



The University of Western Ontario

Department of Sociology

SOCIOLOGY 2236A-001

Population Studies

Fall 2026

Delivery Method: In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Anna Zajacova

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Course Description:

Students in this course will learn the basic concepts, methods and theories 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.

Pre-requisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level. 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. This 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.

Anti-requisite(s): The former Sociology 3313F/G.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

We all are members of a population. However, few of us consider how a population's characteristics and the demographic processes that generate them are inextricably linked to all social, economic, political, cultural, environmental or national-security issues, from rising costs of health care, changes in immigration policies, to challenges in our rural and urban areas. Understanding how population characteristics 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 think about population and population change – how demographers approach and analyze population change including mortality, fertility, migration, and related demographic topics. The course will thus provide you with foundations in demographic thinking and analysis of social change. We will also learn some basic demographic methods used in formal and applied demography and how they yield important insights about populations and us as individuals in populations.

No mathematical background is assumed beyond arithmetic. However, you should expect quantitative environment where you will calculate and interpret basic demographic measures, and read/interpret tables and graphs closely.

Learning Outcomes. By the end of the term you will be able to:

- Understand how population change and social change are interrelated
- explain what the core demographic measures capture vs what they hide, including crude and age-specific rates, the total fertility rate, life expectancy, and age-dependency ratios;
- identify the main sources of population data and judge what each can and cannot tell us;
- read demographic output including population pyramids, life tables, and projections;
- explain the demographic transition and situate Canada within it;
- weigh public claims about population aging, low fertility, and immigration against the evidence.

Course Material:

Required textbook: “Demography: The Study of Human Population,” Fifth Edition, 2026. By Jennifer Hickey Lundquist, Eiko Strader, Douglas L. Anderton, David Yaukey. See e-book availability at <https://waveland.com/browse.php?t=140&r=a|146> .

Price in USD ranges from approximately \$27 for a 3-month rental to \$79 for the physical book. See more at Western bookstore class-specific link. link: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC2236A

You will also need a calculator. A cheap dollar-store one will suffice.

Communication:

Students are responsible for reviewing the course [OWL Brightspace](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course.

Course Schedule and Readings:

The reading list and weekly schedule are available on the course OWL Brightspace site.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Homeworks (4 total)	10%
In-Class Pop Quizzes (5 total)	10%
Midterm exam. November 9 in class.	35%
Final exam. Date/time/place TBA.	45%

Homeworks (4 homeworks, 10% total). They will be graded as pass/fail. You will upload pdfs to the Assignments tab on Brightspace. The lowest grade (or missed homework) is dropped; only 3 of 4 homeworks count toward the calculation of the final grade.

For each homework, students are expected to submit by the deadline listed, at least one week after the homework is posted. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 5 days past the deadline without academic penalty. At the end of the grace period, the Assignment tab for submitting will close and submitting the homework is no longer possible. As flexible deadlines are built-in, requests for academic consideration for the homework will not be granted.

In-Class Pop Quizzes (5 quizzes, 10% total). In-class, unannounced quizzes will be given via Quizzes on Brightspace or on paper. The lowest grade (or missed quiz) is dropped; only 4 of 5 quizzes count toward the calculation of the final grade.

Midterm exam (35%). Closed-book, mix of multiple-choice including possibly multiple-true answers, fill-in-the-blank, some calculations to show understanding of key demographic measures, short answers including interpreting graphs and similar applied material. Less memorization and more understanding and thinking through concepts. A basic calculator will be allowed if needed; no phone calculators or any calculators with cameras or connected to the internet.

Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course, the midterm exam has been designated as requiring supporting documentation.

Final exam (45%). In-person, closed-book, mostly or completely multiple-choice. Date/time/place TBA; scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the final exam period. A basic calculator will be allowed if needed; no phone calculators or any calculators with cameras or connected to the internet.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

AI tools can be powerful learning partners. I strongly encourage you to use them to learn and clarify concepts, check your understanding, ask questions about the course material. These tools can also help you brainstorm, edit for clarity and style, and polish written work. While AI may assist you, you are accountable for ensuring that your work is correct, original, and that you could reproduce or explain it independently.

- You may use AI tools to support your work, but you are solely responsible for the content and quality of everything you submit.
- For homeworks: use AI to learn or even help you brainstorm and revise, but remember that ultimately you need to understand the material yourself. See bullet point below:
- Exams are paper-and-pencil: AI is not permitted.
- Academic integrity applies fully: plagiarism or unacknowledged reliance on AI (or any source) violates university policy.

Electronic Devices:

Devices are permitted in class but only for class-related use. Any other use (social media, working on other classes, etc.) makes it hard for students around you to focus. You can choose whether to attend class or not, but you cannot make it difficult for others around you to follow the class.

I may ask you to leave the class if you disrupt the learning environment.

During exams. Absolutely no electronic devices are allowed: no phones, no tablets, no laptops, and absolutely no wearables. Simply having a phone or wearable on you or within reach during exams constitutes an academic offense.

