Students who are scheduled for a class presentation are required to be present and prepared on the assigned day. Anyone unable to take an exam or lead a discussion due to illness must notify me before the scheduled presentation or exam. Role will be taken regularly and will count for 5% of your grade.

Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures

You are referred to UWS/UWSP Chapter 14, Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures at the following website: [UWS/UWSP Chapter 14 - Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures](#)

This website contains information on UWSP and UW System academic honesty standards.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>Week 1</u>	Jan. 24, 26	<u>Introduction to the Course: Definitions and Concepts in Population, Studies and Demography</u> - Ch. 1: <u>Introduction to Demography</u>
<u>Week 2</u>	Jan. 31, Feb 2	<u>World Population Trends</u> http://www.census.gov/popclock/ 2016 World Population Data Sheet http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2016/2016-world-population-data-sheet.aspx <u>Read:</u> Ch. 2: Global Population Trends Discussion #1 The Double Divide: Implosionists and Explosionists Endanger Progress Since Cairo by <i>William P. Butz on reserve or</i> Feb. 2 http://www.prb.org/Articles/2004/TheDoubleDivideImplosionistsandExplosionistsEndangerProgressSinceCairo.aspx Population Data Sheet (2016) http://www.worldpopdata.org/ Population Data Sheet (2014) (Watch the video and look at the datasheet) http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2014/2014-world-population-data-sheet.aspx U.S. Growing Bigger, Older and More Diverse by <i>Paola Scommegna</i> http://www.prb.org/Articles/2004/USGrowingBiggerOlderandMoreDiverse.aspx (or reserve)
<u>Week 3</u>	Feb. 7, 9	<u>Demographic Transition</u> <u>Read:</u> Ch. 3: Demographic Perspectives, pp. 81-85; 88-92.
<u>Week 4</u>	Feb. 14, 16	<u>Population Data Resources</u> Ch. 4: Demographic Data, pp. 105-116. How the 2010 Census Is Different http://prb.org/Articles/2009/changesin2010.aspx

<u>Week 5</u>	Feb.21, 23	Exam I Feb. 23
<u>Week 6</u>	Feb. 28, Mar 2 <u>Read:</u>	<p><u>Population Perspectives and Theories</u> Ch. 3: Demographic Perspectives, pp. 67-78.</p> <p>“Thomas Robert Malthus “An Essay on the Principle of Population” (reserve)</p> <p>Fredrich Engels “Outlines of a Critique of Political Economy” (reserve)</p>
<u>Week 7</u>	Mar. 7, 9 <u>Read:</u>	<p><u>Age Structures and the Aging U.S. Population; Cohorts and Generations</u> Ch. 8: The Age Transition, pp. 307-328.</p>
	<u>Listen</u>	<p>Listen to the two short NPR segments covering the Population Bulletin on Aging in the United States.</p> <p>http://www.prb.org/Multimedia/Audio/2016/npr-prb-aging-bulletin.aspx</p>
	<u>Discussion #2:</u> Mar. 9	<p>Trends in the Well-Being of America's Children by <i>William P. O'Hare</i> (electronic reserve)</p> <p>Elderly White Men Afflicted by High Suicide Rates http://prb.org/Articles/2006/ElderlyWhiteMenAfflictedbyHighSuicideRates.aspx</p> <p>China’s Concern Over Population Aging and Health http://prb.org/Articles/2006/ChinasConcernOverPopulationAgingandHealth.aspx</p>
<u>Week 8</u>	Mar. 14, 16	<p><u>Population and the Environment</u> Ch. 11: Population and the Environment Sustainability, pp-464-479.</p> <p>Frances Moore Lappe, Why Sharing News About Solutions Is a Revolutionary Act http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/why-telling-the-stories-of-solutions-is-a-revolutionary-act</p> <p>2016 Set To Be Hottest Year On Record Globally http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/17/2016-set-to-be-hottest-year-on-record-globally http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/18/world/2016-hottest-year/</p> <p>2015 Was Hottest Year in Historical Record, Scientists Say http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/21/science/earth/2015-hottest-year-global-warming.html?_r=0</p>

Short Answers to Hard Questions About Climate Change
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/28/science/what-is-climate-change.html>

