

Population 7 Billion: World Population Issues and Trends

GEOG 254 / ENVI 254

Carnegie 06A

MWF 1:10-2:10

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or by appointment

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 (global health, refugees, immigration, fertility choices and migration 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.

Textbooks

- Newbold, K. Bruce. 2014. Population Geography: Tools and Issues, 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 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, Environment, 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 or visit

<http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/>.

A Note about Disabilities:

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Students are encouraged to address any learning needs or accommodations with me as soon as possible. Additional information regarding the accommodations process for students with disabilities can be found at: www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/ or calling 651-696-6974 to schedule an appointment to discuss your individual needs. It is important to meet as early in the semester as possible; this will ensure that your accommodations can be implemented early on.

Macalester Recording Policy:

The Macalester College Classroom Recording (MCCR) policy sets forth community expectations regarding the recording (whether audio, video, or streaming) of class lectures, discussions, office hours, and other course-related activity. As an academic community, we value the free exchange of ideas and the privacy of community members. We are also committed to providing appropriate accommodations to students who require recorded lectures as an academic adjustment for documented disabilities. The MCCR policy balances the legitimate uses of classroom recording, the intellectual property of the faculty, and the privacy of individual students and faculty. The entire policy can be found here, <https://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/>.

In short, the policy requires students to submit a completed Student Recording Agreement to the appropriate office (Disability Services for students with approved accommodations; Academic Programs and Advising for all others) prior to engaging in any type of recording. The faculty member who signed the Recording Agreement (or is notified by Disability Services that recording will occur as an accommodation) is responsible for notifying the class that recording will be occurring. The required Student Agreement Recording form is available here, <https://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicadvising/forms/>.

Grading Scale – based on 755 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

25 points for outline and working bibliography

50 points for rough draft

25 points for presentation

100 points for final paper

55 = Participation (including attendance)

[24 points are allocated to attending the final presentations, including exam day]

A = 94+

A- = 90.0 – 93.9%

B+ = 87.0% - 89.9%;

B = 83.0 – 86.9%;

B- = 80.0 - 82.9%

C+ = 77.0% - 79.9%;

C = 73.0 – 76.9%;

C- = 70.0 – 72.9%

D+ = 67.0% - 69.9%;

D = 63.0 – 66.9%;

D- = 60.0 – 62.9%

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

SECTION 1: THE BIG PICTURE

Week	Date-Day	Topic	Deadlines
1	Jan 25 F	Introductions! Course overview and logistics	
2	Jan 28 M	Population Geography - Framing Our Inquiry	
	Jan 30 W	Population Concepts: Measuring Population	Country Profile (CP) selection
	Feb 1 F	Population Concepts, cont'd	
3	Feb 4 M	Demographic Transition **Overview of Resources Exercise	
	Feb 6 W	“Over” population: the classics	
	Feb 8 F	Overpopulation discussion	CP Overpopulation Essay
4	Feb 11 M	Population & Resources: Media	
	Feb 13 W	Population & Resources: Discussion	
	Feb 15 F	Population/Resources work day (in-class group work)	Population Concepts Exercise due
5	Feb 18 M	GUEST LECTURE: Sustainable Agriculture ~ Regeneration Farms	
	Feb 20 W	Population and Resources presentations	
	Feb 22 F	Population and Resources presentations	Digital notes from presentations

SECTION 2: PROCESSES OF POPULATION CHANGE

6	Feb 25 M	Exam 1 Review & catch-up	
	Feb 27 W	EXAM 1	
	Mar 1 F	Fertility and Births: The concept of <i>lifecourse</i>	Research Topic due
7	Mar 4 M	Fertility, Family Planning & Children	
	Mar 6 W	Fertility and Population Growth in China	CP Fertility Essay
	Mar 8 F	China’s Lost Girls: Media	
8	Mar 11 M	GUEST LECTURE: Eric Carter, Geographies of Health and Mortality	
	Mar 13 W	Geographies of Mortality,	Outline & Working

		cont'd	Bibliography
	Mar 15 F	Discussion & Writing Assistance	
9	SPRING BREAK!! MAR 16-24		

SECTION 3: MIGRATION AND POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION

10	Mar 25 M	Catch-up and Review	
	Mar 27 W	EXAM 2	
	Mar 29 F	Global Migration and Migration Decision-Making	
11 **AAG Washington, D.C. April 3 & 5	Apr 1 M	Transnational migration: Kazakh diaspora in Mongolia	CP Mortality Essay
	Apr 3 W	Migration & Immigration (Emma & Sam)	
	Apr 5 F	Migration & Immigration (Emma & Sam)	
12	Apr 8 M	IDPs and Refugees	CP Migration Essay
	Apr 10 W	Internal Migration	
	Apr 12 F	Internal Migration in the United States – Lifestyle migration	
13	Apr 15 M	<i>GEOGRAPHY HONORS DAY WITH PRESENTATIONS</i> No class. Please attend the Honors Day Presentations!	
	Apr 17 W	Latino Settlement Patterns in the U.S.	
	Apr 19 F	Peer Review	Draft research paper due Tuesday at Midnight
14	Apr 22 M	EXAM 3	
	Apr 24 W	Writing Workshop	
	Apr 26 F	In-class work day for final presentations	
<i>MUGS – MIDWEST UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY SYMPOSIUM APRIL 26-27 (Friday / Saturday) @ UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON</i>			
15	Apr 29 M	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	
	May 1 W	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	

	May 3 F	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	Final Paper Due in class and on Moodle
	May 6 M	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	
FINAL EXAM PERIOD	May 11 (SATURDAY) 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	FINAL EXAM PERIOD