Geography 3381 / Global Studies 3381: Population in an Interacting World

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COURSE GOALS AND DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of and appreciation for human population phenomena and problems in an increasingly interdependent world. This will involve an investigation of patterns and trends in fertility, mortality and migration of human populations in different parts of the world and an examination of how these are both shaped by, and engender economic, political, cultural and environmental change. Throughout the course, particular attention is paid to: a) contemporary population problems at the global, national and local scale, including the world population explosion, high levels of fertility in parts of the less developed world, record-low fertility and population ageing in industrialized countries, the HIV-AIDS pandemic and major world health problems, increasing levels of international migration, refugee crises, massive rural to urban migrations in the less developed world; b) policies adopted to address these problems such as family planning policies to reduce fertility levels and migration policies; and c) the gender dimension of contemporary population problems and policies. In addition, this course will introduce students to some basic sources, measures, and methods of representation for the study of population, and allow them to gain basic skills and experience in data analysis, interpretation, writing research reports and oral presentations. This course fulfills the following CLE requirements: Social Science Core Requirement, Writing Intensive Requirement, and International Theme Requirement.

NOTE: This course has a WebCT Vista B site (www.myu.umn.edu and then My Courses link). Only students enrolled in the course will have access to the WebCT Vista site. The site contains the course syllabus, lecture outlines, instructions for the research paper, study guides for exams, required readings, and resource links to population related web sites. In order to use WebVista you have to set up a web browser and Java, please see the instructions at http://webct.umn.edu/browser/. Also, some of the documents posted on WebVista are in powerpoint presentations or pdf format.

In order to be able to open these, please use the free Adobe Reader and Powerpoint Viewer downloads: http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html // http://www.microsoft.com/ Also, though there is another website associated with this course, we will only use the WebCT site this semester.
REQUIRED READINGS

The majority of the required readings are available on the WebVista site under Required Readings. Make sure to print out these readings and bring them to class on the day/s that they will be discussed (see below).

There are two other “textbooks” that we will read in this course. They are (or will shortly be) available at the U of M Bookstore in Coffman Union. Alternatively, you can find them at independent and online retailers. Both will also be available on reserve in the basement of Wilson Library.


The World Population Data Sheet 2007 is available for FREE online on the website of the Population Reference Bureau: www.prb.org. Make sure to print out a copy of the World Population Data Sheet 2007 and bring it with you to class.

Peters, G. L. and Larkin, R. P., 2005, 8th edition. Population Geography - Problems, Concepts and Prospects, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, is a helpful compendium to which you should refer for additional discussion of the course topics. There is one copy on reserve in the basement of Wilson Library. There are also several older editions that are available in Wilson to check out.

It goes without saying that you are responsible for the material that is covered in this course: in readings, in lecture, in videos, etc. Should you miss a class period that includes a video, videos are (unless noted below) available for short-term (hourly) loan at the Learning Resources Center in Walter Library. If you have questions about a reading, assignment, or other course-related material, it is up to you to ask for clarification or assistance. Please, visit the instructor and/or teaching assistants in their office hours!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Course requirements include: Two semester exams; a literature review; and several response papers. The exams will be based on material covered in lectures, videos, assigned readings, and small group discussions. Study guides (including sample questions) for the exams will be posted on the WebVista site.
Grades

1. Exams 60% (2 @30%)
2. Literature review 30% (Breakdown will be provided on assignment sheet)
3. Response papers 10%

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See attached rubric to read what qualifies as an “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, or “F”.

Literature Review

There will be one major written assignment. You will write a literature review –review and analyze current scholarship and contemporary discourses- on a population problem of your interest. Detailed instructions for the literature review will be provided on February 14th. The paper is to be 8-10 pages long (not including bibliography and figures), double-spaced, 12 point font. Since this course fulfills the writing intensive requirement, you will submit a first version of the research paper on which you receive detailed comments about your argument and the quality of your writing. You are expected to revise and submit a final version. The first portion of the literature review, an annotated bibliography, is due on February 28th in class; the first draft is due on March 25th in class; and the final draft is due on April 29th in class. **NOTE:** Students who do not submit a first draft will not receive a passing grade for the assignment. **ALSO:** You are required to submit the first and the final version of your research paper to a computer program called “Turnitin” that checks for plagiarism (see note on scholastic misconduct below).

Response Papers

Several times during the semester students are asked to write brief response papers (1 single-spaced typed page) based on videos and other activities. These papers will be graded on a P/P+/P- scale and are worth 10% of the final grade.
Extra-Credit Opportunities

There are three ways to earn extra credit in this course: complete a newspaper article analysis; go to a Minnesota Population Center lecture and write up your notes; and present your literature review in class. You must follow the assignment guidelines exactly to receive credit for any or all of these extra credit opportunities. Assignment guidelines are posted under the “Extra Credit Opportunities” tab in the “Assignments” folder on the WebVista site.

Make-Up Exams

Students with legitimate excuses (e.g., documented illness) will be given a single opportunity to take a make-up exam. You must inform me at least one week before the exam date so that a make-up exam can be arranged. If you miss an exam unexpectedly due to verified illness, family emergencies, or another emergency, you must contact me and explain the circumstances surrounding your absence by 5 p.m. on the scheduled test date. In case of sickness, documentation from a physician is required. Failure to do so will result in a zero for your exam grade.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are only accepted in exceptional circumstances such as documented illness and family emergency. In all other instances you will receive a 5% reduction for every workday past the initial due date.

S/N Grading and Incomplete Grades

Those who elect to take the course on an S/N basis must obtain the equivalent of a C or better to receive an S. An "I" grade will be considered only in extreme circumstances, and only if the student has discussed with the instructor the reasons for not completing an assignment or taking an exam BEFORE the date when that exam or assignment should be completed. "I" grades will be accompanied with a student-faculty contract.

OTHER ESSENTIALS

Attendance and Classroom Atmosphere
Regular attendance and active class participation are expected. A significant number of questions on the exams will come from lectures. You are responsible for all information disseminated in class, or that are posted on the Web Vista site, and all course requirements, including deadlines and examinations. Use of laptops during class time is ONLY permitted for note-taking with
explicit permission from the instructor. Computer use is otherwise prohibited during class. Likewise, please turn off cell phones as you enter the classroom, and do not read other materials in class: if you must study or read the newspaper, do so elsewhere.

Students are expected to respect each other and the instructor and TAs, even when you disagree with points that are raised. Racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate in this class, and their expression will not be tolerated.

**Scholastic Misconduct**

Scholastic misconduct is broadly defined as "any act that violates the right of another student in academic work or that involves misrepresentation of your own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, (but is not necessarily limited to): cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another student's work." Students found cheating or committing plagiarism on any of the assignments or examination in this course will receive a score of zero for that assignment or examination. Such cases will also be referred to the appropriate University office for investigation.

**Plagiarism**

If you have any doubts whether you know what constitutes plagiarism please visit the following University website: http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html. The following is a brief quote from this website (page 1): “All of the following are considered plagiarism: • turning in someone else's work as your own; • copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit; failing to put a quotation in quotation marks; • giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation; • changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit; • copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules). Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. See our section on citation for more information on how to cite sources properly.”

**Disability Accommodation**

Every student on campus has a right to a classroom-learning environment that is accessible to him or her. If you have a learning, visual, hearing, mobility, or any other kind of disability,
Please contact the instructor Disability Services immediately to arrange reasonable accommodations. Disability Services is located in the McNamara Alumni Center.