The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 9331B
Deaths, Fertility, Migration:
Demographic Analysis of Social Change
Winter 2023
Mondays 1:30-4:30, in SSC 5230

Professor: Dr. Anna Zajacova

Student Hours: Mon 11:00 -1:30 or by appointment
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Course Description

Each of us is a member of a population, but few of us think systematically about the population to
which we belong. Yet, the population’s characteristics and the demographic processes that
generate them are inextricably linked to effectively all critical social issues we face, from rising
costs of health care and pensions, immigration policies, to environmental issues and the climate
crisis. Understanding how populations interact with sociopolitical issues will help you understand
root causes of many societal issues and the public discourse around them.

The main goal of the course is to understand how demographers approach population change – how
we think about, and analyze, population growth, mortality, fertility, marriage, migration,
environmental issues, and other key demographic topics. The course will thus provide you with
foundations in demographic thinking and analysis of social change, as well as key theories and
some techniques used in formal and applied demography. We will also learn about basic
demographic methods and how they generate findings about the topics above, as well as many
others such as education, disability, and other important social issues.

You do not need to be a ‘quant’ or ‘stats’ person to succeed in this class. Only basic math and stats
skills are necessary to succeed – and I am confident you can add, subtract, divide, multiply, and
have some sense of exponential functions. Overall, all you need is to be willing to engage simple
formulas, study tables and figures, produce some yourself, and generally navigate quantitative
environment. For the 9331 version: You should also have basic statistics knowledge at the level of
SOC 9001. If you did not take 9001, please talk to me during the first two weeks of the class.

Learning outcomes

- Explain how population change and social changes are related
- Identify fertility, mortality, and migration as the three key demographic processes and
  understand their implications for societal sociopolitical structures
- Understand population change and age structure and their implications for key social issues
- Manipulate and interpret select basic demographic measures, such as the life table
- Appreciate the interrelationships between the population and the environment
- Interpret global, national, and local issues within their demographic context.
Course Material(s)


This textbook provides foundational (basic) material on most key topics we will cover. If you have had a demography or population studies class before, you may find the material somewhat redundant but still a useful review. If you have not had a demography or population studies class before, the book lays out the material in a straightforward way aimed at the novice demographer. I also really like that the textbook examines the Canadian context because most of our other readings do not.

I don’t care whether you purchase or rent the text, whether you use a print or e-book, or whether you share to cut on the costs – just make sure to be able to access the material when you need it how you need it.

In addition, each week will include a set of required and optional readings, mostly journal articles and book chapters. I will post all materials on OWL either as pdfs or will include links to the articles.

Additional resources

http://papp.iussp.org/ for methods


Evaluation Breakdown

Exam 1 15%
Exam 2 15%
Participation 10%
Regular written check-ins 10%
Mini-assignment 15%
Research poster project 25%
Population and environment class 10%

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON EVALUATION FORTHCOMING.

Grade guidelines. Graduate course mean grade is to be in the range of 83-87% and the number of A+s is not to exceed other grade categories.
Course Schedule and Readings. Subject to change.

CLASS 1 January 9. INTRODUCTION

CORE READINGS
Trovato Chapter 1


OPTIONAL READINGS


CLASS 2 January 16. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND WORLD POPULATION

CORE READINGS
Trovato Chapters 2 and 3


REQUIRED BUT JUST SKIM TO GET THE SENSE OF THE MAIN POINTS / PERSPECTIVE

OPTIONAL READINGS


**CLASS 3 January 23. **BASICS OF POPULATION STRUCTURE

**CORE READINGS**

Trovato Chapter 4


**REQUIRED BUT JUST SKIM TO GET THE SENSE OF THE MAIN POINTS / PERSPECTIVE**


**OPTIONAL READINGS**


**CLASS 4 January 30. **FERTILITY – KEY CONCEPTS

**CORE READINGS**

Trovato Chapter 6 (Fertility Transitions 214-238 only skim)


SKIM. Note the 7 proximate determinants & types of societies by reproductive behaviour


