

SOCI 50118: POPULATION

M/3:30-6:30, Social Sciences Research Building 404

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OVERVIEW

This course provides a substantive overview of the field of demography -- the study of human populations, past, present and future. We focus on trends and causes and consequences of change in the three the basic components of population change: mortality, fertility, migration. We will also cover a few sub-fields outside the big three, including population & environment. By the end of the quarter, students will have been introduced to the major substantive issues, debates, and methods that characterize the field. The course is non-technical but assumes graduate-level literacy in statistics and quantitative reasoning. We will focus on understanding general trends in global population, the inter-related nature of fertility, mortality, migration, and age structure, and how the demographic explanations of social phenomena are critical for understanding political, economic, and cultural changes.

This course is a just starting point for students who intend to specialize in demography. This is not a comprehensive view of the field; instead, I've designed this syllabus to focus on a few population concepts (i.e., growth, time, theory), the big three (fertility, mortality, migration), and the relationships among them. I am assuming (correctly or incorrectly) that students will dive into sub-fields like family, aging, stratification, and health disparities in other courses specifically dedicated to these topics. Indeed, we are skipping very important topics like lowest-low fertility, HIV/AIDS.

Students who are serious about pursuing a career in demography should take a few of the following steps to start following the major issues in the field:

- Join the Population Association of America (PAA) and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP); read their newsletters; attend their meetings. The Population Section of the American Sociological Association also facilitates important conversations within sociology.
- Essential journals to follow – Demography, Population and Development Review, Population-e, Demographic Research, Population Studies, Population Research and Policy Review. A good way to stay up-to-date is to sign-up to receive the TOC via email every time an issue comes out.
- Essential Institutes and Data Initiatives to follow (sub-field specific): Population Reference Bureau; Demographic and Health Surveys; US Census Bureau (including their office of international programs); IPUMS; I'll add to this list.
- Attend the weekly Demography Workshop: Thursdays, 12:30-2pm. Workshop culture is central to how demographers work and communicate. We're fortunate to have an excellent one.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no required textbook for this course. The list of readings is provided in this syllabus. Articles are available through JStor and the respective journals, all of which are subscribed through the library. I will not be posting PDFs of the articles we assign, because download metrics matter for the living authors we read and for our field as a whole. Plan to spend about 15 minutes each week finding, downloading, organizing your materials for each week. I recommend that all students use a bibliography manager.

ASSESSMENTS

1. *Class Participation & Weekly memos* (30%) I expect students to be present, prepared, and engaged. Weekly reactions are due each Monday at 8am. Memos should be 500-600 words and will be marked as follows:

- 1) Excellent: Exceeds expectations, could be used as an example in future classes.
- 2) Fine: Meets expectations, represents solid, grad-level work and a positive trajectory, see written feedback for stage-appropriate pointers & critiques.
- 3) Poor: Falls short of expectations, progress towards course objectives is not being demonstrated in the submitted work.
- 4) Extremely off-base.

“2” will be the modal grade, 1s will be given in exceptional cases only, and I sincerely hope to not have to deal with any 4s.

2. *Book Review Presentation* (20%)

Each student will give a short in-class presentation – summary and critical assessment – of a major book of import to scholars of demography/population studies. Identify a monograph that you will read closely and present to the class as a resident expert during weeks 4-10. You can choose a canonical text in the tradition of population thought (i.e., Malthus, Graunt, Quetelet) or a contemporary classic, such as an [ASA Population Section's Book Award winner](#). Students will deliver a 10-minute presentation and field about 10-minutes of questions about the text. Presume an audience of your peers who are motivated understand the book – it's argument, strengths, and weaknesses – but have not read it. Review a monograph (i.e., a book-length argument), not an edited volume. Students interested in historical demography may want to examine the [Cambridge Studies in Population, Economy and Society in Past Time](#). UChicago Press's [Pop & Development](#) list is another good source. Here are a few suggestions for other contemporary classics that fit the bill. Other books can be approved by petition.