Paris Climate Deal 200 Nations Sign In End of Fossil Fuel Era
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/12/paris-climate-deal-200-nations-sign-finish-fossil-fuel-era>

UN Report: Humans Behind Climate Change
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7137290>

Global Warming: Confronting the Realities of Climate Change
http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/

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Discussion #3:
Mar. 14

Global Warming's Terrifying New Math by Bill McKibben

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>

Joel E. Cohen “How Many People Can the Earth Support?” (reserve)

Discussion #4:
Mar. 16

Jared Diamond “Why Do Some Societies Make Disastrous Decisions?”
Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed. Read pp. 419-421 and 438-440 (Recommended reading: pp422-437) (reserve)

Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” M&M #11, pp. 106-112

Spring Break March 20-24

Week 9

Mar. 28, 30

Population and Food
Ch. 11: Population and Sustainability, pp. 446-461.

Discussion #5:
Mar. 28

Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins “World Hunger: Ten Myths”
<https://foodfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Summer-2015-Backgrounder-10-Myths.pdf>

'70's Food Movement Promoted Benefits of Plant-Based Diet, September 22, 2016:07 AM ET NPR's Morning Edition

<http://www.npr.org/2016/09/22/494984095/70s-food-movement-touts-benefits-of-plant-based-diet>

Lester Brown “Averting a Global Food Crisis” (reserve)

<u>Week 10</u>	April 4 April 6	Exam 2—March 4 Class Presentations—April 6
<u>Week 11</u>	April 11, 13	Class Presentations
<u>Week 12</u>	April 18, 20.	<u>Population and Economic Development</u> Chapter 11 Population and Sustainability pp. 439-445.
	<u>Discussion#6</u> <u>April 18</u>	Why Small Business Must Hire Offshore USA Today (e-reserve)
		Lester Brown, Christopher Flavin, and Sandra Postel, “A Planet in Jeopardy” (reserve)
		Julian Simon, “World Population: An Anti-Doomsday View” M&M #14, pp. 123-28 (reserve)
<u>Week 13</u>	April 25, 27	<u>Migration and Urbanization</u>
	<u>Read</u>	Ch. 7: The Migration Transition, pp. 252-255; 277-287 Ch. 9. The Urban Transition, pp. 344-346; 363-367.
		Migrant crisis: Migration to Europe explained in graphics http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34131911
		Migrants feel chill as Europe tightens frontier checks http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-35291577

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Discussion #7: Philip Martin and Elizabeth Midgley *Immigration: Shaping and Reshaping America* (Revised and Updated Second Edition Population Bulletin Vol. 61 No 4 (December 2006).
April 25 <http://www.prb.org/pdf06/61.4USMigration.pdf>
Read pp. 3-5; 10-11 (Box 2); 16-23 (including Boxes 3 and 4); p. 24 (Box

Philip Martin and Elizabeth Midgley Population Bulletin **Update: Immigration in America 2010**

<http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2010/immigrationupdate1.aspx>

Week 14 May 2, 4 Labor Force and Inequality

Discussion #8 Labor Force Trends Article Summary
May 2 <http://www.prb.org/Publications/PopulationBulletins/2008/uslaborforce.aspx>

Also read the following pages 4-7 and Box 4 in Labor Force Trends by Marlene Lee and Mark Mather Population Bulletin Vol 63 No. 2 June 2008

<http://www.prb.org/pdf08/63.2uslabor.pdf>

The Backdrop: Rising Inequality in the U.S.

<http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2014/us-inequality-backdrop.aspx>

Full-Time Work No Guarantee of Livelihood for Many U.S. Families by *Robert Lalasz* (electronic reserve)

Week 15 May 9, 11 Population Policy

Discussion #9 Elizabeth W. Moen “What Does Control Over Our Bodies Really Mean?” (reserve)
May 9

TB Anywhere is TB Everywhere

<http://prb.org/Articles/2007/TBAnywhereIsTBEverywhere.aspx>

HIV/AIDS and the Natural Environment

<http://prb.org/Articles/2006/HIVAIDSandtheNaturalEnvironment.aspx>

FINAL EXAM Sec 1(11 am Class) Wednesday, May 17, 8-10 am

FINAL EXAM Sec 2 (12:35 pm Class) Monday May 15 2:45-4.45 pm