

SYD 3020 Population and Society

Fall 2007 (online)

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COURSE OBJECTIVES: SYD3020 is an introduction to the field of population studies (known as demography). Many consider demography a sub-field of sociology, it is therefore important to understand the ways in which population processes effect and are affected by social phenomena. By the end of this course:

- each student will be expected to know the “introductory terminology” of demography.
- each student will be expected to learn how to calculate and estimate some of the statistics that are used in demography (such as crude birth rates, death rates, etc.).
- each student is expected to be able to identify specific population issues in a given population and explain what these issues mean for future social and economic development.
- each student is expected identify some of the population issues that we are observing in the world today, as well as micro-level and macro-level strategies for addressing these issues.

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS: The textbook utilized in this course is “*Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition)*” by John R. Weeks. The ISBN (10) number is: 0-495-09637-7. Earlier editions of the text are available, however, I caution against using these editions, as the quizzes that you take will be based on material from the 10th edition of the text.

Some video materials are required for the course. These videos will be made available in Windows Media Player, Google Video Player, and Real Formats (I will try to let you know which formats so that you can download the necessary software to access), either as files to download or streaming videos to watch on the web. These videos will be located in the *Course Library* folder of the course website.

COURSE POLICIES AND GRADING: All students in this course will be assigned to a group of about twenty students. Each group will be assigned a mentor, who will act as their human contact point with the course. Every Monday morning, I will send email to the groups detailing the tasks of the week, as well as other helpful advice (like where to find examples of assignments) and any news that they feel the class should know.

Your mentor is your first point of contact for the course- if you get locked out of a quiz, have questions about discussion boards, etc., you should email your mentor first. If it is a

situation that they cannot resolve, I they will pass your email along to me, and I will then handle it. Bear in mind that for most of your issues, your mentor will be able to assist you, and so it is advantageous for you to try to resolve issues and problems with your mentor before coming to me.

I am also maintaining a discussion board where we can discuss problems or questions that may arise during the course of the semester. There you may find answers to some of your questions, removing the necessity for you to wait for a response from your mentor or me.

If you send an email to either your mentor or me, know that you can expect an answer within 24-48 hours during the week. Because I travel a lot, it is better to assume that I won't get your email until Sunday night or Monday morning, at which time I will reply to your email.

The late work policy: assignments will lose 50% of their value if turned in 24 hours after the due date.

Quizzes (25%): Throughout the course of the semester, each student will take 6 multiple choice quizzes, which are found in the *Quizzes* folder of the course website. Each quiz will cover material from two chapters in the text and will be 10 questions (a combination of multiple choice or true/false questions) and must be completed within 25 minutes. The quizzes must be completed once they have been started. In the event that you “lose your wireless connection” or run into any other technological issues and are not able to complete your quiz, you must immediately send an email *to your mentor* explaining your issue. Because this is an online course, it is expected that each student be able to secure for themselves a reliable internet connection. Students that have “excessive” technological problems which prevent them from completing the quizzes may experience grade penalties. Also, if you have questions or concerns regarding quiz questions/answers, you should email your mentor regarding your concerns.

Discussion Boards (25%): During the course of the semester, each student is expected to participate in two discussion board discussions. During each discussion, every student is expected to contribute an “initial post” which is a reaction to a prompt or a question (provided by the instructor). Following the initial post, each student is then required to post a response to someone else's initial post. These comments should be scholarly, academic and courteous. Excessive spelling and grammar issues will result in a lower grade, as will unprofessional behavior (such as emoticons ☹, ALL CAPS, pr@fan!ty, and shallow discourse.) Please find more detailed instructions for discussion boards in the *Course Documents*. Each discussion is worth 50 points (25 for an initial post and 25 for a response to someone else) such that each student will have a discussion board grade that is based on 100 points.

Mid-Term Project (25%): Each student will be placed in a small group with 4-5 other students to work together and complete a mid term project. The project will be a demographic profile of two countries and will be completed as a group and submitted

online. The grade for the mid term project is based on two components: the product (of the project) **and** each group member's individual participation. Basically, each group member's participation will be assessed by each of the group members and will be added to the product grade.

Final Exam (25%): Towards the end of the course, I will post a list of "prompts" that will comprise the list of possible exam questions. The final exam will consist of a 4-5 paged, double spaced written response to one prompt that will be completed and turned in during the last week of class. These essay questions will be graded on mastery of course knowledge, objectives as well as writing structure and style. The late work policy is designed to discourage students from turning in late work, as doing so makes it difficult for the instructor and the mentors to return work in a timely manner.

Grades will be determined on a 100 point scale and translated to letter grades as follows:

- A 93 to 100
- A- 90 to 92
- B+ 87 to 89
- B 83 to 86
- B- 80 to 82
- C+ 77 to 79
- C 73 to 76
- C- 70 to 72
- D+ 67 to 69
- D 63 to 66
- D- 60 to 62
- F 59 and below

Extra Credit. Students may earn extra credit in this course by reading and writing a one page synopsis of demographic articles. Each article synopsis will be graded on a scale of 0-1. The maximum extra credit that any student may earn is 5 points (five synopses with grades of 1.0 or 10 synopses with grades of 0.5).

Due dates:

- Population Autobiography: 2:00 PM EST August 29, 2007.
- Quiz 1 (chapters 1-2): 5:00 PM EST September 21, 2007.
- Discussion Board (2 posts): 5:00 PM EST September 28, 2007.
- Quiz 2 (chapters 3-4): 5:00 PM EST October 5, 2007.
- Mid Term Project Proposal: 5:00 PM EST October 12, 2007
- Quiz 3 (chapters 5-6): 5:00 PM EST October 29, 2007.
- Quiz 4 (chapters 7-8): 5:00 PM EST November 2, 2007.
- Midterm Project: 5:00 PM EST November 2, 2007.
- Discussion Board (2 posts): 5:00 PM EST November 16, 2007.
- Quiz 5 (chapters 9-10): 5:00 PM EST November 23, 2007.
- Quiz 6 (chapters 11-12): 5:00 PM EST December 7, 2007.
- Extra Credit Article Synopses: 5:00 PM EST December 7, 2007.
- Final Exams: 5:00 PM EST December 11, 2007.

OTHER POLICIES:

Academic Honor Code. Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation:

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>.

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "zero" for that particular assignment. I reserve the right to use all means at my disposal to screen for plagiarism, including electronic citation checkers (e.g., Turnitin.com). For more information on plagiarism, see <http://online.fsu.edu/learningresources/plagiarism>.

Procedures for dealing with alleged academic dishonesty are described at: http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad/info/acad_regs.htm#AcademicHonor

Student Conduct Code. Everyone in this class is expected to adhere to principles embodied in the FSU Student Contact Code, available at: <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/2003codes/conduct.html>. This code essentially requires everyone to maintain the highest professional standards of conduct in this class, whether in face-to-face meetings or online. Violation of the conduct code carries a range of penalties that can range from a reduced grade to expulsion.

Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring me a letter indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities: <http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

Syllabus change policy. This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. It and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.