READING LIST

Required Texts:


Recommended Text:


I. Economics and Population: An Overview

A. Introduction to the Economic Approach


B. Recent and Historical Trends in Demographic and Economic Variables


C. Malthus and the Economics of Scarcity


II. Fertility

A. Demand for Children

1. Easterlin's Relative Income Hypothesis


2. The New Home Economics Approach to Fertility and Household Behavior

a. Price effects: The Cost of Children
1. Fertility and Labor Supply

2. Policy: Tax Subsidies to Births, Child Care Subsidies
   b. Quantity vs. Quality


3. Empirical Evidence in Developed and Developing Countries


B. Supply of Births

1. Easterlin's Synthesis


*Schultz, T. Paul, The Economics of Population, Chapter 5, p. 111-149.

2. Mortality Effects on Fertility


III. The Family


A. As An Economic Organization


B. Investments in Children and Intergenerational Mobility

*Becker, Gary, A Treatise on the Family, Chapters 6 and 8.


C. Marriage

1. Division of Labor Between Husband and Wife

*Becker, Gary S., A Treatise on the Family, Chapter 2.

2. Search Models of Marriage


D. Divorce

1. Models of Divorce


Michael, Robert T., "Why Did the U.S. Divorce Rate Double Within A Decade?" University of Chicago, Mimeo, July 1982.


2. Consequences of Divorce


3. Policy: Child Support Awards and Compliance

IV. Economic Consequences of Demographic

A. Demographic Transition


B. Optimal Population Growth


**C. Population Growth and Economic Growth**


**D. Population Growth and Inequality**


**E. Consequences of the Changing Age Structure of the Population**

1. The Dependency Ratio and the Financing of Child Care, Health Care, and Old Age Security


2. Intergenerational Inequality and the Consequences of the Baby Boom/Baby Bust Phenomena.


SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR ECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHY PAPER

The paper is expected to be analytical, relating demographic phenomena experienced by a particular country or countries to economic/demographic models discussed in the course. Students are encouraged to do an empirical analysis utilizing either published data or micro data files. One possible approach to this assignment would be an inter-country comparison which contrasts the different prices, income, and other constraints faced by each country and relates these differences to the outcomes in each country. Topics should be finalized by September 23 and a date for class presentation arranged as well.

1. Bargaining within the family: the effect of different parental preferences on a) fertility; b) child health; c) child education.
2. Altruism vs. paternalism and choices about intergenerational transfers.
3. Intergenerational transfers and the environment.
4. Household structure: The extended vs. nuclear family and the role of the family in society.
5. Fertility rates and the cost of children: employment vs. educational opportunities for children.
6. Divorce rates and employment opportunities for women.
8. The impact of sex-specific migration on male/female ratios and subsequent marital behavior.
9. Fertility responses to differential mortality rates; responses to disasters such as famine, epidemics, and war.
10. The effectiveness of different government population policies: preventative measures (birth control, abortion) vs. economic incentives (tax policies, direct subsidies).
11. Fertility responses to differential employment opportunities for women; responses to differential costs of employment (e.g., government subsidized child care, the "mommy-track," etc.).