Course Objectives:
Demography and Ecology (SOC/CSDE 513) is an intensive introduction to the fields of social demography and human ecology. It is generally the first course for graduate students who plan to specialize (or are thinking of specializing) in demography. This course will also prepare graduate students to teach an undergraduate population course. For sociology graduate students who plan to concentrate in demography and ecology, three additional courses are generally recommended: SOC 530 (Urbanism and Urbanization), SOC 531 (Fertility and Mortality), and SOC 533 (Research Methods in Demography). For students from other disciplines who are completing the CSDE Fellow requirements, this course and SOC 533 (Research Methods in Demography) are required. For more information, http://csde.washington.edu/training/traineesprog.shtml

The aim of the course is to introduce students to theories, hypotheses, and empirical studies in contemporary demography. Because of the limits of a ten-week quarter, we will be able to cover only the traditional core areas, including demographic theory, fertility, mortality, family formation and dissolution, migration, and urbanization. There are many other important research areas and issues that we cannot cover in this introductory course, such as population and development, population and the environment, population health and aging, applied demography, and family planning programs. However, this course should prepare you for independent study of these and other topics. Demography is, for the most part, a cumulative field that builds upon the core concepts and standard measures that you will learn in this course.

Our class meets for 80 minutes twice a week. During the first half of each class, I will present an overview of some of the important ideas and findings from the readings. This may resemble a lecture, but I welcome questions and comments at any time. My presentations will typically be organized with slides (that are posted on the course website). The availability of the slides should free you from excessive note-taking so that you can just jot down key points and concentrate on the “big picture.”

After my overview, there will be an open discussion of the course readings. To stimulate class discussion, every student is required to post a question and/or comment every week on the online discussion board. You should post your comment as early as possible each week, but the absolute deadline is midnight Tuesday. This will allow all members of the class, including me, to read all the questions and comments before the Wednesday class. To insure full participation, 10% of the final course grade will be based on posting at least one question or comment (each week) on the online discussion board.

Course Readings:
This syllabus contains the standard week-by-week schedule of required readings, class topics, course requirements, and deadlines, but it is also a reference work with “suggested readings” and notes for students who wish to read more deeply on specific topics. I do not expect you to read for the suggested readings for this class and the exams will only cover the required readings.
readings were originally published in professional journals, which means that they were written for specialists in the field (not for introductory students). You will often encounter advanced demographic and statistical methods that may be beyond your current level of knowledge. Don’t worry too much about learning methods in this class (they are covered in SOC 533) beyond an understanding of how to interpret basic demographic measures.

The readings are a mix of older “classics” and recent publications, mostly from the three major English-language journals in the field: *Demography, Population Studies, and Population and Development Review*. Reading research articles is one of the best ways to prepare for a career as a scholar and researcher. The volume of required readings in this course is probably excessive, but my model is taken from one of my teachers who described his course as “a forced march through the literature.” The positive benefit from so much work is that you will acquire a solid foundation (literacy) in the field of demography and ecology.

**Exams and Required Assignments:**
There will be two take-home examinations. The midterm exam will be distributed on October 31 and will be due in class on November 2. It will cover the readings through October 26 (to the end of the mortality section). The final exam is cumulative over the term and will be distributed on the last day of class on December 7 and will be due on December 12 at 2:30 p.m.

Students must also submit a 6 to 8-page essay (approximately 2,000 words) that is due on the final day of classes (December 4). The essay can be either a “book review” or a “review of the literature.” I will discuss this assignment during the first week of class. The final course grade will be a weighted average of weekly questions/comments posted on the website (10%), the midterm (25%), final exam (40%), and the review essay (25% each).

**Reference Works**

If you wish to do additional readings on demographic methods and measurement, the following references might be useful:
http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstream/handle/10125/22538/MeasuringMortalityFertilityAndNaturalIncrease5thEdition1994%5Bpdfa%5D.PDF?sequence=1

The required course readings are available online through the course website. Most of course readings (required and supplementary) are also available from “Electronic Journals” on the University of Washington Library home page: [http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals/](http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals/)