SUGGESTED CONTEMPORARY MONOGRAPHS

- Anderson, Margo J. 2015. *The American Census: A Social History*. Second edition. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Easterlin, Richard A. 1980. *Birth and Fortune: The Impact of Numbers on Personal Welfare*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Fogel, Robert William. 2004. *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100: Europe, America, and the Third World*. First Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Goldthorpe, John H. 2015. *Sociology as a Population Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Goldstone, Jack A. 1993. *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Greenhalgh, Susan. 2010. *Cultivating Global Citizens: Population in the Rise of China*. 1st, Date Same Title & Copyright Page edition ed. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.
- Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer. 2006. *Uncertain Honor: Modern Motherhood in an African Crisis*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Loveman, Mara. 2014. *National Colors: Racial Classification and the State in Latin America*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Thornton, Arland. 2005. *Reading History Sideways: The Fallacy and Enduring Impact of the Developmental Paradigm on Family Life*. 1st ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Tolnay, Stewart E. 1998. *The Bottom Rung: African American Family Life on Southern Farms*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Watkins, Susan Cotts. 1991. *From Provinces to Nations: Demographic Integration in Western Europe 1870-1960*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Final research paper or exam (50%). Students have some choices for how to complete their final assessment. I need to know which option you intend to pursue by week 5. Communicate your intention to me by completing the associated “quiz” on Canvas by the morning of February 2nd.

- a. 1st year exam option: This option is required for students in the sociology department’s graduate program who are taking this course as an exam course. The option is open to all students in the class. In-class exam will be offered at our regular course time on March 16th -- 3:30-6:30. The goal of the exam is to test how well you can synthesize the literature we have covered, summarize/evaluate the key theories and findings in the field, and quickly integrate new information into what you already know. The exam is closed book, no computers, blue books.
- b. Proposal – NSF-style proposal to support empirical dissertation work. Students will follow the [guidelines](#) for NSF DDRI program for Sociology.
- c. Short paper – Examples of acceptable contributions include:
 - i. *Demography Research Note*. From the [submission guidelines](#) on the PAA website: The editors will also consider the following types of submissions, not to exceed 2,000 words: research notes, and brief commentaries on articles previously published in *Demography*, presenting reanalyses that generate new substantive conclusions.
 - ii. *Demographic Research* Descriptive finding or Replication. See guidelines here: https://www.demographic-research.org/info/general_information.htm
A Descriptive finding cannot: have more than 2,500 words, including all text other than references and table and figure captions; include footnotes, endnotes, or appendices; have more than five data exhibits (Tables + Figures, total); subdivide data exhibits (e.g., Table 1A, 1B, ...) unless the subdivision corresponds to an important dimension of interest in the data (e.g., Table 1A for females, 1B for males...).
 - iii. [Population Research and Policy Review Research Brief](#)
These are expected to consist of data-forward research on population issues, especially those with policy relevance. These pieces cannot already be published in other journals and will not incorporate an extensive literature review or conceptual framework. We expect to publish Briefs more rapidly than traditional research articles, as the relatively short format is useful for scientists with results that are time sensitive. Research Briefs must: Be less than 2,500 words, excluding references. Not have more than five tables and figures (combined).
- d. At the request of the student, a research article may be allowed. But, in general, I discourage this approach. Course papers written in just 10 weeks tend to be rushed and (therefore) low-quality, so I prefer the focus and discipline of the short-form papers.

QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE QUARTER

INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW OF THE FIELD

PART I: FOUR CRUCIAL CONCEPTS

WEEK 2: POPULATION GROWTH & RELATED DEBATES

WEEK 3: THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION & RELATED TRANSITIONS

WEEK 4: COHORTS AND GENERATIONS, AGING, AND TIME

WEEK 5: DEMOGRAPHY AS SOCIAL THEORY

PART II: TOPICS -- OUR BIG 3 + THE LOOMING 1

WEEK 6: MORTALITY

WEEK 7: FERTILITY

WEEK 8: MIGRATION

WEEK 9: POPULATION & ENVIRONMENT

WRAP

WEEK 10: RECENT FIRST PAPERS BY YOUNG SCHOLARS /// FUTURE OF THE FIELD

READING LIST BY WEEK

January 6, 2020

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW OF THE FIELD OF DEMOGRAPHY

In preparation for our first class on January 6, please prepare by reading 6 of this recommended baker's dozen of papers. You don't need to submit a memo, but please bring your notes and come prepared to comment on the articles you focused on. I've listed the articles here in reverse chronological order. Please make your selections deliberately (i.e., not by length).

