

## POPULATION DYNAMICS AND SOCIAL POLICY

**PPOL 8683-002 (& SOCY 6090-001)**  
**Fall 2009**  
**MW 3.30-4.45 pm Smith 351**  
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**Professor Rosemary Hopcroft**  
**Office: Fretwell 490 B**  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**PPOL 8683. Population Dynamics and Public Policy. (3)** Prerequisite: Core Public Policy courses or permission of the instructor. Basic population characteristics, such as age distribution, life expectancy, fertility, mortality and changes or trends in these characteristics are relevant to nearly all public policy. This class is an introduction to basic concepts and tools of demographic analysis and how they may be applied to the study of social policy including family policy, aging policy, and minority groups' policy.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

From this class, students will learn basic concepts and tools of demographic analysis including demographic projection. They will understand the interplay between economic factors and demographic factors. They will understand applications of demographic methods and concepts to questions of social policy, particularly family policy, aging policy and minority groups policy.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Course packet available on electronic reserve at Atkins Library.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:**

Classes will be conducted utilizing a combination of lectures, student reports, and class discussions. Questions and class discussion are both highly encouraged. If you are unclear about a lecture, reading assignments, etc., it is expected that you will ask for clarification. You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and to actively participate in the discussions.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION:**

There will be both a midterm and a final exam. The exams will require you to apply the material covered in class and the readings. If you cannot be present for an exam, you must notify me prior to the scheduled exam time and have a verifiable excuse.

In addition, you will be responsible for summarizing and leading discussion on an assigned article or chapter several times in the course of the semester. Students will choose their articles the second class meeting.

Finally, you also will complete a research paper on population dynamics and implications in an area of interest. Please see the instructor to discuss and clarify your specific topic. You will be expected to present your findings to the class at the end of the semester. Each presentation should be approximately 15 minutes.

Grading:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Midterm                                | 33% |
| Final                                  | 33% |
| Paper                                  | 24% |
| Presentations<br>(including summaries) | 10% |

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Academic dishonesty (cheating) **will not be tolerated in this class**. Acts of academic dishonesty will be prosecuted to the fullest extent and will be referred to the Academic Integrity Board. Students should be familiar with the “UNC-Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity” outlined on pages 375-378 of the 1999-2001 UNC-Charlotte Catalog. In this class cheating includes but is not limited to intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one’s own work (without proper acknowledgment of the source), intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty, assisting other students or acquiring help on your homework assignments.

**DISABILITIES:**

If you have a documented disability please see Disability Services in Fretwell 230 (687-4355). If you believe that your disability will affect your performance in this class, you must contact Disability Services in a “timely manner” during the first part of the term and ask that they draw up an accommodation form.

**GENERAL COURSE POLICY:**

**My most general policy is this: if you have a problem with completing the course requirements, see me about it AHEAD of time (before the exam, etc). Call, e-mail, or leave a message.** All makeups must be completed within one week of the originally scheduled exam date or assignment due date -- it is *your responsibility* to contact me to arrange for the makeup. Missed makeup exams/assignments will be recorded as a zero.

## READING AND CLASS SCHEDULE

*Note: All readings available on reserve in the Atkins library.*

**Week One: Introduction to Class; human demographic history****8/24**

Readings: El-Badry, M. A. (1991) "The growth of world population: Past, present and future," Ch. 1 in UN, *Consequences of Rapid Population Growth in Developing Countries*, p.15-40.

Keyfitz, N. (1982) "Population Theory," in J. A. Ross, ed., *International Encyclopedia of Population*, Vol. 2:536-544, Macmillan and Free Press.

**Week Two: Population and Economy****8/31**

Readings: Sirageldin, Ismail (1984) "Population Policies and Development in the 1980's," Lecture 1 in *Lectures in Development Economics*, No. 3, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

Hannum, Emily. 2005. "Market Transition, Educational Disparities, and Family Strategies in Rural China: New Evidence on Gender Stratification and Development." *Demography*, Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 275-299

**Week Three: Population and Human Choice****9/7**

Readings: Hirschman, Charles. 1994. "Why fertility changes." *Annual Review of Sociology* 20: 203-233.

Morgan, S. Philip. 1996. "Characteristic Features of Modern American Fertility." *Population and Development Review* 22: 19-63.

Read if necessary:

Becker, Gary S. (1979) "The Economic Approach to Human Behavior," Ch. 1 in *The Economic Approach to Human Behavior*, The University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-14.

Lipsey, Richard G., Steiner, Peter O. (1981) "Demand, Supply, and Price," in *Economics* Sixth Edition. New York, Harper and Row

**Week Four: Basic Demographic Concepts and Techniques****9/14**

Readings: Srinivasan, K. 1998. *Basic Demographic Techniques and Applications*. New Delhi, India: Sage. Chs. 3.5, 4, 5, 6.3, 6.4,

**Week Five: Public Policy Uses of Demographic Techniques****9/21**

Readings: Srinivasan, K. 1998. *Basic Demographic Techniques and Applications*. New Delhi, India: Sage. Chs. 8, 11, 12.

