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POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR REVIEW ESSAYS

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In addition to book reviews, you may complete the essay requirement for Sociology 513 by writing a short paper (approximately 1500 words) on a demographic topic. This could be an area that you are considering for your master's thesis or simply a demographic issue or question that you would like to explore. A good essay has structure as well as interesting and informative content. For example, a good essay should begin with a brief introduction of your main idea, followed by a middle section containing your key points, evidence, and interpretation. In the conclusion, you should tie the various points together to the central idea. Some possible topics are listed below. If you have another idea for a review essay, please come to see me first. For each essay, you should include a short bibliography of key references on the topic.

The political context of Malthus's writings.

The debate over the undercount in the 2000 Census of the United States.

The politics of measuring race and ethnicity in census data.

What can be learned from historical demography?

The major conclusions of the Princeton European Fertility Project.

A review of the measurement problems of socioeconomic analyses of mortality.

Smoking, health, and mortality.

The impact of family planning on infant mortality.

An introduction to the probability of conception and the waiting time to conception for a non-mathematically orientated audience.

The Western European marriage system.

Recent changes in household structure.

The ideational theory of fertility.

The prospects for another baby boom in the United States.

What and why was the baby boom?

The limits of family planning.

The measurement and meaning of unwanted fertility.

Changes in breast feeding in the third world.

Changes in arranged and romantic marriages in the third world.

Is there a theory of migration?

Estimating illegal migration to the United States.

The metropolitan structure of the United States.

Racial segregation in the United States.

A comparison of different indexes of residential segregation

The growth of cities in the third world, problems or opportunities?

The demographic theory of Ester Boserup.

The measurement of employment, unemployment, and underemployment.

Jack Caldwell's theory of intergenerational wealth flows.

Is there a biologically determined limit on human life span?

The impact of the AIDS epidemic on mortality in Africa.

Has greater longevity simply led to more people in nursing homes?

Has the trend to higher levels of divorce peaked?

Is cohabitation primarily a transition to marriage for most couples?

Sex preferences for boys in East Asia.

Are new immigrants to the United States making economic progress in the U.S.?

The future of fertility in Europe.

Gender differentials in mortality

What is segmented assimilation theory?

The impact of HIV/AIDS on mortality.

Gary Becker's theory of the family.

The status and future of biodemography

The Black Death.

Trends in cancer mortality.

Central place theory of cities.

The demography of crime.

The demography of disability.

Trends in divorce and remarriage.

Comparing famines in Ireland and China.

Forced migration and refugees.

Intergenerational obligations and the family.

Grandparents and grandchildren.

The impact of marital status on morality.