**OPTIONAL READINGS**


**CLASS 5 February 6.**

**EXAM 1. WORK ON MINI-ASSIGNMENT.**

**CLASS 6 February 13. FERTILITY – SELECT TOPICS**

**CORE READINGS**


**OPTIONAL READINGS**


CLASS 7 February 27. MARRIAGE, FAMILIES, HOUSEHOLDS

CORE READINGS
Trovato Chapter 5

SKIM FOR MAIN POINT(S)


OPTIONAL READINGS


CLASS 8 March 6. MORTALITY – KEY CONCEPTS

CORE READINGS
Trovato Chapter 7.
Pages 257-294 (up to “Health Patterns in Low and Middle-Income Countries”)


**OPTIONAL READINGS**


Robine, Jean-Marie. 2021. "Ageing populations: We are living longer lives, but are we healthier?": United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division.


**CLASS 9 March 13. MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY – SELECT TOPICS**

**CORE READINGS**

Trovato Chapter 7.

Pages 294-330 (from "Health Patterns in Low and Middle-Income Countries")


**SKIM ONLY**


**OPTIONAL READINGS**


Burden of Disease additional information: https://ourworldindata.org/burden-of-disease


CLASS 10 March 20. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

CORE READINGS

Trovato Chapter 8 only pages 340-379, and Chapter 9 (The definitions, measures, and theories of internal migration in Chapter 8 overlap closely with the theories of international migration; it's helpful to read them together)


SKIM; EXTRACT MAIN FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS


OPTIONAL READINGS


CLASS 11 March 27. INTERNAL MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION

CORE READINGS
Trovato Chapters 8 pages 379 to end of chapter, and Chapter 10


**SKIM FOR MAIN POINTS, OVERLAPS WITH TROVATO**


**OPTIONAL READINGS**


**CLASS 12 April 3. POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, THE CLIMATE CRISIS**


Public Broadcasting Corporation. 2019. "How climate change is driving emigration from Central America."


**OPTIONAL**


Trovato Chapter 11

Climate change, internal migration, and the future spatial distribution of population: a case study of New Zealand. [link](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11111-017-0289-8)


**CLASS 13. SUMMARY, REVIEW. WORK ON POSTERS. EXAM PREP.**

**OPTIONAL**


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**Important Information and Policies**

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western’s Remote Proctoring website at: [https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca](https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca).

**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. See **Scholastic Offences** (below) for the link to Scholastic Discipline regulations.

**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 the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted 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: http://www.turnitin.com

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/appeals_discipline/index.html

Accommodation

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Completion of Course Requirements

Course requirements must be completed by the end of the term in which the course is offered (Fall-December 31; Winter-April 30, Summer-August 31). Only in exceptional circumstances may a student take additional time to complete the course requirements. In such a case, the student must first meet with the Graduate Chair to request permission to carry the incomplete. Medical documentation, where required, will be kept on file in the Sociology graduate program office. More details regarding incompletes are outlined in the Graduate Handbook: http://www.sociology.uwo.ca/graduate_handbook/course_information.html

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness Western for a complete list of options to obtain help: http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. The Wellness Education Centre (lower level UCC) assists students in finding mental health and other related resources best suited to their needs: http://se.uwo.ca/wec.html Western’s School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies’ Living Well website provides tips for thriving at grad school and other helpful information: http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/living_well/index.html

Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical
activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre: http://www.westernmustangs.ca/index.aspx?path=ims# Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Also, we encourage you to check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/.

Standards of Professional Behaviour
It is the responsibility of all members of the Department of Sociology to adhere to and promote standards of professional behaviour that support an effective learning environment. These include:

- **respect for others** both in and out of the classroom through words and actions (be professional, fair, and respectful in interactions with people on-line and in-person; understand and respect differences among classmates and colleagues; avoid disrupting the learning environment; respect others’ expectations of confidentiality and privacy)

- **active engagement in learning** and commitment to quality (being prepared for classes; participating and listening actively to other; using technology and social media appropriately, striving to do your best)

- **personal integrity** (following through on commitments; doing own work)

Students should also be aware of the UWO Student Code of Conduct found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf