



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2236B-001**  
**Population Studies**  
**Winter 2022**  
**In Class**

**Instructor: Dr. Teresa Abada**

Office Hours: by Appointment only for Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 PM

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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, and Population Change and Policy Concerns.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from: [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#) or enrolment in the Honours Specialization in Urban Development.

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):** [Sociology 2232](#).

**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.

- 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.

### 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>. You must have a stable internet while we conduct classes online.

### Required Text:

[Canada's Population in a Global Context 2nd edition | 9780199011124, 9780199011131 | VitalSource](https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/canada-39-s-population-in-a-global-context-an-frank-trovatov9780199011131?term=9780199011124)  
<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/canada-39-s-population-in-a-global-context-an-frank-trovatov9780199011131?term=9780199011124>

### Evaluation Breakdown:

#### Grade Components and Weights

<u>Component</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Essay 1	<b>March 1 11:59 PM</b>	25%
Midterm	<b>March 15 in class</b>	40%
Final Essay	<b>Last day of class</b>	35%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Essay Requirements

The first essay will require you to pick a topic from any of the [Highlight tables, 2016 Census of Population \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/92-62-0001/2016001/article/14861-eng.htm): This will allow you a better understanding of the role of the Canadian Census and it is timely given the 2021 Census. From this section of the Statistics Canada website, you will see there are Highlight Tables that include: Aboriginal Peoples, Age and Sex, Education, Families Households and

Marital Status, Housing, Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity, Income, Labour, Language, Population and Dwelling Counts, and Type of Dwelling. When you click on any of these topics, you will see that there is an accompanying The Daily. For example, on Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity, there is a Daily October 25, 2017. You should read that Daily and write an essay on a few of those key findings. What are the sociological factors and the implications for these latest Census release?

Your essay should focus on a particular topic from the Daily, the summary of the findings of your interest, the sociological factors and the policy implications. You are required to bring in at least five academic articles in writing your essay. (5-7 pages)

**The midterm** will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answers, long answer and computations. It will cover material from the beginning of the class up to and including the chapters before the midterm.

**The final essay** will also be any topic from the course outline but will be longer at 7-10 pages. The topic can be specific to a Canadian context or you can choose to write about another country(ies). It must be supported with credible 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. Your final essay must be different from your first essay. You can use UN data, World Bank, Population Reference Bureau, Statistics Canada to name a few. If you are unsure about the relevant data sources on the web, you should consult with the professor or the teaching assistant.

**When researching your essays**, 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. In 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 essays should be 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: [Citation Guides - Western Libraries - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.library.uwo.ca/citationguides/)

**You should “buddy up” with someone in class to study with. Note that I do not get into lengthy discussions regarding the course material on email. You should set up an appointment with me on Zoom during office hours.**

**How to Contact Me:** [tabada@uwo.ca](mailto:tabada@uwo.ca)

## 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.

## Course Schedule and Readings:

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

### Week 1 (Jan 11)

#### 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 (Jan 18) 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 (Jan 25) 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 4 (Feb 1) 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 5 (February 8)**

##### **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 6 (Feb 15) 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 7 of February 20 Reading Week Week 8 (March 1) 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 9 (March 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 10 (March 15) Midterm In Class**

### **Week 11 (March 22) Internal Migration**

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

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

### **Week 12 (March 29) 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 13 (April 5) 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

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