POPULATION DYNAMICS AND SOCIAL POLICY

PPOL 8683-001 (& SOCY 6090-001) Fall 2015
1:00 pm - 3:45 pm  Monday Fretwell 480C
Phone: 704 687 7818
Class Website: Moodle2.uncc.edu

Professor Rosemary L. Hopcroft
Office: Fretwell 490 B
Office Hours: Wed 12.30 - 2.30 pm
and by appointment.
E-mail: rhlhopcro@uncc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

PPOL 8683. Population Dynamics and Public Policy. Basic population characteristics, such as age distribution, life expectancy, fertility, mortality, and changes or trends in these characteristics are relevant to nearly all public policy. This class is an introduction to basic concepts and tools of demographic analysis and how they may be applied to the study of social policy including family policy, aging policy, and minority groups’ policy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

From this class, students will learn basic concepts and tools of demographic analysis including demographic projection. They will understand the interplay between economic factors and demographic factors. They will understand applications of demographic methods and concepts to questions of social policy, particularly family policy, aging policy, and minority groups policy.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Course readings available on electronic reserve through Moodle.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:

Classes will be conducted utilizing a combination of lectures, student reports, and class discussions. Questions and class discussion are both highly encouraged. If you are unclear about a lecture, reading assignment, etc., it is expected that you will ask for clarification. You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and to actively participate in the discussions.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

There will be both a midterm and a final exam. The exams will require you to apply the material covered in class and the readings. If you cannot be present for an exam, you must notify me prior to the scheduled exam time and have a verifiable excuse.

In addition, you will be responsible for summarizing and leading discussion on an assigned article or chapter several times in the course of the semester. Students will choose their articles the second class meeting.
Finally, you also will complete a research paper on population dynamics and implications in an area of interest. Please see the instructor to discuss and clarify your specific topic. You will be expected to present your findings to the class at the end of the semester. Each presentation should be approximately 15 minutes.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<td>Presentations (including summaries)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic dishonesty (cheating) **will not be tolerated in this class**. Acts of academic dishonesty will be prosecuted to the fullest extent and will be referred to the Academic Integrity Board. Students should be familiar with the “UNC-Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity” outlined at [http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html](http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html). In this class cheating includes but is not limited to intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one’s own work (without proper acknowledgment of the source), intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty, assisting other students or acquiring help on your homework assignments.

DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability please see Disability Services in Fretwell 230 (687-4355). If you believe that your disability will affect your performance in this class, you must contact Disability Services in a “timely manner” during the first part of the term and ask that they draw up an accommodation form.

GENERAL COURSE POLICY:

*My most general policy is this: if you have a problem with completing the course requirements, see me about it AHEAD of time (before the exam, etc). Call, e-mail, or leave a message.* All makeups must be completed within one week of the originally scheduled exam date or assignment due date -- it is your responsibility to contact me to arrange for the makeup. Missed makeup exams/assignments will be recorded as a zero.
READING AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: All readings available on reserve in the Atkins library.

Week One: Introduction to Class; human demographic history
8/24


Week Two: Population and Economy
8/31


Week Three: No class Labor Day
9/07

Week 4: Population and Human Choice
9/14


Read if necessary:


Week Five:  Basic Demographic Concepts and Techniques
9/21
New Delhi, India: Sage. Chs. 3.5, 4, 5, 6.3, 6.4,

Week Six:  Public Policy Uses of Demographic Techniques
9/28
New Delhi, India: Sage. Chs. 8, 11, 12.

Week Seven:  Mortality and Social Policy
10/5

Millennium.” Lancet 367: 1747-57

*Midterm Exam

Week Eight:  Fall Break UNCC No readings
10/12

Week Nine:  Mortality and Social Policy continued
10/19
Syracuse University, Maxwell Center for Policy Research, Policy Brief no. 7.


Week Ten:  Fertility and Social Policy
10/26
Readings:  Caldwell, John C., Barkat E-Khuda, Bruce Caldwell, Indrani Pieris, and
Pat Caldwell. 1999. “The Bangladesh Fertility Decline.” Population and

**Week Eleven: Fertility and Social Policy continued**

11/2

**Readings:**

**Week Twelve: Population and Family Policy**

11/9

**Readings:**
Week Thirteen  
11/16  
**Population and Aging Policy**

Readings:  


Week Fourteen:  
11/23  
**Population and Minority Group Policy**

Readings:  


Week Fifteen:  
11/30  
**Population and Minority Group Policy continued**

Readings:  


Additional Readings:


**Week Sixteen**
12/7
Review

*Student paper presentations*

**Final Exam:** MON.................DEC 14 ............11:00 - 1:30 pm

* Outline subject to change at Instructor’s discretion with due notice to students