- Merchant, Emily Klancher. 2017. "A Digital History of Anglophone Demography and Global Population Control, 1915–1984." *Population and Development Review* 43(1):83–117.
- Kreager, Philip. 2015. "Population Theory—A Long View." *Population Studies* 69(sup1):S29–37.
- Petit, Véronique and Yves Charbit. 2013. "The French School of Demography: Contextualizing Demographic Analysis." *Population and Development Review* 38:322–33.
- Xie, Yu. 2000. "Demography: Past, Present, and Future." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 95(450):670–73.
- Presser, Harriet B. 1997. "Demography, Feminism, and the Science-Policy Nexus." *Population and Development Review* 23(2):295–331.
- Caldwell, John C. 1996. "Demography and Social Science." *Population Studies* 50:309–16.
- Watkins, Susan Cotts. 1993. "If All We Knew About Women Was What We Read in Demography, What Would We Know?" *Demography* 30(4):551–77.
- Keyfitz, Nathan. 1993. "Thirty Years of Demography and Demography." *Demography* 30(4):533–49.
- Kreager, Philip. 1993. "Histories of Demography: A Review Article." *Population Studies* 47(3):519–39.
- McNicoll, Geoffrey. 1992. "The Agenda of Population Studies: A Commentary and Complaint." *Population and Development Review* 18(3):399–420.
- Hodgson, Dennis. 1983. "Demography as Social Science and Policy Science." *Population and Development Review* 9(1):1–34.
- Hauser, Philip M. and Otis D. Duncan. 1959. "The Nature of Demography." Pp. 29–44 in *The Study of Population*, edited by P. M. Hauser and O. D. Duncan. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. *available in Canvas through course reserves.
- Hauser, Philip M. 1959. "Demography in Relation to Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 65(2):169–73.

January 13, 2020

WEEK 2: POPULATION GROWTH & RELATED DEBATES

First, a definition:

Krieger, Nancy. 2012. "Who and What Is a 'Population'? Historical Debates, Current Controversies, and Implications for Understanding 'Population Health' and Rectifying Health Inequities." *The Milbank Quarterly* 90(4):634–81.

Wilmoth, John R. and Patrick Ball. 1992. "The Population Debate in American Popular Magazines, 1946-90." *Population and Development Review* 18(4):631–68.

Lam, David. 2011. "How the World Survived the Population Bomb: Lessons From 50 Years of Extraordinary Demographic History." *Demography* 48(4):1231–62.

**also read the comment and exchange with Sten Becker

**option to watch the address as an address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBwv2tjZFuM>

Coleman, David and Robert Rowthorn. 2011. "Who's Afraid of Population Decline? A Critical Examination of Its Consequences." *Population and Development Review* 37:217–48.

Gerland, Patrick, Adrian E. Raftery, Hana Ševčíková, Nan Li, Danan Gu, Thomas Spoorenberg, Leontine Alkema, Bailey K. Fosdick, Jennifer Chunn, Nevena Lalic, Guiomar Bay, Thomas Buettner, Gerhard K. Heilig, and John Wilmoth. 2014. "World Population Stabilization Unlikely This Century." *Science* 346(6206):234–37.

Bloom, David, David Canning, and Jaypee Sevilla. 2003. *The Demographic Dividend: A New Perspective on the Economic Consequences of Population Change*. Rand Corporation.

Manuscript available online through Rand. Read front-matter and chapters 1 & 2.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1274.html

January 20, 2020

WEEK 3: THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION & RELATED TRANSITIONS

****no class, MLK Day; you must read on your own and submit a memo**

****reading load is a little heavier than usual; memo due Tuesday 8am to allow you a little more time.**

****determine book you will be reviewing for the class**

PART I: The Demographic Transition

Notestein, F. 1945. "Population--The Long View." Pp. 36–57 in *Food for the World*, edited by Theodore W. Schulz. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Caldwell, John C. 1976. "Toward a Restatement of Demographic Transition Theory." *Population and Development Review* 2(3–4):321–66.

Lee, Ronald. 2003. "The Demographic Transition: Three Centuries of Fundamental Change." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(4):167–90.

Lam, David and Leticia Marteleto. 2008. "Stages of the Demographic Transition from a Child's Perspective." *Population and Development Review* 34(2):225–52.

Part II: Related Transitions

Omran, Abdel R. 2005. "The Epidemiologic Transition: A Theory of the Epidemiology of Population Change." *The Milbank Quarterly* 83(4):731–57.

Lesthaeghe, Ron. 2014. "The Second Demographic Transition: A Concise Overview of Its Development." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 111(51):18112–15.

Verdery, Ashton M. 2015. "Links Between Demographic and Kinship Transitions." *Population and Development Review* 41(3):465–84.

Zaidi, Batool and S. Philip Morgan. 2017. "The Second Demographic Transition Theory: A Review and Appraisal." *Annual Review of Sociology* 43:473–92.

January 27, 2020

WEEK 4: COHORTS, GENERATIONS, AGING, AND TIME

Mannheim, Karl. 1952 [1928]. "The Sociological Problem of Generations." In *Essays on the Sociology of Knowledge*. **see course reserves**

Ryder, Norman B. 1965. "The Cohort as a Concept in the Study of Social Change." *American Sociological Review* 30(6):843–61.

