

**SOCIOLOGY 410: SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHY
FALL 2008**

University of Maryland, College Park
Time/Location: MWF 10 – 10:50 am in ASY 3203

Department of Sociology
Final Exam: Dec. 20, Sat. 8-10AM

Professor Julie Park
Office Hours: MW 3:30 – 4:30PM and by appt.
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COURSE OVERVIEW

Demography is the study of human populations. Social demography examines how population processes interrelate with institutions in society, such as the family and the economy. Students will first learn how to define and to measure the fundamental population processes such as fertility, mortality, and migration. Second, students will learn how to examine the population structure and composition of a city, a state, a nation, and/or the world. Consequently, understanding demographic concepts and the demographic perspective is foundational in critically engaging various policy debates of our time (e.g. immigration, the challenges of aging societies, population growth and development, or population growth and the environment). Third, students will critically examine the different aspects of these policies as social demographers in order to arrive at their own perspective on these pressing issues.

The course relies heavily on student participation so it is a significant part of the grade for the course. Because the readings serve as a foundation for all class activity, all readings should be read before the class for which they are assigned.

Prerequisites: 6 hours of sociology or permission of the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You must check your e-mail every couple of days. I will periodically email you updates for class.

You should bring a calculator to every class. We will calculate population measures regularly, including when we have more substantive discussions.

You must read the assigned readings prior to class. Pop quizzes will cover lectures as well as the required reading for that day.

Required Text

Weeks, John R. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, 10th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2007.

Other readings, if required, will be distributed during the course.

Grading requirements

- Midterm 25%
- Final 25%
- Assignments (6 – each 5 points) 30%
- In-Class Quizzes and Class Participation 20%
(Including attendance, preparedness, and participation in class discussion/activity)

Late assignments will receive a full-grade penalty per day (unless prior arrangements are made).

COURSE POLICIES

Class Attendance and Participation

Students should attend all class meetings, be on time, and be prepared to participate on a substantive and analytic level in discussions of the readings and topics. This means that the reading assignment for each class should be done before class. Excessive tardiness or absences will negatively affect your grade. Short pop quizzes will be given periodically to facilitate more fruitful class discussions and to reward students for keeping up with the readings. There are no make-up quizzes for any reason.

Students claiming excused absence must apply in writing and furnish documentation (including illness or religious observance).

Laptops and Cell Phones

Students are certainly welcome to bring in their laptop computers for note-taking, calculating, or following along on the web during a demonstration. However, the use of laptops is quite disruptive to the class when they are used for other purposes (e.g. internet surfing, instant messaging, watching movies). If your use of a laptop becomes disruptive, you will be asked to close it for the remainder of the class.

Cell phones are to be turned off before entering the classroom (no phone calls, texting, or taking pictures).

Academic Integrity and the University of Maryland Honor Pledge

Cheating or engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to university policies regarding academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism from websites and library materials, false information in requests for assignment or examination extensions, or fabrications of any kind. For more information on academic integrity, please refer to the Student Honor Council website, <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability should inform me of such by the second (2nd) class meeting so that we can discuss making the appropriate and

necessary arrangements. Please make an appointment with Dr. Jo Ann Hutchinson or her staff at the Disability Support Services (DSS) in the Counseling Center, 314-7682 (Shoemaker 0126).

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Introduction to Social Demography

W (W1)	Sept 3	Introduction to the course content, policies, and requirements
F	Sept 5	Introduction to social demography

The Population Perspective

M (W2)	Sept 8	Why is demography important? (Weeks, pp. 2–26)
W	Sept 10	Overview of the world’s population (Weeks, pp. 30–48)
F	Sept 12	Theoretical perspectives (Weeks, pp. 66–85)
M (W3)	Sept 15	Demographic Transition theory (Weeks, pp. 86–104)

Data of Demography

W	Sept 17	Sources of demographic data (Weeks, pp. 108–125)
F	Sept 19	U.S. Census data
M (W4)	Sept 22	Other sources of data (Weeks, pp. 131–143)

Mortality

W	Sept 24	Mortality/epidemiological transition and historical trends (Weeks, pp. 146–155)
F	Sept 26	Measuring mortality (Weeks, pp. 176–187)
M (W5)	Sept 29	Life expectancy (Weeks, pp. 156–175)
W	Oct 1	Mortality differentials (Weeks, pp. 188–195)

Fertility

F	Oct 3	Fertility: concepts and historical trends (Weeks, pp. 198–210)
M (W6)	Oct 6	Control of fertility (Weeks, pp. 211–233)
W	Oct 8	Measuring fertility (Weeks, pp. 234–241)
F	Oct 10	Fertility transition: family, women’s status, marriage

(Weeks, pp. 242–258)

Migration

M (W7)	Oct 13	Migration: concepts and historical trends (Weeks, pp. 262–265)
W	Oct 15	Measuring migration (Weeks, pp. 266–271)
F	Oct 17	Internal migration (Weeks, pp. 272–279)
M (W8)	Oct 20	International migration (immigration) (Weeks, pp. 280–301)
W	Oct 22	Review of class materials
F	Oct 24	MIDTERM EXAM
M (W9)	Oct 27	Immigration policy

Aging

W	Oct 29	Age/aging and the life course (Weeks, pp. 306 & 314–326)
F	Oct 31	Age and age cohorts (Weeks reading handout)
M (W10)	Nov 3	Age transition for a population, for a workforce (Weeks, pp. 327–349)

Population Composition

W	Nov 5	Age and sex structure (Weeks, pp. 307–314)
F	Nov 7	Family and households (Weeks, pp. 391–408)
M (W11)	Nov 10	Changing Life Chances (Weeks, pp. 409–426)
W	Nov 12	Race and ethnicity (Weeks, pp. 427–436)
F	Nov 14	Immigrants and their changing life chances

Urban Demography

M (W12)	Nov 17	The urban transition (Weeks, pp. 352–369)
W	Nov 19	The urban evolution (Weeks, pp. 370–388)

Population Growth and Economic Development: Impacts on the Environment

F	Nov 21	Debate about population and economic development (Weeks, pp. 439–452)
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M (W13)	Nov 24	Population growth and food (Weeks, pp. 453–463)
W	Nov 26	Observing changing life chances in our families
F	Nov 28	Thanksgiving Break—NO CLASS
M (W14)	Dec 1	Impacts on the environment (Weeks, pp. 464–483)

Population Issues, Policies and Politics

W	Dec 3	Overview (Weeks, pp. 487–495)
F	Dec 5	Politics and a “world population policy” (Weeks, pp. 496–502)
M (W15)	Dec 8	Population policies in the world (Weeks, pp. 503–521)
W	Dec 10	Population policy of the United States (Weeks, pp. 522–535)
F	Dec 12	Wrap-up and review

FINAL EXAM: December 20, 2008 Saturday 8-10AM