



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 4441
Deaths, Fertility and Migration:
Demographic Analysis of Social Change
Fall 2016
Wed 1:30-4:20pm, SSC 5428

DRAFT JUNE 2016 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Instructor: Rachel Margolis, PhD
Office Hours: Monday 11am - 12:30pm
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3 seminar hours, 0.5 course

Course Description

This course introduces students to demographic analysis of social change. Topics covered are fertility, mortality, international migration, aging, and marriage and how demographic methods can be used to study other topics such as education, health inequalities, disability and prison populations.

The main goal of the course is to understand how demographers approach population change - through population growth, mortality, fertility, marriage, migration, and age structure. These measures are useful for thinking systematically about population changes in this country and others. We will also discuss how basic demographic methods can be used to study other topics, such as education, disability, and prison populations, to provide an understanding of how these methods are applied outside the field of traditional demography. For example, we will discuss how to analyze different populations of interest, whether they are the inhabitants of a municipality or specific ethnic group. We will look at individuals “at risk” of experiencing different events and the possible “states” in which they can inhabit, key demographic terms that will be explained during this course. In learning how to use population research methods, the aim is for students to be able to apply these methods to their substantive area of interest. I will use examples from current research to illustrate how demographic research is done and what it can tell us about the social world.

This course will provide you with a foundation in demographic theories and techniques, which will give you tools to help answer many substantive research questions. It is open to students from other disciplines who are interested in demographic methods and their many different applications.

Prerequisite(s):

Enrolment in fourth year of one of the Honors Specializations or Honors Double Major in Sociology, OR by special permission. A solid background in algebra is assumed. Please bring a calculator to class and exams.

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.

Antirequisite(s): None

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify sources of demographic data and recognize the strengths and weaknesses of different data sources.
- Calculate and interpret basic measures of a life table.
- Estimate how fertility, mortality, and migration shape a population's age structure.
- Interpret and evaluate figures and graphs.
- Apply demographic methods to substantive areas outside of the core of demography such as education, disability, and policy.
- Use excel comfortably to do calculations and make figures.

Required Text

The main text for the course is a textbook by Donald Rowland. Students should obtain a copy of the book, which can be purchased from the University Bookstore or online. For students who cannot purchase the book, it is on 1-day reserve at Weldon library.

Rowland, Donald T. 2012. *Demographic Methods and Concepts*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings appear in journals and can be accessed through the course website or the UWO library website.

Method of Evaluation

The midterm and final exam will be based on class lectures and readings. You are expected to do the assigned readings and to come to class. Lectures cover material that is not discussed directly in the course readings, but for which you are responsible. Conversely, you also are responsible for the material covered in the readings even if the material is not reviewed in class.

The mid-term and final examinations may include different types of questions. Some will involve calculating and interpreting measures. Others will focus on communicating the results of figures, graphs and tables. Others will be short answer and include writing about key concepts.

The final project will be a demographic profile of a country. You will describe the demography of the country using the terms covered in class, highlight the important population dynamics, describe pertinent population problems and give some insights for policymakers. You will present your findings in a 10-minute presentation at the end of the term and hand in a hard copy report during exam period. More specific instructions will be handed out during the first half of the semester.

Evaluation Breakdown

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exam (held in class October 19): 30%

Final Project: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

How to Contact Me

You can come to office hours with any questions about the material. You can also email me at:

rachel.margolis@uwo.ca

How to get important course information:

For information about the course, please read the course outline carefully. Also, check the course website for announcements.

Overview of Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	September 14	Introduction to Demography, Basic Concepts, Sources of Demographic Data Using Excel
2	September 21	Basic Measures, Person Years, Population Growth, Demographic Rates
3	September 28	Age-Specific Rates and Probabilities, Age Standardization
4	October 5	The Life Table
5	October 12	Using Life Tables to Study Different Topics
6	October 19	Midterm Test (In Class)
7	October 26	Fertility, The Contraception Revolution
8	November 2	Population Problems: High and Low Fertility
9	November 9	Population Projections
10	November 16	Marriage and Divorce, Second Demographic Transition, Sex Preferences for Children
11	November 23	Migration, Spatial Distribution, Segregation
12	November 30	Special Topics/Student Presentations
13	December 7	Special Topics/Student Presentations
Exam Period	Date TBA	Final Project Due

September 14 Introduction to Demography, Basic Concepts, Using Excel

Reading Assignments

- Rowland, Chapter 1: Population Change
- Bloom. 2011. 7 Billion and Counting. *Science* 333(562): 562-569.

