RE:  SEMINAR IN ECONOMIC DEMOGRAPHY (ECON 8666) OFFERED THIS SUMMER.

I will be teaching a graduate seminar this summer in economic demography, and would like to encourage interested students to look into an emerging area in the social sciences. New data sets, issues of unprecedented importance (from AIDS to the social security crisis), a renewed emphasis by organizations like the World Bank on basic needs and human resources, and some exciting new modeling issues combine to reinvent one of the most exciting fields around.

Econ 8666 is a somewhat interdisciplinary course that covers issues relating to the causes and consequences of population growth, and other major demographic phenomena: fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration, marriage, and divorce. I will sneak in an introduction to basic epidemiology as well. The course will emphasize both the micro-theoretic household production framework as well as more aggregated approaches. This course will emphasize issues and models applicable to developing countries, but will incorporate some consideration of North America, Europe and eastern Asia as well.

This course is taught at a level appropriate for either Master’s or Ph.D. students. Some background in microeconomic theory will be necessary, or can be acquired concurrently. Other effective prerequisites include calculus, introductory econometrics, and a bit of linear algebra. This course will survey a wide range of topics. Those on which we concentrate will to some extent be chosen by the group, although in lectures I will try to give an overview of the field. My primary objective is to have you cover the basics and then get involved in original research in a particular area. In particular, I hope that many of you will choose to use household or relatively disaggregated data sets in doing empirical work. IBS has the Malaysia Family Life Survey on tape; I have a detailed AIDS data set; and others can be obtained as well. Ideally, the research you undertake here will lead to publication and/or a dissertation topic.

1. **BASIC INFORMATION:** Econ 8666  Professor Charles M. Becker  
   Offices: Economics Institute – Owen Hall (909 14th St)  938-2570 or 492-3000  
   IBS -- Building 3 (1424 Broadway, room 105A)  492-5253 or 7987  
   e-mail: CHARLES.BECKER@COLORADO.EDU  
   office hours:  Tuesday - Thursday 1:30 - 2:30 or by appointment  
   class:  Tuesday-Thurday 2:30 - 5:00  
   room:  t.b.a.  
   **Note:** Although this is a regular Ph.D seminar, and is part of the core interdisciplinary graduate field in demography, all students **must** register for this course only through the EI (which will then register enrollments with the CU Registrar’s Office. The course will appear on your CU transcript as a regular Department of Economics course even though it is being offered through the EI. Contact Jennifer Secrist (938-2531), Denise Tyler (938-2532) or Sandra Baumann (938-2506) in EI Admissions for further information.

2. **TOPICS.**

I. **Overview**

1. Historic trends in demographic and economic variables  
2. Malthus, population growth, and food scarcity.

II. The Economic Determinants of Demographic Phenomena  

3. Fertility and Population Growth

---

1 Class will end at 4:30 on June 20, and possibly during the weeks of June 26 and July 3.
4. Mortality and Famine
5. Migration
6. Marriage and Household Formation
7. Morbidity (with special reference to AIDS) and Epidemics
8. Women and Work

III. Economic Consequences of Demographic Change
9. Optimal Population Growth
10. Population Growth and Inequality
11. Savings and Economic Growth
12. Macro Consequences of Demographic Phenomena
13. Economic Consequences of Changing Age Structure (and Health Care Issues)

3. READING LIST. There is a 15 page reading list you can peruse in one of the department offices, IBS (Pop Program) or EI (AAO). I will keep most but not all of the readings in a convenient central location for you to borrow and photocopy. I have ordered four books (at the Colorado Bookstore):

Of these, Cigno is absolutely required. If you have trouble with Cigno, I recommend that you also purchase:
This is a somewhat interdisciplinary course that covers issues relating to the causes and consequences of population growth, and other major demographic phenomena: fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration, marriage, and divorce. The course will emphasize both the micro-theoretic household production framework as well as more aggregated approaches. This course will emphasize issues and models applicable to developing countries, but will incorporate some consideration of North America, Europe and eastern Asia as well.

This course is taught at a level appropriate for either Master’s or Ph.D. students. Some background in microeconomic theory will be necessary, or can be acquired concurrently. Other effective prerequisites include calculus, introductory econometrics, and a bit of linear algebra.

1. OBJECTIVE. This course will survey a wide range of topics. Those on which we concentrate will to some extent be chosen by the group, although in lectures I will try to give an overview of the field. My primary objective is to have you cover the basics and then get involved in original research in a particular area. In particular, I hope that many of you will choose to use household or relatively disaggregated data sets in doing empirical work. IBS has the Malaysia Family Life Survey on tape; I have a detailed AIDS data set; and others can be obtained as well. Ideally, the research you undertake here will lead to publication and/or a dissertation topic.