Schuman, Howard and Jacqueline Scott. 1989. "Generations and Collective Memories." *American Sociological Review* 54(3):359–81.

Pampel, Fred C. and H. Elizabeth Peters. 1995. "The Easterlin Effect." *Annual Review of Sociology* 21(1):163–94.

Smith, Herbert L. 2004. "Response: Cohort Analysis Redux." *Sociological Methodology* 34(1):111–19.

* These papers are technically more challenging, do your best.

Mason, Karen Oppenheim, William M. Mason, H. H. Winsborough, and W. Kenneth Poole. 1973. "Some Methodological Issues in Cohort Analysis of Archival Data." *American Sociological Review* 38(2):242–58.

Yang, Yang, Sam Schulhofer-Wohl, Wenjiang J. Fu, and Kenneth C. Land. 2008. "The Intrinsic Estimator for Age-Period-Cohort Analysis: What It Is and How to Use It." *American Journal of Sociology* 113(6):1697–1736.

February 3, 2020

WEEK 5: DEMOGRAPHY & SOCIAL THEORY

Gutman, Robert. 1960. "In Defense of Population Theory." *American Sociological Review* 25(3):325–33.

Stinchcombe, Arthur. 1968. "Demographic Explanations of Social Phenomena." Pp. 57–59 in *Constructing Social Theories*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Keyfitz, Nathan. 1971. "Models." *Demography* 8(4):571–80.

Hammel, Eugene A. 1990. "A Theory of Culture for Demography." *Population and Development Review* 16(3):455–85.

Becker, Gary S. 1991. *A Treatise on the Family*. Enl. ed. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
*Read Introduction & Chapter 5 "The Demand for Children"

Abbott, Andrew Delano. 2005. "The Historicity of Individuals." *Social Science History* 29(1):1–13.

Bachrach, Christine A. 2014. "Culture and Demography: From Reluctant Bedfellows to Committed Partners." *Demography* 51(1):3–25.

February 10, 2020

WEEK 6: MORTALITY

Canudas-Romo, Vladimir. 2010. "Three Measures of Longevity: Time Trends and Record Values." *Demography* 47(2):299–312. [recommendation: read this one first.]

Preston, Samuel H. 1975. "The Changing Relation between Mortality and Level of Economic Development." *Population Studies* 29(2):231–48.

Caldwell, John C. 1986. "Routes to Low Mortality in Poor Countries." *Population and Development Review* 12(2):171–220.

Kuhn, Randall. 2010. "Routes to Low Mortality in Poor Countries Revisited." *Population and Development Review* 36(4):655–92.

Masters, Ryan K. 2012. "Uncrossing the U.S. Black-White Mortality Crossover: The Role of Cohort Forces in Life Course Mortality Risk." *Demography* 49(3):773–96

Frankenberg, Elizabeth, Thomas Gillespie, Samuel Preston, Bondan Sikoki, and Duncan Thomas. 2011. "Mortality, The Family and The Indian Ocean Tsunami*." *The Economic Journal* 121(554):F162–82.

Heuveline, Patrick. 2015. "The Boundaries of Genocide: Quantifying the Uncertainty of the Death Toll During the Pol Pot Regime (1975-1979)." *Population Studies* 69(2):201–18.

February 17, 2020**WEEK 7: FERTILITY**

- Bongaarts, John. 1978. "A Framework for Analyzing the Proximate Determinants of Fertility." *Population and Development Review* 4(1):105–32.
- Menken, Jane. 1985. "Age and Fertility: How Late Can You Wait?" *Demography* 22(4):469–83.
- van de Walle, Etienne. 1992. "Fertility Transition, Conscious Choice, and Numeracy." *Demography* 29(4):487–502.
- Santow, Gigi. 1995. "Coitus Interruptus and the Control of Natural Fertility." *Population Studies-a Journal of Demography* 49(1):19–43.
- Randall, Sara. 1996. "Whose Reality? Local Perceptions of Fertility Versus Demographic Analysis." *Population Studies* 50(2):221–34.
- Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer. 2007. "Natural Intentions: Fertility Decline in the African Demographic and Health Surveys." *American Journal of Sociology* 112(4):1008–43.
- Gribaldo, Alessandra, Maya D. Judd, and David I. Kertzer. 2009. "An 'Imperfect' Contraceptive Society: Fertility and Contraception in Italy." *Population and Development Review* 35(3):551–84.

