



Western University
SOCIOLOGY 2236B-001
Population Studies
Winter 2017
Tuesdays, 12:30 to 3:30 PM SH 3317

Dr. Teresa Abada

Office Hours: by appointment on Mondays and Tuesday mornings (you must email to set up an appointment)

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to *demography* and *population studies*. Demography concerns itself with the formal (quantitative) analysis of population size, distribution, structure, and change, whereas population studies deals with the sociological determinants (broadly speaking) and consequences of demographic phenomena. Students in this course will learn the basic concepts, methods and theories of these two interrelated aspects of the study of population. Some topics include: Population History, Population Age-Sex Structure, Fertility, Mortality and Population Health, Migration, Explanations of Nuptiality Change and Canadian Nuptiality Trends, Urbanization, Population and Resources, and Population Change and Policy Concerns.

Prerequisite(s):

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 2232](#).

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from: [Sociology 1020](#), [1021E](#), [1025A/B](#), [1026F/G](#), [1027A/B](#).

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed.

You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and apply the major theoretical perspectives in Population Studies and assess the conceptual differences among them.
- Understand the implications of theory and sociological/demographic research for interpreting social events and practices.
- Demonstrate knowledge of social institutions, social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of social experience, and assess them from a critical sociological/demographic perspective.

Learning Outcomes (continued)

- Understand and demonstrate the appropriate use of quantitative methodologies (demographic techniques).
- Write theoretically informed papers that make sustained, evidence-based, sociological and demographic arguments, and present ideas clearly.
- Communicate core issues clearly and articulately.

Required Text(s):

Trovato, Frank. 2015. *Canada's Population in a Global Context: An Introduction to Social Demography (2nd edition)*. Toronto: Oxford University Press

Method of Evaluation:

Grade Components and Weights

Component	Weight
Final exam TBA	40%
Mid-term exam 1 February 28	35%
Essay (due last lecture in April)	25%
Total	100%

Mid-Term Exam

The mid-term exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer type questions, essay, calculations based on concepts and other material covered in class and the assigned readings.

Final Exam

Although it will cover the whole course, much of the emphasis on the final exam will be placed on the material covered after the first mid-term exam. The structure of the final exam will be *similar* to that of the mid-term exam; however it will be longer and will include questions that require computations and interpretation, long answer type (essay) questions based on material covered in class throughout the term. Students must bring their own calculators to the final examination (calculators must not be pre-programmed; they will be checked).

Note: Mid-term and final exams will not be returned to students. If you want to go over your exam or assignment you must make an appointment with the professor. Lecture notes and/or any other materials used in class (e.g., PowerPoints) will not be made available on any other venue. You should “buddy up” with someone in class to share missed/lost lecture notes and as someone to study with. Note that I do not get into lengthy discussions regarding the course material, midterm or the final exam or essay on email. You are encouraged to make an appointment with the professor if you have any concerns regarding the course material.

How to Contact Me:

tabada@uwo.ca 519 6612111 ext 83690

Correspondence

Replies to students' emails or telephone calls are made within 48 hours Monday to Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

E-mail You must provide your full name and the purpose of your email. If these are not included, I will not respond. Your emails to your professor is a formal correspondence and not to be written as a text/Facebook/twitter message.

Please note: I do not respond to emails such as “*what did I miss in yesterday's lecture?*” If you missed any classes it is your responsibility to come and speak to me in person during my office hours and obtain the lecture notes from your classmates.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Late essays will be penalized 5% per day (including weekends) except in the case of extreme and serious documented circumstances, discussed with me in advance and following the same procedures describe above related to missed exams. Please note that computer problems are not an excused circumstance. You are expected to follow good computer practices, including backing up your work.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is submit to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class. Note that I do

not allow my lectures to be recorded. You are not allowed to take pictures of the power point slides in class.

I do not allow the use of laptops or any other computer device on the exam. Calculators are allowed on the exam.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Missed Exams

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

Compassionate Grounds: Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Required readings are listed under each topic below (all readings are from the textbook).

