Course Description

This course is an introduction to population issues from an economic perspective. Population issues examined include: population growth and national accounts, the demographic transition, the economic determinants of mortality and morbidity risk, fertility choice, family planning, and economic empowerment of women, age structure and the demographic dividend, the economics of migration, family structure and intrahousehold allocation of resources, the urban transition and economic geography.

Required Text and Readings


Research Articles on RamCT

Course Objectives

1. Inventory the concepts, theories, and methods of economic demography.
2. Examine key variables of the balancing equation.
3. Analyze economic and demographic data. Understand how economists and demographers use statistics to learn about economic behavior.
4. Detail the interplay of macro forces of population and economy.
5. Consider public policies relating to population dynamics.

Evaluation

The final grade in this course is determined by performance on three exams, problem sets and quantitative techniques of demographic and economic analysis, and population economic fact summaries.

Exams

Three exams are required. Exams cover assigned readings, lectures, films, and distributed materials. Exams are a combination of multiple choice questions, essay questions, and quantitative exercises. Each exam is worth 25 percent of the final grade.

Problems Sets and Quantitative Exercises

Five problem assignments are required. Assignments involve quantitative analysis of demographic and economic data. Problem sets introduce students to basic econometric techniques for evaluating relationships between population and economic variables, life tables and mortality analysis, fertility indices, migration indices and models, linear and cohort component forecasting, the balancing equation, and spatial econometrics. Each assignment is worth 3 percent of the final grade.
Population Economic Facts

You are required to find and summarize three articles that appear in the mainstream media on population economics. By mainstream media we mean reputable newspapers and magazines like the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Globe and Mail, the Economist magazine, the Boston Globe, and the Washington Post, to name a few. Studies in population economics can cover many topics of domestic or international scope, including: mortality, morbidity, fertility, migration, population structure and distribution, income inequality, family structure, labor markets, urbanization, and processes of economic change. Written summaries should be at least four full paragraphs in length, detailing (where possible) methodologies of data collection and analysis, and economic implications of the study highlighted in the mainstream press. Staple your summary to the article summarized. Acts of plagiarism will result in a score of zero. Each summary is worth 1.5 percent of the final grade.

Discussion, Participation, and Random Quizzes

In some class periods, assigned students will be responsible for leading class discussion. This involves 30-40 minute presentation of the assigned reading. Students leading class discussion are responsible for providing each class member with a handout (in Arial 10 point font). Occasionally, a quiz will be given at the beginning of the class period covering assigned readings. Discussion, participation, and random quizzes are worth 5.5 percent of final grade.

Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A+</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>90-96</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>80-86</td>
<td>87-88</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>70-76</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>less than 60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. As per university policy “Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to an academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action. Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one’s own without proper acknowledgement. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one’s own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source.”

Course Structure

Section 1: Introduction to Population Economics and a Tour of Global Population Trends


Section 2: Perspectives in Economic Demography


Section 3: Demographic and Economic Data


Section 4: Economics of Mortality and Morbidity


Section 5: Economics of Fertility


Section 6: Economics of Migration


Section 7: Economics of Age and Sex Structure


Section 8: Family, Household, and Gender Economics


Section 9: Economics of Urbanization


