

**Population Economics
Econ 380a
Spring 2012
Section ID 19962**

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Office Hours: T&R 11:00am-12:30pm
Lecture: 9:30-10:45am, T&R, Room 105 Behavioral Sciences Building

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 intra-household allocation of resources, the urban transition and economic geography.

Required Text and Readings

Weeks, John R. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (11th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc.

David E. Bloom, David Canning, Jaypee Sevilla. 2003. The Demographic Dividend: A New Perspective on the Economic Consequences of Population Change. Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation

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

A+	96-100 points	A	90-96 points
A-	89 points	B+	87-88 points
B	80-86 points	B-	79 points
C+	77-78 points	C	70-76 points
D	60-69 points	F	less than 60 points

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

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapters 1 and 2*

Partha Dasgupta. 1995. The Population Problem: Theory and Evidence. *Journal of Economic Literature*, XXXIII: 1879-1902

David E. Bloom, David Canning, Jaypee Sevilla. 2003. The Demographic Dividend A New Perspective on the Economic Consequences of Population Change. Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation, pp. 1-125

Section 2: Perspectives in Economic Demography

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 3*

Ronald Lee. 2003. The demographic transition: Three centuries of fundamental change. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17:167-190

Gordon Stavig. 1979. The Impact of Population Growth on the Economy of Countries. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 27: 735-750.

Garrett Hardin. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science*, 162: 1243-1248.

Section 3: Demographic and Economic Data

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 4*

Section 4: Economics of Mortality and Morbidity

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 5*

David Cutler, Angus Deaton and Adriana Lleras-Muney. 2006. The Determinants of Mortality. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20: 97-120

Rati Ram and Theodore W. Schultz. 1979. Life Span, Health, Savings and Productivity. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 27: 399-421.

James Smith. 1999. Healthy Bodies and Thick Wallets: The Dual Relation between Health and Economic Status. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 13: 145-166.

Section 5: Economics of Fertility

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 6*

Mikko Myrskylä, Hans-Peter Kohler and Francesco Billari. 2009. Advances in Development Reverse Fertility Declines. *Nature*, 460: 741-743.

James Feyrer, Bruce Sacerdote and Ariel Stern. 2009. Will the Stork Return to Europe and Japan? Understanding Fertility within Developed Nations. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 22: 3-22.

Section 6: Economics of Migration

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 7*

Everett Lee. 1966. A Theory of Migration. *Demography*, 3: 47-57.

Philip Graves and Peter Linneman. 1979. Household Migration: Theoretical and Empirical Results. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 6: 383-404.

Section 7: Economics of Age and Sex Structure

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 8*

Richard Easterlin, Christine Schaeffer and Diane Macunovich. 1993. Will Baby Boomers Be Less Well Off Than Their Parents? Income, Wealth, and Family Circumstances Over the Life Cycle in the United States. *Population and Development Review*, 19: 497-522.

John Bongaarts. 2004. Population Aging and the Rising Cost of Public Pensions. *Population and Development Review*, 30:1-23.

Monica Das Gupta. 2005. Explaining Asia's 'Missing Women': A New Look at the Data. *Population and Development Review*, 31: 529-535.

Section 8: Family, Household, and Gender Economics

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 10*

M.V. Lee Badgett and Nancy Folbre. 1999. Assigning Care: Gender norms and economic outcomes. *International Labour Review*, 138: 311-326.

Nancy Folbre 2008. Public spending on children in the U.S. In *Valuing Children: Rethinking the Economics of the Family*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008, pp. 139-177.

Claudia Goldin. 2006. The Quiet Revolution That Transformed Women's Employment, Education, and Family. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 1-21.

Judith Blake. 1981. Family Size and the Quality of Children. *Demography*. 18: 421-442.

Siwan Anderson. 2007. The Economics of Dowry and Brideprice. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21: 151-174.

Section 9: Economics of Urbanization

John R. Weeks. 2012. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues (10th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, Inc. *Chapter 9*

Reid H. Ewing. 2008. Characteristics, Causes, and Effects of Sprawl: A Literature Review. *Urban Ecology*, Section V: 519-535

Alberto Alesina and Roberto Perotti. 1994. The Political Economy of Growth: A Critical Survey of the Recent Literature. *The World Bank Economic Review*, 8: 351-371

Lorene Y. L. Yap. 1977. The attraction of cities: A review of the migration literature. *Journal of Development Economics*, 4: 239-264