Population and Society
SOCIOLOGY 331A

Instructor  Bryan L. Sykes, Ph.D.

OFFICE  Wednesday 10-12 or by appointment
HOURS  Department of Sociology
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Course website  http://www.soc.washington.edu/academics/courses/classpage.asp?cid=1826
EMAIL  BLSYKES@u.washington.edu

In this course we will cover demographic and economic theories of population growth and composition; population processes and their impact on society; the emergence of, and changes to, institutions that deal with population problems (e.g., social security, pension systems); and the methods & statistics demographers use to track changes in mortality, fertility, and migration. Classical and contemporary demographic debates and theories will be discussed. By the end of the course, students should be able to substantively engage anyone in a discussion of past, present, and future population problems that affect different societies.


LECTURES  Lectures will cover the following topics.

(1) Population history and the demographic transition
(2) Malthus, food, and the origins of the population debate
(3) History of mortality decline
(4) History of fertility decline
(5) Population growth, the environment, and sustainable development
(6) Population policy and family planning programs
(7) Population aging and public support for the elderly
(8) Immigration to the United States in historical perspective
(9) Changing Family Structure & Women’s Labor Force Participation
(10) The Economics of Fertility
(11) Bio-Demography: Health & Environment

GRADING  Four Problem Sets  100 points (25%)
          Midterm exam  120 points (30%)
          Final exam  180 points (45%)

Thus, it is possible to earn up to 400 points in total for the course. Your final grade will be based on the percentage of points you obtained, based on the following distribution:

- 1 -
Also, an outstanding performance on the final could raise your grade above what is indicated by your point total. If a student’s performance on the final exam is 15% better than her midterm performance, that student’s final exam grade will be adjusted upward 3% to reflect her improvement.

Grades for late assignments are reduced automatically by 10% of assignment grade per day late, with assignments due at the beginning of the class. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.

**ETIQUETTE**

Modern technology has improved human efficiency and increased personal happiness. However, there is a time and place for acceptable use of personal electronics. In order to minimize class disruptions, please refrain from surfing the internet, receiving and answering phone calls on cell phones, texting friends and relatives, and sending e-mails during class time. This is a learning environment, and other social and personal responsibilities should be conducted before or after class.

**READINGS**

Readings for the second half of the course will be placed on the course website.

**Retirement, Social Security, and Pensions**


**Immigration, the Labor Force, and Social Consequences**


**Changing Family Structure & Women’s Labor Force Participation**


**The Economics of Fertility**


**Bio-Demography: Health & Environment**


### COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Problem Set</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Population history and the demographic transition (Lecture)</td>
<td>L-B Chpt. 1-2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Malthus, food, and the origins of the population debate (Lecture)</td>
<td>Wachter Chpt 2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Cohort Mortality Methods</td>
<td>L-B Chpt. 3-4</td>
<td>PS 1 Due 4/22</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Period Mortality Methods</td>
<td>Wachter Chpts. 3 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>History of Mortality Decline (Lecture)</td>
<td>L-B Chpt. 5-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>No Class (out for PAA Meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Cohort &amp; Period Fertility Methods</td>
<td>Wachter Chpts. 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>PS 2 Due 4/29</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>History of Fertility Decline (Lecture)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Population growth, the environment, and sustainable development (Lecture)</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Population Policy and Family Planning (Lecture), Catch-up, &amp; Midterm-Review</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>May 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mid-Term Exam</strong></td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Population Aging &amp; Dependency (Lecture)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date 1</td>
<td>Date 2</td>
<td>Topic 1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Population Aging, Public Expenditures, and the Pension Problem</td>
<td>The Grand Theories: Optimum, Equilibrium, &amp; Technological Progress</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Immigration (Lecture)</td>
<td>The Economics of Immigration in US</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Changing Family Structure &amp; Women’s Labor Force Participation</td>
<td>The Economics of Fertility</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Bio-demography: Health &amp; Environment</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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