International Population Dynamics (SYD 5046)

Professor Carlson / Wednesday 8:30-11:00 AM / Bellamy 519
Instructor Office Hours M-T-W-Th-F 8:00 to 8:30 AM in Bellamy 609
Email to ecarlson(at)fsu.edu (email strongly preferred to telephone)
(Photo of Rwandan refugees in Democratic Republic of the Congo copyright IOM 1994)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Organization and Format: The class meets each Wednesday for 150 minutes in the Sociology Department conference room. This course has no hard-copy textbook or other paper readings. All required readings and assignments for the course appear below; all of them can be obtained through JSTOR or other links available to students through the library and other FSU sites. Each week (except the first meeting) course participants will discuss five readings related to the topic for the week, ranging from early classic writings on a subject to more recent, specialized studies. As noted below in relation to course grades, students will explore additional readings independently and will report on them during the class meeting, as part of the discussion of the assigned core readings.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, the student will be able to: 1) identify and integrate current research on international population dynamics by consulting the range of journals used for required readings; 2) critically evaluate research findings in current published research; 3) express such evaluations both in written form and in professional discussions; 4) compose essay questions tapping major issues in published research, for use in leading courses and other professional discussions; 5) formulate an original research question building on findings in current published research; 6) secure original empirical data suitable for addressing such a research question; 7) conduct original research to resolve such a research question; and 8) present results of original empirical research, both in written form and in professional discussions (such as a dissertation, articles for professional journals, and/or research papers for conferences).

Attendance: Students who enroll in the course are expected to be present for every class meeting. Since the course meets only once per week, students who miss more than two class meetings do not have the requisite contact hours for course credit and cannot pass the course. (If you know you will miss more than two classes, do not sign up for this course!)

Components of Course Grade:

- ONE-FOURTH of the course grade will be based on composition of essay questions about course readings. Beginning with week two of the semester, each course reading will be assigned to a student who will develop discussion questions in consultation with the instructor and submit the questions through Blackboard by Monday prior to each
assigned class. The student will lead discussion of that article in class, using the study questions as a framework. Each turn as a discussion leader for a reading will be evaluated by the instructor and awarded up to a maximum of 9 possible points per article for:
  - consultation with the instructor about study questions, outside readings, and course project. (2 pts)
  - discussion questions that focus on the key points of the article and its relation to the topic of the week. (3 pts)
  - introduction of additional information and ideas from supplementary independent reading. (3 pts)
  - creative leadership in stimulating participation by other students in discussion of article and study questions. (1 pt)

• ONE-HALF of the course grade will be based on written responses to a selection of the essay questions composed for each week's class meeting. The instructor will select three questions from students' submissions each week, and will make available an Assignment in Blackboard to respond to the three questions. All students will submit their essay responses through Blackboard before the next class meeting. *(This means each week students will be writing essays in response to questions from the previous class meeting, and also preparing essay questions on one reading for the next class meeting.)* Each response will be awarded up to three points, for a total of nine points each week for the Blackboard essay responses.

• ONE-FOURTH of the course grade will be based on a special project report developed by each student in consultation with the instructor. (Each student must meet with the instructor at least once every two weeks during the semester to consult on development of the project; these meetings may be combined with consultations about study questions for assigned articles.) Project reports may focus on a very wide range of topics, but all must address a central research question relating to population dynamics or population policy, and must include background research/citations of existing knowledge as a foundation for the project.

**Special Needs:** Students with disabilities needing academic accomodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disabilities Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor during the first week of class, indicating the need for and type of accomodation requested. The student is responsible for informing the instructor of any such needs, and accomodation is not retroactive to weeks prior to such notification.

**Honor Code:** Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of the Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Violations of these principles, including giving, taking or stealing answers to in-class essays or other test questions, falsification of PRS responses, clandestine use of notes or texts during test questions, and other cheating in our classroom may lead to a failing grade on an assignment, to a failing grade in the entire course, or in egregious cases to formal disciplinary action by the university, up to and possibly including expulsion from the university.
Part One - PREHISTORIC AND HISTORICAL POPULATION GROWTH

Week 1: **Long-Term Global Trends**


Week 2: **Mortality Decline and Rapid Population Growth**


Week 3: **Fertility Decline and Demographic Transition**


Week 4: **Timing and Societal Context of Transitions**


**Week 5: Population Contraction**


**Part Two - DYNAMICS OF POPULATION PROCESSES**

**Week 6: Age Structure and Population Growth**


**Week 7: Transition and Internal Population Movements**


Week 8: Transition and International Population Movements


Week 9: Growth and Demographic Balance of Ethnic Groups


Part Three - POLICY RESPONSES TO POPULATION DYNAMICS

Week 10: Efforts at Family Planning and Population Control


**Week 11: Intergenerational Transfers with Uneven Cohort Flow**


**Week 12: Regulation of Internal Population Movements**


**Week 13: Regulation of International Population Movements**


**Week 14: Pronatalism to Counter Population Aging**

This course has NO FINAL EXAMINATION.

This page maintained by Professor Carlson.