September 21 Basic Measures, Person Years, Population Growth, Demographic Rates

Reading Assignments

- Rowland, Chapter 2: Population Growth and Decline
- Science magazine's July 29, 2001 special issue on population.
<http://www.sciencemag.org/site/special/population>

September 28 Age-Specific Rates and Probabilities, Age Standardization

Reading Assignment

- Rowland, Chapter 4: Comparing Populations

October 5 The Life Table

Reading Assignments

- Rowland, Chapter 8: Life Tables
- Oeppen and Vaupel. 2002. Broken Limits to Life Expectancy. *Science*. 296(5570):1039-1031.

October 12 Using Life Tables

Reading Assignments

- Bongaarts. 2006. How long will we live? *Population and Development Review* 32(4): 605-628.
- Gurven and Kaplan. 2007. Longevity Among Hunter-Gatherers: A Cross-Cultural Examination. *Population and Development Review* 33(2):321-365.

October 19 MIDTERM TEST (In Class)

October 26 Fertility and the Contraception Revolution

Reading Assignments

- Rowland, Chapter 7: Fertility and the Family
- Feeney and Yu. 1987. Period Parity Progression Measures of Fertility in China. *Population Studies* 41:77-102.

November 2 Population Problems: High and Low Fertility

Reading Assignments

- Bongaarts and Casterline. 2013. Fertility Transition: Is sub-Saharan Africa Different? *Population and Development Review* 38(s): 153-168.
- Bongaarts. 2001. Fertility and Reproductive Preferences in Post-Transitional Societies. *Population and Development Review* 27S:260-281.

November 9 Population Projections

Reading Assignments

- Rowland, Chapter 12: Population Projections and Estimates
- Lutz, Sanderson and Scherbov. 1998. Expert-based probabilistic population projections. *Population and Development Review* 24:139-155.

November 16 Marriage and Divorce, Second Demographic Transition, Sex Preferences

Reading Assignments

- Rowland text. pp. 251-255
- Goldscheider, Bernhardt, and Lappegard. 2015. The Gender Revolution: A Framework for Understanding Changing Family and Demographic Behavior. *Population and Development Review* 41(2):207-239.
- Almond, Edlund, and Milligan. 2013. Son Preference and the Persistence of Culture: Evidence from South and East Asian Immigrants to Canada. *Population and Development Review* 39(1): 75-95.

November 23 Migration, Spatial Distribution, Segregation

Reading Assignments

- Rowland Chapter 11: Migration
- Abel and Sander. 2014. Quantifying Global International Migration Flows. *Science* 343(6178):1520-1522.

November 30 Special Topics/Student Presentations

December 7 Special Topics/Student Presentations

December 12 Final Project Due

Important Policies for Undergraduates

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

There will be **no make-up midterm exams**. If a student misses the mid-term due to sickness or another acceptable excuse, the student must present an official document justifying the absence and (only in this situation) the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam. In case of lack of justification for the absence, a grade of zero will be attributed to the midterm exam.

Academic accommodation will NOT be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. For personal illness, if you should consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used and can be found at:

<http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/docs/procedures/medicalNote.pdf>

Notes stating “For Medical Reasons” are not considered sufficient.

For any other circumstance, if you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask your Academic Counselor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the academic counselor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination. Once you have this form, contact your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved from your home faculty Academic Counselor, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to write the makeup final exam. You need permission from your home Faculty Counselor, your instructor, and the Department Chair. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Chair and that the form is returned to the Academic Counseling Office for approval without delay. Make-up final examinations, if permitted, will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

Book airline flights after you know the dates of your final examinations so they do not conflict with any exams.

Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day.

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 subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policies on Examinations

Scientific and basic calculators will be allowed during examinations. Graphing calculators and cell phones are not permitted during the exam.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class

Laptops are permitted in class for course materials only. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at 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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

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

Scholastic Offences

The goal for the course is to learn basic demographic methods and internalize how demographers think about measuring population change. The assignments are a key part of learning how the methods work. It will be helpful to talk about the methods with classmates and this is strongly encouraged. However, it is important to do the problem sets without collaboration. This will help to learn the material and prepare for exams.

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:

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.