

## Geography of World Population Issues

Geography 254  
Carnegie 107  
MWF 12:00-1:00

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### Course Description and Objectives

In 1798 Thomas Malthus first argued that population growth would exceed food production, which in turn, would lead to widespread starvation. Today we still have not conclusively answered the very controversial question of whether the world is or is not “overpopulated”. Questions of resource availability and distribution, world fertility and mortality rates and increasingly, the redistribution of populations through international migration change the ways in which we consider this question.

In this introductory population geography course we will explore global population trends and the various factors that influence the volume and distribution of populations across the globe focusing on both contemporary and historical population debates. Our objectives will be to understand the current spatial patterns of global human population distribution and how the primary components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration) differentially affect world regions. Contemporary population issues (AIDS, refugees, immigration, fertility choices and decisions) will provide the lens through which we begin to develop an understanding of the historical and, possibly, future trends and debates. We will examine these issues from both a macro and micro perspective. For example, we will consider migration flows such as those between Mexico-US, rural-urban migration in China, and transnational migration in Mongolia, seeking to better understand why individuals decide to move from one place to another and how changes in the global economy influence these decisions. Directed exercises and guest lectures will help you acquire the skills to measure and evaluate population structure and composition and independent projects will allow you to apply these skills to geographic areas of greatest interest to you, both locally and globally.

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### Textbooks

- Newbold, K. Bruce. 2007. *Six Billion Plus: Population Issues in the Twenty-First Century, Second Edition*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

\*\*\*Additional Readings will be available via Moodle or Library Reserves.

## **Course Requirements and Grading**

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be taken during each class period. Your attendance counts towards your participation grade. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to make-up any assignments or work that you missed. I do ask that you PLEASE BE ON TIME to avoid disrupting the class.

**Exams** will consist of short answer, essay, and applied problem-solving questions. There are three exams in this course, including a mid-term and a final exam. Each exam covers lectures, readings, guest lectures and any additional material that we have discussed in class. The final exam is comprehensive.

### **Classroom Policies**

The first and most important classroom policy is to BE COURTEOUS! This includes:

- If you arrive late or need to leave early, do so with a minimum of disruption.
- Please turn-off all beepers, pagers, cell phones, etc. during class.
- Be polite when others are speaking, there is enough time to discuss all perspectives.

### **Discussion and Class Participation**

Participating in class is an important component of your grade. You should attend each class period and be prepared to discuss the weekly readings. Please complete the readings before coming to class. I frequently call on students to give a brief overview of an article that we've read or respond to specific questions about a reading. By taking notes while you read the assigned articles and books you will be more prepared to participate in discussion.

### **Short Writing Assignments**

Over the course of the semester you will complete a series of short writing assignments. A brief description of each is below. You will receive more explicit instructions and details about each assignment as we progress through the semester.

1. Population Concepts Exercise: This is an exercise designed to help you understand basic statistical measures of population growth and change.
2. Population and Resource Assignment: This is a group assignment designed to highlight global population and resource issues and specific case studies. This is primarily an oral, rather than written, assignment.
3. Country Profile. The topics covered in this class often take a global perspective when defining trends and patterns of change. To add depth to our discussions and a sense of how varied and complex these generalized patterns are in reality, each of you will choose a country which you will profile over the course of the semester according to our topics. Each profile will document the circumstances of the chosen country.
  - a. There are four short, two-page essays in which you will describe overpopulation, fertility, mortality and migration issues in your chosen country.

### **Final Research Paper**

This is a longer writing assignment based on a population topic of your choice. Specific details will be discussed in class.

**Make-up and Late Assignments:**

Exams: Students are expected to take exams at the scheduled time. If extreme circumstances make it impossible to take an exam at the scheduled time, please notify me as far in advance as possible or as soon as possible after an unanticipated emergency.

Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted for partial credit only.

**Academic Integrity:**

Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable and dishonest. In this class I expect you to complete and turn in your own work and to follow established academic practices regarding proper use and citation of materials and ideas that are not your own. Engaging in cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade in this class. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please see me.

