

SOCI 2501 (formerly Sociology 53.251*) **Introduction to Population Studies**

Fall Term 2002

Class Time: 2:30 PM until 5:30 PM Thursdays

First class: September 5, 2002

Room: Southam 409

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Office Hours: 3-5 PM Wednesdays

Course Description

This course is a general introduction to the fundamental principles of population studies (demography). The major focus of the course will be on population growth and distribution, and their determinants and consequences. Interrelations between demographic, social, cultural, and economic factors will be examined.

The cornerstones of population studies include the study of fertility (births), mortality (deaths), and migration (geographic mobility). Through class lectures, this course will systematically review these components of demographic change, both in terms of our experiences in Canada and internationally.

Students will be introduced to theoretical perspectives on population change, basic data sources used in population studies, and interrelationships between various theories and empirical research. As almost all population research is based on quantitative information, you will be assigned readings with many numbers, rates, and ratios. Thus some basic knowledge of high school mathematics may facilitate your understanding in this course; however, your math skills are largely secondary, whereas your social science knowledge will be highly useful.

Prerequisites

At least one introductory course in the social sciences or permission of the department. Since the orientation of this course is not highly quantitative, it is not necessary to have taken an introductory statistics course.

Evaluation Procedure

There will be a **mid-term exam (20%)** and a **final take-home assignment (40%)** at the end of the course. Both the mid-term exam and the final take-home assignment will pertain to lecture materials and compulsory readings from the textbook and book of Canadian readings. Both these assignments will have questions which require short answers, and brief essays. The **mid-term in-class exam is scheduled for October 10th**, and the **final take-**

home assignment will be handed out in the last class period (November 21st) with submission required exactly one week later on November 28th. Also, there will be two term assignments that will each account for **20%** of the total marks for the course. **The first assignment will be due on September 26th, the second on October 31st.** These assignments will require students to carry out simple demographic research and data analysis on selected topics. Students will be required to identify a research question related to one of the suggested topics, review relevant resources beyond the course text book and class lectures, collect appropriate information, carry out the analysis, and submit a short 4-5 page (double spaced) research paper. General criteria such as spelling, grammar and presentation integrity influence grading.

All final grades are subject to the approval of the Dean. No supplemental and grade-raising examinations are available.

Late Assignments

Students must submit assignments on the date specified. Late assignments should be placed in the drop slot which is outside the main office of the Sociology Department. Late assignments will lose one letter grade.

Students with Special Needs

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary letters of recommendations. Then, make an appointment to come and discuss your needs with me at least two weeks prior to the in-class test. This is to ensure sufficient time to make necessary accommodation arrangement. Please note that the deadline for submitting completed forms to the Paul Menton Centre (500 Unicentre) is on or about November 1st, 2002.

Attention is also drawn to the Writing Tutorial Service (215PA), Student Life Services (501 Unicentre), and the Student Academic Success Centre (302 Tory).

Work Groups and Plagiarism

- You may collaborate with others in working through assignments but you must prepare and submit your own report, written in your own words, which clearly demonstrates your understanding, interpretation and analysis of the assignment.
- There are punishments for plagiarism and for handing in the same assignment for two or more courses without explicit permission. Always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted. Plagiarism and duplication of assignments will be treated as instructional offences and referred to the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies. If an offence is confirmed following an interview with the Dean, penalties may range from partial loss of grade value, to withdrawal from program, suspension of studies, or expulsion from the University.

Required Textbooks

John R. Weeks, Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues. 8th Edition (2002), Wadsworth Publishing Company. 0-534-52976-3

**Canadian Social Trends, Volume 3,
Thompson Educational Publishing, 2000. 1-55077-105-0**

Weeks is the required textbook for this course. You might find an earlier edition of this book that may have been prescribed in other courses on population. The textbook has been substantially revised for the 8th edition so please be aware of the risks in reading an earlier edition for the purposes of this course. The Weeks book contains insufficient information on Canadian population issues. Canadian content will be assigned from the required *Canadian Social Trends* volume 3. Both will be heavily supplemented by lectures and materials discussed in the class. Thus, you will miss a lot of information if you do not attend classes regularly. Please note that Volumes 1 & 2 of *Canadian Social Trends*, while valuable in themselves, cannot be viewed as substitutes for Volume 3 which is required. Each volume has unique contents.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

Lecture 1. Introduction to the world's population

Lecture 2. Demographic Information

Readings: Weeks Chapters 1 and 2

CST: Jillian Oderkirk 2-5, Tina Chui 6-10

Lecture 3. Some classic theories and models

Readings: Weeks Chapter 3

CST: none

Lecture 4. Mortality

Readings: Weeks Chapter 4

CST: Susan Crompton 45-50, Jeffrey Frank 60-66

Lectures 5 and 6 Fertility

Readings: Weeks Chapter 5 & 6

CST: Marilyn Belle 115-118, Indicators 119-120,

Alain Belanger 126-129

Lecture 7. Geographic mobility, internal migration, and urbanization

Readings: Weeks Chapters 7 and 11

CST: Robin Armstrong 28-32, Monica Boyd 84-87

Lecture 8. International migration

Readings: Weeks Chapter 7

CST: Craig McKie 11-14 and 38-41, Jane Badets 15-21

Lecture 9. Population size, distribution, and composition

Readings: Weeks Chapters 8

CST: Jennifer Chard 22-27, Kathryn Stevenson 222-226

Lecture 10. Household and families & Population Aging

Readings: Weeks Chapters 9 & 10

CST: Mary Anne Burke 55-59, Jean Dumas 93-98,

Judith Frederick 99-104

Lecture 11. The Future of population and population policies

Readings: Weeks Chapters 13 & 14

CST: Miles Corak 138-142, Patrice de Brouker 143-147

Lecture 12. Summary and course overview