February 24, 2020**WEEK 8: MIGRATION**

- Lee, E. 1966. "A Theory of Migration." *Demography* 3:47–57.
- Hout, Michael and Joshua R. Goldstein. 1994. "How 4.5 Million Irish Immigrants Became 40 Million Irish Americans: Demographic and Subjective Aspects of the Ethnic Composition of White Americans." *American Sociological Review* 59(1):64–82.
- Kanaiaupuni, Shawn Malia and Katharine M. Donato. 1999. "Migradollars and Mortality: The Effects of Migration on Infant Survival in Mexico." *Demography* 36(3):339–53.
- Garip, Filiz. 2012. "Discovering Diverse Mechanisms of Migration: The Mexico–US Stream 1970–2000." *Population and Development Review* 38(3):393–433.
- Massey, Douglas S., Jorge Durand, and Karen A. Pren. 2016. "Why Border Enforcement Backfired." *American Journal of Sociology* 121(5):1557–1600.
- Zagheni, Emilio, Ingmar Weber, and Krishna Gummadi. 2017. "Leveraging Facebook's Advertising Platform to Monitor Stocks of Migrants." *Population and Development Review* 43(4):721–34.

March 2, 2020

WEEK 9: POPULATION & ENVIRONMENT

- Pebbley, Anne R. 1998. "Demography and the Environment." *Demography* 35(4):377–89.
- Grace, Kathryn. 2017. "Considering Climate in Studies of Fertility and Reproductive Health in Poor Countries." *Nature Climate Change* 7(7):479–485.
- Heft-Neal, Sam, Jennifer Burney, Eran Bendavid, and Marshall Burke. 2018. "Robust Relationship between Air Quality and Infant Mortality in Africa." *Nature* 559(7713):254–58.
- Piguet, Etienne. 2019. "Climatic Statelessness: Risk Assessment and Policy Options." *Population and Development Review* 45(4):865–83.
- Entwistle, Barbara, Ashton M. Verdery, and Nathalie Williams. Forthcoming. "Climate Change and Migration: New Insights from a Dynamic Model of Out and Return Migration." *American Journal of Sociology*.
- *And read a few antecedent statements
- Marsh, George Perkins. 1864 [1988]. "George Perkins Marsh on Man's Impact on the Environment." *Population and Development Review* 14(1):191–95.
- Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162(3859):1243–48.
- Schumacher, E. F. 1979. "On Population and Energy Use." *Population and Development Review* 5(3):535–41. + Revelle, Roger. 1979. "Postscript: Population Growth and Energy Use--E. F. Schumacher as Prophet." *Population and Development Review* 5(3):542–44.
- . 2012. "The IPCC on Future Climate Extremes and Their Effects." *Population and Development Review* 38(2):383–86. + Bongaarts, John. 2019. "Short Review of: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C Switzerland: IPCC, 2018." *Population and Development Review* 45(1):251–52.

March 9, 2020

WEEK 10: WHERE IS DEMOGRAPHY GOING? // FIRST PAPERS FROM RECENT DISSERTATIONS

During our final week, we will review the list of [Dorothy S. Thomas award-winning papers](#) and read a selection of these. In addition to the Thomas-Award winners, I've added some notable first papers by up-and-coming scholars in the field of population (past 5 years). We wrap with a discussion about where demography is headed, what excellent work by early-career scholars looks like, and how young scholars get creative with secondary data sources. (Like you, they don't have millions and are on strict deadlines.) We'll end the quarter with a discussion of what good papers do, and how we might go about producing that kind of work.

Behrman, Julia Andrea. 2015. "Does Schooling Affect Women's Desired Fertility? Evidence From Malawi, Uganda, and Ethiopia." *Demography* 52(3):787-809.

Lagos, Danya. 2018. "Looking at Population Health Beyond 'Male' and 'Female': Implications of Transgender Identity and Gender Nonconformity for Population Health." *Demography* 55(6):2097-2117.

Cross, Christina J. 2018. "Extended Family Households among Children in the United States: Differences by Race/Ethnicity and Socio-Economic Status." *Population Studies* 72(2):235-51.

Pesando, Luca Maria. 2019. "Rethinking and Revising Goode's Contribution to Global Family Change." *Marriage & Family Review* 55(7):619-30.

Zang, Emma. 2019. "Women's Educational Attainment and Fertility among Generation X in the United States." *Population Studies* 73(3):335-51.

Xu, Kim Qinzi. 2019. "Changing Patterns and Determinants of First Marriage over the History of the People's Republic of China." *Population-e* 74(3):205-35.

Note that a few of the papers you've already read are first (or nearly first) papers by early-career scholars: Merchant 2017, Verdery 2015, Masters 2015, Garip 2012.