**Grading Scale – based on 760 points**

300 = Exams (3 @ 100 points each)

30 = Population Concepts Assignment

50 = Population and Resource Assignment

120 = Country Profile (4 essays at 30 points each)

200 = Final Research Paper

60 = Participation (including attendance)

|    |         |    |        |   |           |
|----|---------|----|--------|---|-----------|
| A  | 93-100% | B- | 80-82% | D | 60-69%    |
| A- | 90-92%  | C+ | 77-79% | F | Below 60% |
| B+ | 87-89%  | C  | 73-76% |   |           |
| B  | 83-86%  | C- | 70-72% |   |           |

**General Schedule: Dates are approximate – we will adjust as needed.**

**SECTION 1: THE BIG PICTURE**

| Week | Date-Day  | Topic                                  | Deadlines                      |
|------|-----------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1    | Sept 9 W  | Course overview and logistics          |                                |
|      | Sept 11 F | No Class                               |                                |
| 2    | Sept 14 M | Viewing Populations Spatially          | Country Profile (CP) selection |
|      | Sept 16 W | Review of Population Concepts          |                                |
|      | Sept 18 F | “Over” population: the classics        |                                |
| 3    | Sept 21 M | VIDEO <i>World in the Balance</i>      |                                |
|      | Sept 23 W | VIDEO <i>Demographic Winter</i>        |                                |
|      | Sept 25 F | Overpopulation, cont’d                 | CP Overpopulation Essay        |
| 4    | Sept 28 M | Population and Resources, overview     |                                |
|      | Sept 30 W | Population/Resources work day          |                                |
|      | Oct 2 F   | Population and Resources presentations |                                |
| 5    | Oct 5 M   | Population and Resources presentations | Digital Notes                  |
|      | Oct 7 W   | Catch-up and Exam 1 Review             |                                |
|      | Oct 9 F   | <b>International Roundtable 1:30-4</b> |                                |

## SECTION 2: PROCESSES OF POPULATION CHANGE

|   |          |  |                                  |
|---|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 6 | Oct 12 M | EXAM 1   |                                  |
|   | Oct 14 W | Fertility and Births: The concept of <i>lifecourse</i> |                                  |
|   | Oct 16 F | Geographies of Fertility                               | Research Topic & General Outline |
| 7 | Oct 19 M | GUEST LECTURE:<br>Contraception and Family Planning    |                                  |
|   | Oct 21 W | Fertility and Population Growth in China               | CP Fertility Essay               |
|   | Oct 23 F | TBA  |                                  |
| 8 | Oct 26 M | VIDEO: <i>China's Lost Girls</i>                       |                                  |
|   | Oct 28 W | Death and Dying – Geographies of Mortality             |                                  |
|   | Oct 30 F | <b>FALL BREAK</b>                                      |                                  |
| 9 | Nov 2 M  | AIDS   |                                  |
|   | Nov 4 W  | VIDEO:<br><i>Death of a Nation: Russia</i>             |                                  |
|   | Nov 6 F  | Discussion   |                                  |

## SECTION 3: MIGRATION AND POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION

|    |          |  |                          |
|----|----------|--|--------------------------|
| 10 | Nov 9 M  | EXAM 2   |                          |
|    | Nov 11 W | Global Migration and Migration Decision-Making       | CP Mortality Essay       |
|    | Nov 13 F | Transnational migration: Kazakh diaspora in Mongolia |                          |
| 11 | Nov 16 M | Internal migration in China                          |                          |
|    | Nov 18 W | VIDEO: <i>Can Ting Zhang's Diner</i>                 |                          |
|    | Nov 20 F | Work day – Final paper                               |                          |
| 12 | Nov 23 M | IDPs and Refugees                                    | Optional draft paper     |
|    | Nov 25 W | TBA  |                          |
|    | Nov 27 F | <b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>                            |                          |
| 13 | Nov 30 M | GUEST LECTURE:<br>Refugees                           |                          |
|    | Dec 2 W  | Migration to and within the US                       | CP Migration Essay       |
|    | Dec 4 F  | US Immigration                                       |                          |
| 14 | Dec 7 M  | Hispanic Settlement Patterns in the US               |                          |
|    | Dec 9 W  | TBA  |                          |
|    | Dec 11 F | Catch-up and Review for Final                        | Final Paper Due in class |
| 15 | Dec 14 M | FINAL EXAM   |                          |

## **READINGS**

### **SECTION 1: THE BIG PICTURE**

#### September 14 (Viewing Populations Spatially)

Newbold. Introduction, pgs 1-16.

Newbold, Conclusion: 5 Demographic Forces That Will Shape the World, pgs 215-224

#### September 16 (Review of Population Concepts)

Use this reading as reference material ~

McFalls, Joseph A. 2007. *Population: A Lively Introduction, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Population Reference Bureau.