Course Policies:

- Please read the Sociology Department Academic Policies document below
- All considerations must go through the official Accessible Education process. I cannot make any exceptions. I will fully support all academic considerations approved through Accessible Education.

2026-2027



Department of Sociology
Effective September 1, 2026.

Academic Policies

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the [Scholastic Offences](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf) Policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf.

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.

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 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 Western University and Turnitin.com

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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.

Prior to any examination, students must turn their cellphones off and store them in their bags/coat at the front of the room. The use (or possession) of cellphones or other communications technologies during examinations is strictly prohibited. Those caught using a cell phone or other communication technologies, or even the physical possession of these technologies during an examination, will result in a zero on the examination in question. Similarly, the use (or possession) of these technologies during examination breaks (bathroom breaks during an exam) will also result in a zero. Intent does not matter. Forgetting to put away your cellphone or other communication technologies, whether during the examination or on examination breaks (bathroom breaks), are not justifications. It will result in a zero on the examination in question. In sum, your cellphones should never be seen or heard during an examination and should always be stored in your bags/coats at the front of the room.

Copyright: Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Code of Student Conduct: Every student is expected to comply with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University. It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize themselves with its contents. The Code is available at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf.

Student Responsibility: Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded. Students must ensure course prerequisites have been completed successfully or special permission from the Dean is obtained. Students who fail to do so will be removed from the course without adjustments to fees. The decision may not be appealed.

Student Responsibility for Course Selection:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf

Registration and Progression:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf

Graduation Requirements:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf

Absence from Course Commitments: Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf.

Students missing regularly scheduled course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. **Note that supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams)** and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described in the course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical_certificate.pdf or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Procedure on makeup assessments for Social Science students and for courses offered by the Faculty of Social Science (Effective September 1, 2026):

If academic consideration is granted, students should consult the course outline for information regarding how the missed assessment will be addressed and follow any instructions provided by the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, the weight of a missed test/quiz or mid-term may be transferred to another assessment in the course, including the final exam, rather than requiring a makeup assessment. Reweighting is not available for missed final exams.

Students are entitled to **one makeup assessment opportunity** for a missed test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam supported by approved academic consideration. **No additional makeup opportunities will be provided.** Makeup assessments represent the final opportunity to complete a missed course assessment. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

What happens if I miss a makeup assessment as a Social Science student or in a course offered by the Faculty of Social Science?

Students who miss a makeup assessment are not eligible for an additional makeup opportunity. Depending on their circumstances, they may:

1. Remain enrolled in the course and accept a grade of zero on the missed makeup assessment. Students should consult the course outline and calculate whether they can still achieve a passing grade in the course.
2. Withdraw from the course through [Student Center](#) before the [published drop deadline](#). A course dropped before the deadline will result in a withdrawal (WDN) without academic penalty. Part-time students should consult the Registrar's Office [refund schedule](#) to determine whether a tuition refund is available. Students enrolled full-time in 4.0-5.0 courses are generally not eligible for tuition refunds when a course is dropped.
3. If the published drop deadline has passed and the missed makeup assessment is supported by appropriate documentation, students may submit their documentation through the [Student Absence Portal](#) to request a **WDN (withdrawal without academic penalty)**. Approval is not automatic and remains subject to Faculty review. Requests for a second makeup assessment will not be considered.

Students are encouraged to carefully consider their ability to complete a makeup assessment as scheduled, as no further opportunities to complete the missed work will be available.

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty Academic Advising Office.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Guidelines for Grades/Marks: The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are expected to follow. Generally, and with few exceptions, this means that the number of A's in a course cannot exceed the number of B's, and class means are expected to fall within a prescribed percentage range. This means that your final grade depends on your ranking relative to your peers. Courses with grades falling outside this range may be adjusted, up or down. These guidelines do not prohibit a student achieving 95% or higher in all their courses, but it does mean that an entire course cannot be made up of students receiving 95%. This policy combats grade inflation, contributing to higher standards, and ensuring uniformity across all courses of the same level. Motivated and hard-working students receive grades well above the course averages. The use of grade guidelines, including any adjustments of grades, either up or down for this purpose, cannot be used as the basis of an appeal.

Sociology 1000-Level

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 68-72%

Sociology 2000-Level

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 70-75%

Sociology 3000-Level

Means in the range of 73-80%

Sociology 4000-Level

Means in the range of 78-82%

Support Services:

- **Office of the Registrar Services** <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- **Faculty Academic Advising** - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters
https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html .
- **USC services** – information available regarding student health/dental plan, LTC bus pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc <http://westernusc.ca/services/> .
- **Mental health** – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](#) <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

- **Health & Wellness Services** – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html>.
- **Accessible Education** provides support and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.
- **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence** – Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.
- **Western Libraries** – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html>. Research support is also available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.
- **Writing Support Centre** – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available to undergraduate students <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>.
- **Bookstore:** Search for Textbook/course material availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/course-materials-textbooks/course-materials-and-textbooks>.