1 Although this is a regular PhD seminar, and is part of the core interdisciplinary graduate field in demography, all students must register for this course only through the EI (which will then register enrollments with the CU Registrar’s Office. The course will appear on your CU transcript as a regular Department of Economics course even though it is being offered through the EI. Contact Jennifer Secrist (938-2531), Denise Tyler (938-2532) or Sandra Baumann (938-2506) in EI Admissions for further information.

2 Class will end at 4:30 on June 20, and possibly during the weeks of June 26 and July 3.
2. **TOPICS.**

I. Overview
1. Historic trends in demographic and economic variables
2. Malthus, population growth, and food scarcity.

II. The Economic Determinants of Demographic Phenomena
3. Fertility and Population Growth
4. Mortality and Famine
5. Migration
6. Marriage and Household Formation
7. Morbidity (with special reference to AIDS) and Epidemics
8. Women and Work

III. Economic Consequences of Demographic Change
9. Optimal Population Growth
10. Population Growth and Inequality
11. Savings and Economic Growth
12. Macro Consequences of Demographic Phenomena
13. Economic Consequences of Changing Age Structure (and Health Care Issues)

3. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS.** The final grade will be a weighted average of the following:

   a. midterm examination 10
   b. final examination 25
   c. 2 in-class presentations 15
   d. term paper 50%

Late papers or missed presentations or exams will receive an automatic grade of F unless permission is granted 48 hours prior to the due date. Any exceptions due to emergencies must be approved by the Graduate School.

4. **READING LIST.** I will keep most but not all of the readings in a convenient central location for you to borrow and photocopy (2 hour limit). There are four required books:


Of these, Cign is absolutely required. If you have trouble with Cigno, I recommend that you also purchase:


Copies of Bryant and the required books also will be available at the Colorado Bookstore. McNeill is a fun paperback that you can read in the first weekend. You can share the Easterlin and World Bank books with your classmates (that is, it is not essential for everyone to have their own copies).

The reading list below is incomplete, and from time to time I may provide more detailed lists on specific topics. But despite being incomplete, it is more than you can read, and you will need to be selective, reading in detail only in those areas of research interest to you. As a rough guide, the "most important" books and articles are put in larger case print.

### Overview


1. **Historic trends in demographic and economic variables**


Malthus, population growth, and food scarcity


II. THE ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC PHENOMENA

3. Fertility and Population Growth


J. Nugent, "The Old-Age Security Motive for Fertility," PDR 1985 (March) 11:1


*World Bank Economic Review* 10:1 symposium on fertility in sub-Saharan Africa. See especially articles by Benefo and Schultz (referenced below); Ainsworth, Beegle and Nyamete; and Thomas and Maluccio.


M. Rosenzweig and R. Evenson, "Fertility, Schooling, and the Economic Contribution of


A. Blanc and S. Rutstein, "The Demographic Transition in Southern Africa," *Demography* 1994 (May) 31:2 pp.209-15. Also see the two articles by D. Thomas and I. Muvandi in the same issue, and with the same title.
4. Mortality and Famine


Migration and Urbanization


M. Greenwood, "Internal Migration in Developing Countries," forthcoming in M. Rosenzweig, ed. North-Holland handbook volume on population economics.


6. Marriage, Household Formation and Household Dissolution


7. **Morbidity (with special reference to AIDS) and Epidemics**


*World Bank Research Observer* 11:1 February 1996 issue on the effects of service quality and cost on education and health; articles by Squire; Alderman and Lavy; and Behrman.


J. Caldwell and P. Caldwell, "The Nature and Limits of the sub-Saharan AIDS Epidemic:
Evidence from Geographic and Other Patterns, "PDR 1993 (December) 19:4.


8. **Women, Work, and Fertility**


---

**III. Economic Consequences of Demographic Change**

9. **Optimal Population Growth**


---

10. Population Growth, Demographic Structure, and Inequality (and other social issues)


D. Parsons, "The Economics of Intergenerational Control," PDR 1984 (March):41-54.


R. Freeman, "Why Do so Many Young American Men Commit Crimes and What Might We Do about It?" Journal of Economic Perspectives Winter 1996.

11. Savings and Population Growth


N. Leff. "Dependency Rates and Savings Rates." AER 1969 (December).


### 12. Macro Consequences of Demographic Phenomena


### 13. Economic Consequences of Changing Age Structure (and Health Care Issues)


A. Garber, "Health Care" *NBER Reporter* Winter 1995/96 surveys a lot of work here.