#### September 18 (“Over” population: The Classics)

Thomas Malthus, 1987 (1798 original). “Essay on the Principle of Population.” In: *Menard, SW and EW Moen. Perspectives on Population*.

Simon, Julian. 1981. “World Population: An Anti-Doomsday View.” In: *Menard, SW and EW Moen. Perspectives on Population*.

#### September 25 (Overpopulation cont’d)

Mitchell, Jennifer. 1998. “Before the Next Doubling,” *World Watch*. January/February. P.20-27.

Eberstadt, Nicholas. 2001. The Population Implosion. *Foreign Policy*. 123: 42-53.

#### September 28 (Population and Resources)

Newbold, Ch 6: Population, Economic Growth, Resources and the Environment, pgs. 165-192.

Brown, Lester. 2006. *Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble*. Norton: Earth Policy Institute. Chapter 1: Entering a New World. Pgs. 3-20.

### **SECTION 2: PROCESSES OF POPULATION CHANGE**

#### **Fertility**

#### October 14 (Fertility and Births: The Concept of *Lifecourse*)

TBA

#### October 16 (Fertility Decisions)

Newbold, Ch 1: Fertility and State Policy

Caldwell, John C. 2001. The globalization of fertility behavior. *Population and development review* 27:93-115.

Dixon-Mueller, Ruth. 1993. Women's rights and reproductive choice: rethinking the connections. In *Population Policy and Women's Rights: Transforming Reproductive Choice*. Praeger: Westport, CT.

October 21: (Fertility and Population Growth in China)

Attane, Isabell. 2002. China's family planning policy: An overview of its past and future. *Studies in Family Planning* 33(1): 103–113.

**Death and Dying**

October 28 (Death and Dying: Geographies of Mortality)

Newbold, Ch 2: The (Un?)Certainty of Death and Disease

Shiffman, Jeremy. 2000. Can poor countries surmount high maternal mortality? *Studies in Family Planning* 31(4) pp274-289.

November 2 (AIDS)

Newbold, Ch.3: The Impact of HIV and AIDS

Park, Alice. 2003. China's Secret Plague. *Time Magazine*. 15 Dec, pgs 54-58.

Caldwell, John C. 2000. Rethinking the African AIDS Epidemic. *Population and Development Review* 26(1):117-135.

November 6 (Aging)

Weeks, John. 2005. Who will pay for the baby boomers to retire in the richer countries? *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, pgs 288-391.

**SECTION 3: MIGRATION AND POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION**

November 11 (Global Migration and Migration Decision-Making)

DeParle, Jason. 2007. Border Crossings: A Global Trek to Poor Nations from Poorer Ones. *New York Times*, 27 Dec 2007.

DeParle, Jason. 2007. Border Crossings: In a World on the Move, a Tiny Land Strains to Cope. *New York Times*, 24 June 2007.

DeParle, Jason, 2007. Border Crossings: Rising Breed of Migrant: Skilled and Welcome. *New York Times*, 20 August 2007.

Boyd, Monica. 2003. Women and Migration: Incorporating Gender into International Migration Theory. Migration Policy Institute.

November 13 (Transnational Migration – Mongolian Kazakhs)

Barcus, Holly R. and Cynthia Werner. 2007. Transnational Identities: Mongolian Kazakhs in the 21st Century. *Geographische Rundschau: International Edition* 3:4-10.

Barcus, H.R. and Werner C.A. 2009. The Kazakhs of Western Mongolia: Transnational Migration from 1990-2008. *Asian Ethnicity*. Forthcoming.

November 16 (Internal Migration in China)

Fan, Cindy. 2005. Interprovincial Migration, Population Redistribution, and Regional Development in China 1990 and 2000 Census Comparisons. *Professional Geographer* 57(2):295-311.

November 23 (Refugees and IDPs)

Newbold, Ch 5: Refugees, Asylees, and Internally Displaced Persons: The Growing Crisis

Castles, Stephen. 2004. Confronting the Realities of Forced Migration. Migration Policy Institute.

November 30 (Refugee Research)

TBA

December 2 (Migration in the US)

TBA

December 4 (US Immigration)

Newbold, Ch 4: Immigration: Closing or Opening the Door?

Martin, Philip and Elizabeth Midgley. 2006. Immigration: Shaping and Reshaping America. Population Reference Bureau.

December 7 (Hispanic Settlement Patterns in the US)

TBA