Week 1

Introduction and Overview

- a. Overview of the Course and Expectations
Reading: pages 2-27; skim rest of chapter

The Study of Population

- a. Definitions and Basic Concepts: Components of Population Change
- b. Formal Demography and Population Studies
- c. Population Growth Models
- d. Individual Action and Demographic Processes
Reading: pages 2-27; skim rest of chapter

Week 2

Population Data: Their Sources and Nature

- a. Sources of demographic data
- b. Census and Vital Statistics systems
- c. The Use of Vital Statistics and Census in Population Analysis
Reading: pages 37-53; skim rest of chapter

Week 3

Population History

- a. Present Demographic Situation of the World
- b. From a Long Period of Slow Growth to Explosive Growth
- c. The Demographic Transition: Industrialized and Developing Countries
- d. Canada's Demographic History: Overview
- e. Future World Population: Short and Long Term Perspectives
Reading: pages 61-83; skim rest of chapter

Week 3

Age and Sex Composition

- a. Basic Principles and Measures
- b. Typology of Age Distributions
- c. Determinants of Age Composition
- d. Sex Ratio of Population
- e. Changing Age Composition and Societal Ramifications

Reading: pages 106-129; skim rest of chapter

Week 4

Nuptiality

- a. Nuptiality as a Social Demographic Process and Basic Measures
- b. Nuptiality Trends: Cross-national Overview
- c. Explanations of Nuptiality Change

Reading: pages 146-148; 154-166; 169-177; skim rest of chapter

Week 5

Fertility

- a. Basic Concepts and Measures of Fertility
- b. Society and Fertility: Social-Biological Interactions
- c. Proximate Determinants of Fertility
- d. Theories of Fertility Change

Reading: pages 192-201; 205-214; 217-233; skim rest of chapter

Week 6

Mortality and Population Health

- a. Population Health and Mortality: Basic concepts
- b. Social Demographic Dimensions of Mortality
- c. Basic Measures of Mortality and Life Table
- d. Mortality Change Through History: Epidemiological Transition
- e. Health and Mortality Inequalities

Reading: pages 257-294; skim rest of chapter

Week 7

Internal Migration

- a. Basic Concepts and Measures
- b. Explanations of Migration

Reading: pages 340-345; 355-379; skim rest of chapter

Week 8

International Migration

- a. The Complex Nature of International Migration
- b. Basic Concepts and Measures
- c. Migration in History
- d. Theories of International Migration

Reading: pages 399-406; 410-427; skim rest of chapter

Week 9

Urbanization

- a. Basic Concepts and Measures
- b. Urbanization in History
- c. Urban Systems
- d. Urban Change in the Future

Reading: pages 450-454; 460-476; skim rest of chapter

Week 10

Population and Resources

- a. Classic Statements
- b. Malthusian Theory
- c. Marxist Theory
- d. Contemporary Perspectives on Population

Reading: pages 503-536

Week 11

Population Change and Policy Concerns

- a. The Interconnectedness of Demography, Policy and Society
- b. Population Policy---Global Perspective
- c. Canadian Population Policy Concerns

Reading: pages 539-574

Open Topics (if time permits)

Final Exam **Date to be set by registrar's office**

NB. All dates are approximations and may have to be adjusted

Note that I may have a guest lecture(s) in the class. It's important that you attend as questions may be asked on the exam regarding these lectures.

Essay due last lecture in April: Worth 25% of final grade

(2 copies, if you want your paper returned with comments).

The topic must be specific to Canadian context and be supported with Canadian data sources. You can choose to focus on a purely demographic issue on mortality, fertility, or migration or a topic in which demographic issues play a significant role. These substantive topics can be from the realms of migration, population aging, family demography, mortality, urbanization. Your essay must address the demographic relevance of the research question and be able to establish the connection between the demographic context of the problem and the social and policy implications. If you are unsure about your topic you are strongly encouraged to discuss your essay with the professor.

When researching your essay, I strongly advise you to make use of the materials that contain information on population-related questions. These can be obtained (but not exhaustive) from Weldon Library. Given that you will be using Canadian data sources, you are encouraged to begin your research with Statistics Canada publications. You can also use Internet sources but keep in mind that Internet sources are not always reputable. Whenever you use Internet sources you must document fully the source of the material. Note that I will check any site that is listed.

The essay should be about 5 pages double-spaced plus notes, references, tables and graphs. **This essay will be graded on coherency of argument, research and analysis, critical assessment of the subject matter, clarity of expression and overall presentation.** The referencing style of the ASA (American Sociological Association) is to be used. Refer to: www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ASA.pdf.