**Week Six: Midterm****9/28****Week Seven: Mortality****10/5**

Readings: Mokyr, Joel (1993) "Technological Progress and the Decline of European Mortality" *American Economic Review* 83 324-329.

Briscoe, John, John Akin and David Guilkey (1990) "People are not Passive Acceptors of Threats to Health: Endogeneity and its Consequences" *International Journal of Epidemiology* (19) 1 147-153.

Keeney, Ralph L. 1995. "Understanding Life Threatening Risks." *Risk Analysis* 15:627.

**Week Eight: Mortality continued****10/14**

Readings: Fogel, Robert W. and Dora Costa (1997) "A Theory of Technophysical Evolution, With Some Implications for Forecasting Population, Health Care Costs and Pension Costs." *Demography* 34(1), p.49-66.

McNicoll, Geoffrey. 1998. "Malthus for the Twenty-First Century." *Population and Development Review* 24:309-316.

**No classes Monday, Fall Break****Week Nine: Fertility****10/19**

Readings: Behrman, Jere R., and James C. Knowles. 1998. "Population and Reproductive Health: An Economic Framework for Policy Evaluation." *Population and Development Review* 24:697-738.

Rosenzweig, Mark R. "Population Growth and Human Capital Investments: Theory and Evidence." *Journal of Political Economy* 98(5) S38-S70.

**Week Ten: Fertility continued**

10/26

Readings: Caldwell, John C., Barkat E-Khuda, Bruce Caldwell, Indrani Pieris, and Pat Caldwell. 1999. "The Bangladesh Fertility Decline." *Population and Development Review* 25:67-84.

Turke, Paul W. 1989. "Evolution and the Demand for Children." *Population and Development Review* 15, 1: 61-90.

Hopcroft, Rosemary L. 2006. "Sex, status and reproductive success in the contemporary U.S." *Evolution and Human Behavior* 27: 104-120.

Additional Reading:

Schultz, T. Paul (1988) "Education Investments and Returns" in Hollis Chenery & T. N. Srinivasan, eds., *Handbook of Development Economics*, Vol. 1, Ch. 12:543-630, Amsterdam: Elsevier.

**Week Eleven: Population and Family Policy**

11/2

Readings: Cherlin, Andrew J. 1999. "Going to Extremes: Family Structure, Children's Well-Being, and Social Science." *Demography* 36(4): 421-428.

Meyers, Marcia K., Janet C. Gornick, and Laura R. Peck. 2001. "Packaging Support for Low-Income Families: Policy Variation across the United States." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 20(3):457-483.

Furstenberg, Frank, et al. 1995. "The Effect of Divorce on Intergenerational Transfers: New Evidence," *Demography* 32 (August): 319-333.

Christopher, Karen, Paula England, Timothy M. Smeeding, Katherin Ross Phillips. 2002. "The Gender Gap in Poverty in Modern Nations: Single Motherhood, the Market, and the State." *Sociological Perspectives* 45, 3: 219-242

**Week Twelve Population and Aging Policy**

11/9

Readings: Crimmins, Eileen, et al. 1997. "Trends in Disability-Free Life Expectancy in the United States, 1970-90," *Population and Development Review* 23:555-572.

Preston, S. 1984. "Children and the Elderly: Divergent Paths for America's

Dependents," *Demography* 21:435-457.

Button, T. 1992. "A Sign of Generational Conflict: The Impact of Florida's Aging Voters on Local School and Tax Referenda," *Social Science Quarterly* 73:786-798.

**Week Thirteen: Population and Minority Group Policy**

**11/16**

Readings: Sandefur, Gary D., et al., 2001. "An Overview of Racial and Ethnic Demographic Trends." Pp. 40-102 in Smelser, Wilson and Mitchell, (eds.), *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences*. Volume 1. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Prewitt, Kenneth. 1987. "Public Statistics and Democratic Politics." Pp. 261-274 in Alonso and Starr, (eds.), *The Politics of Numbers*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.

**Week Fourteen: Population and Minority Group Policy continued**

**11/23**

Readings: Zhao, Min. 2001. "Contemporary Immigration and the Dynamics of Race and Ethnicity." Pp. 200-242 in Smelser, Wilson and Mitchell, (eds.), *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences*. Volume 1. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Additional Readings:

Swain, Carol M. 2001. "Affirmative Action: Legislative History, Judicial Interpretations, Public Consensus." Pp. 318-347 in Smelser, Wilson and Mitchell, (eds.), *America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences*. Volume 1. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Tienda, Marta. 1999. "Immigration, Opportunity and Social Cohesion." Pp. 129-146 in Neil J. Smelser and Jeffrey C. Alexander (eds.) *Diversity and Its Discontents: Cultural Conflict and Common Ground in Contemporary American Society*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

**No class Wednesday, November 25. Thanksgiving Break.**

**Week Fifteen**

**11/30**

**\*Student paper presentations**

**Week 16****12/7****\*Student paper presentations**

Review

FINAL EXAM Wed, Dec 16 3:00 pm – 5.00 p.m.

\* Outline subject to change at Instructor's discretion with due notice to students