

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology

Sociology 355 L01
Population and Society
Winter 2009

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Class Hours: T/Th 9:30-10:45,
SS 541

Office Hours: M 10:45-12:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to present the student with an introduction to the study of the human population. We will examine changes in population patterns in both developed and developing societies, focusing on such topics as childbearing, mortality, immigration, and population aging. While the course is a non-technical introduction to demography, some attention will be paid to techniques of measurement. By the end of the course, you should have a good understanding of the significance of population patterns and population changes for a variety of issues in our society. I cannot overstate the importance of attending **all** classes. A great deal of material will be presented and/or distributed in class and the tests will be largely based on this material. If you cannot attend class due to illness or another valid reason, please ensure you get the necessary material from another student.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade in the course will be determined by the following:

Midterm	March 3.....	30%
Short Papers.....	TBA	30
Final Exam	TBA	40%
	(April Exam period)	

Please Read Carefully

There will be two non-cumulative examinations. The examinations will cover a variety of course material (lectures, assigned readings, films, etc.). Students are responsible for material covered in class regardless of whether they are present for each class. Please note that there will be no provision for make-up exams or other work for the purpose of improving grades. Be sure that you note the date of the mid-term test and the final exam **before** you make any plans (eg. The April exam period runs from April 20th to the 30th). The administrative notices which follow will provide further information regarding the procedure for missed exams/assignments and other issues of importance.

Short Papers:

You will be asked to write two short papers for this course on a topic and reading that I assign. There will be four topics to choose from (each with its own due date), and you will be required to complete two of them. Each paper is worth 15% of your grade. Full details will be provided in a separate handout.

Administrative Information:

Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. You can find the forms you need at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre.

To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions.

Research Ethics: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must

have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Letter Grade Assignment:

A letter-grade will be assigned to each student at the end of the semester and submitted to the registrar. Your letter-grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

Points (/100)	Letter Grade
95–100	A+
90-94	A
85-89	A-
80-84	B+
75-79	B

70-74	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
59-62	C-
54-58	D+
50-53	D
49 or less	F

Note: The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

SYLLABUS

Date	Topic
Jan. 13	Introduction
Jan. 15 - 22	The History of Population Growth
Jan. 29 – Feb. 3	Explanations of Population Change
Feb. 5 – Feb. 12	Childbearing in the Developed World
Break Week: Feb. 15 - 21	
Feb. 24 – Feb. 26	Childbearing in the Developing World
March 3	Mid-Term Examination
March 5 – 12	Mortality in Modern Societies
March 17 – 26	Immigration, Internal Migration and Urban Growth
March 31 – April 7	Population Aging
April 9 – 16	The Demography of Education and the Labour Force

Note: This outline is tentative and as such the dates of the topics may change. Please check the course BB site for class cancellations or important announcements/changes to course outline.

Readings:

January 13 – 29 Population Reference Bureau. *Population: A Lively Introduction*.
This reading is available in the bookstore and I would encourage you to purchase. It is also available
online at: <http://www.prb.org/pdf07/62.1LivelyIntroduction.pdf>

February 24 – 26 John Bongaarts, “Fertility Transitions in Developing Countries: Progress or
Stagnation.” http://www.popcouncil.org/staff/bios/Bongaarts_J/bongaarts_j.publications.html

March 5 – 12 Population Reference Bureau, *Global Challenge of HIV and AIDS*.
http://www.prb.org/pdf06/61.1GlobalChallenge_HIVAIDS.pdf

March 17 – 26 Monica Boyd, “Educational Attainment of Immigrant Offspring: Success or
Segmented Assimilation.” http://www.utoronto.ca/ethnicstudies/Boyd_paper.pdf

March 31 – April 7 John Bongaarts, “Population Aging and the Rising Cost of Public Pensions.”
http://www.popcouncil.org/staff/bios/Bongaarts_J/bongaarts_j.publications.html