

Sociology 1012: Population Issues

M,W,F 12-12:50: Hellems 211

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Over the past 250 years, the population of the world has grown from an estimated 760 million to nearly 6 billion. In the United States today, there are 275 million people, compared to about 3 million in 1750.

This course is organized around 3 questions:

- What has happened?** We'll be looking at the dramatic changes that have occurred - and how they differ for different parts of the world
- Why has it happened?** Some of the causes of population growth and change: changes in fertility, mortality, migration
- Why is it important?** Consequences of population growth and change -- including aging, economic development, food supply, the environment

There is a fourth question that we will also be considering throughout the semester:

How do we know? What's the evidence? And how does one find it?

Some of the issues we will address include causes of the increase in life expectancy (in the U.S., the rest of the developed world, and the developing world), how and why fertility has decreased, concerns with adolescent pregnancy and childbearing, migration and immigration, the changing family (especially in the U.S.), aging populations, and the whole set of concerns related to population policy: is population growth too fast? too slow? about right? And is the answer the same for all parts of the world? And what should U.S. involvement be in decisions regarding population in the rest of the world?

Instructors: Professor Jane Menken is the instructor for the course. Two graduate students who are specializing in demography, Jill Williams and Nizam Khan, will assist her. We are all actively involved in population studies and research - and willing to discuss all related topics and issues.

Organization: There will be two lectures (Monday and Wednesday) each week. Fridays will normally be devoted to discussion, review, films on population issues, and exams.

The text is John R. Weeks. 1999. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, Seventh Edition. Belmont CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co.

It's available at the CU Book Store. Please try to get the **7th** edition -- there is new and very good material in it. It also has some errors (like Japan and Pakistan in Figure 1.3), which I'll try to point out as we go along.

There is also a website for this course. For those who are not familiar with searching the internet for material, Nizam Khan will offer a session next week to introduce you to this rich source of information. Weeks makes a lot of recommendations regarding interesting websites; we've added others. The sites we recommend are those of national and international agencies and of professional journals and other information sources that take responsibility for the accuracy of their information. Since anyone can post things on the web, there are also lots of other sites we can't vouch for. So we all have to be cautious in using this enormously exciting new tool.

You will also be expected to have an email account -- we are happy to answer questions via email and will send class notices that way as well.

Requirements: There will be two exams and a final. In addition, you will usually be asked each week to look up information on the web. Those who wish extra credit are invited to prepare a short paper (10 page maximum) on a topic you want to explore further. The topic should be decided in consultation with the instructor.

Students are expected to have read the assigned material *prior* to the class.

Date & Day	Topic	Readings	
		Chapter	Pages
Jan11 M	Introduction		
Jan13 W	World Population Growth	1	3-19
	Introduction & Geographic Distribution		
	Suggested readings and interesting websites	1	37-38
Jan15 F	Current differences in population size and growth rates	1	19-37
Jan18 M	Martin Luther King Day - no classes		
Jan20 W	Demographic resources - Censuses - Jill Williams	2	39-59
	Suggested readings and interesting website	2	71-72
Jan22 F	Using the web for demographic information - Nizam Khan		
Jan25 M	Demographic Resources- Vital Statistics, Surveys, Historical Sources, GIS	2	59-71
Jan27 W	Demographic Perspectives Malthus, Marx	3	73-90
	Suggested readings and interesting website	3	105-106
Jan29 F	Discussion		
Feb1 M	Demographic Perspectives Other early theories; demographic transition theory; other theories	3	90-105
Feb3 W	Mortality Components of Mortality Causes of Death	4	107-129
	Suggested readings and interesting website	4	154-155
Feb5 F	Film		
Feb8 M	Mortality Measurement	4	129-139 587-593
	The Epidemiological Transition		
Feb10	Mortality Differentials	4	139-154
Feb12 F	Review		

Date & Day	Topic	Readings	
		Chapter	Pages
Feb15 M	Fertility Concepts and Measurement	5	156-182
	Biology and Fertility Control		
	Suggested readings and interesting website	5	190-191
Feb17 W	Measuring Fertility	5	182-190
		App	594-595
Feb19 F	Exam 1 -- Covers all material through Feb 12		
Feb22 M	Fertility Trends, Levels, and Explanations	6	192-208
	Explanations for the Fertility Transition		
	Explanations for High Fertility		
	Higher Fertility Countries		
	Suggested readings and interesting website	6	229-230
Feb24 W	Low fertility	6	208-229
	Explanations		
	Lower Fertility Countries		
Feb26 F	Exam review and discussion		
Mar1 M	Migration	7	231-251
	Theory and Measurement		
	Suggested readings and interesting website	7	273-274
Mar3 W	Migration	7	251-273
	Forced Migration		
	Migration Destinations		
Mar5 F	Discussion		
Mar8 M	Age and Sex Structure of Populations	8	275-289
	Definitions		
	Measurement		
	Effects of population processes on structure		
	Impact of age structure on population processes		
	Suggested readings and interesting websites	8	313-314
Mar10 W	The Dynamics of Age/Sex Structures	8	289-313
Mar12 F	Film		
Mar15 M	Population Aging	9	315-332
	Measurement		
	Effects of population processes		
	Individual aging -- biological and social aspects		
	Suggested readings and interesting website	9	346-347
Mar17 W	The Social Context of aging	9	333-346
	The sex and age structure of the older population		
Mar19 F	Discussion		
Mar22-26	M-F Spring Break		

Date & Day	Topic	Readings	
		Chapter	Pages
Mar29 M	Family Demography Transformations in families and households Changing life chances I - through education Suggested readings and interesting website	10	348-371
Mar31 W	Changing life chances II - labor force on Social impact of demographic shifts in household composition	10	397-398 371-397
Apr2 F	Review		
Apr5 M	The Urban Transition Suggested readings and interesting website	11	399-415 433-434
Apr7 W	The Urban Transition II	11	415-433
Apr9 F	Exam 2: Covers material from exam 1 through April 2		
Apr12 M	Population growth and development Suggested readings and interesting website	12	435-453 471-472
Apr14 W	Is population growth detrimental to economic development	12	453-471
Apr16 F	Exam review and discussion		
Apr19 M	Population growth, food, and the environment Population growth and food supply Suggested readings and interesting website	13	473-494 505-506
Apr21 W	The environment	13	494-505
Apr23 F	Film		
Apr26 M	Population Policy Suggested readings and interesting website	14	507-535 557-558
Apr28 W	Population Policy II	14	535-557
Apr30 F	Review		
May3 M	Wrapup		
Final Exam	Covers entire semester		