Electronic Resources:
- The UN World Population Prospects is the standard source of “adjusted” demographic data, including population size and composition and summary measures of fertility and mortality for most countries and regions in the world for each year from 1950 to the present and projections to 2100. It is updated every two years. You can access and download summaries, tables, and graphs of the 2015 edition of World Population Prospects (or the entire report) from [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/) An important change in the UN population projections (from deterministic to probabilistic methods) was based on a collaboration with UW professors Adrian Raftery and Sam Clark. You can read about the current population projection methods in [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2015_Methodology.pdf](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2015_Methodology.pdf)
- The Population Reference Bureau is a DC think tank (NGO) that publishes a variety of demographic studies aimed at students (and their teachers) and journalists. One of the most widely used PRB publications is the “World Population Data Sheet.” It is published annually in a format that makes it a very handy resource for summary demographic data for every country in the world (available at: [http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2016/2016-world-population-data-sheet.aspx](http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2016/2016-world-population-data-sheet.aspx) There is also a well written summary of highlights from the data sheet. Be sure to look at the many other reports and resources available from the PRB website.
- The US Census Bureau is website [http://www.census.gov/](http://www.census.gov/) is a goldmine of resources and publications, but it is also difficult to navigate. I generally recommend that most students begin searching from the subject index at [http://www.census.gov/population/www/popdata.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/popdata.html)
- For the most current research based on the US 2010 Census, see the reports published online by the Brown University US2010 Project [http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/index.htm](http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/index.htm) Many of these analyses have been published in a free downloadable book by the Russell Sage Foundation, see [https://www.russellsage.org/publications/diversity-and-disparities](https://www.russellsage.org/publications/diversity-and-disparities)
- The UW Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE) contains lots of relevant information at [http://csde.washington.edu/index.php](http://csde.washington.edu/index.php) You can also find a wide range of valuable resources from the websites of the other major university population centers (and agencies), see [http://csde.washington.edu/links/popCenters.shtml](http://csde.washington.edu/links/popCenters.shtml)
Class Topics and Reading Assignments

September 28  The World Population Situation
Read:

Suggested Readings:

Additional important overviews of the world population history and population projections are:

October 3  How Demographers Think (usually with models)
Read:

Suggested Readings:


October 5  **What is Demography? (discipline or interdiscipline; social or statistical science)**

**Read:**


**Suggested Readings**


October 10  **Demographic Data and Measurement**

**Read:**


**Suggested Readings:**


**October 12**  
**Demographic Theory**

Read:


**Suggested Readings**


**October 17**  
**Biodemographic Perspectives on Mortality and Life Span**

Read:


**Suggested Readings**


October 19    Mortality Trends in Historical Perspective
Read:

Suggested Reading

October 24    Health and Mortality Patterns in Developed Countries
Read:

Suggested Reading

October 26 Health and Mortality Patterns in Developing Countries.
Read:

Suggested Readings:

THE MIDTERM EXAM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON OCTOBER 31 AND WILL BE DUE IN CLASS ON NOVEMBER 2: THE EXAM COVERS READINGS THROUGH OCTOBER 26.

October 31 Measurement and Models of Fertility
Read:

Suggested Readings

**November 2  Theories of Fertility Transitions**

Read:

**Suggested Reading**


**November 7  Contemporary Fertility Transitions**

Read:
Adrian Raftery, Steven Lewis, and Akbar Aghajanian. 1995. Demand or ideation? Evidence from the
Iranian marital fertility decline. *Demography* 32: 159-182.


**Suggested Reading**


**November 9**  
**The Future of Fertility**

**Read:**


11
Suggested Reading:

November 14  Families and Households
Read:

Suggested Readings:

November 16  Marriage, Divorce, and Cohabitation in the West
Read:

Suggested Readings:

November 21  Marriage, Divorce, and Cohabitation in Developing Countries
Read:
Gavin W. Jones. 1997. Modernization and divorce: Contrasting trends in Islamic Southeast Asia and the

**Suggested Readings**


**November 23  Migration: Theory and Models**

*Read:*


**Suggested Readings:**


**November 28  Long Distance Migration in Historical Perspective**

*Read:*


**Suggested Readings:**


November 30  Migration and Urbanization
Read:

Suggested Readings:

December 5  Urbanization: Trends and Structure
Read:

Suggested Readings:


**December 7**  
**Residential Segregation and the Structure of Cities**

**Read:**


**Suggested Readings:**


FINAL EXAM to BE DISTRIBUTED ON DECEMBER 7 AND DUE ON DECEMBER 12 at 2:30 PM