SOCI 4750: WORLD POPULATION TRENDS AND PROBLEMS, FALL 2022

BASIC INFORMATION
Instructor: Ronald Kwon
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Office: 288D Sycamore
Office hours: Thursday 11:00am-1:30pm or by appointment
Meeting Classroom: LIFE A419
Meeting Time: 2:00 pm-3:20 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
The general objective of the course is to provide students with an understanding of basic demographic concepts and measures and the social and economic dimensions of population change. This course will enable students to learn and understand the various demographic measures of the different aspects of human population such as fertility, migration, mortality, etc. Specifically, at the end of the course, students will be able to (1) understand demographic concepts, calculate and interpret the basic measures related to mortality, fertility, migration, and residential segregation that is often encountered in demographic literature, (2) ability interpret charts and tables related to population characteristics, (3) describe the main demographic events and the processes that shape human population in general, and (4) explain current U.S. and the world population patterns and trends.

We will briefly examine the importance of demography and how it relates to other sciences. Then we will discuss population trends and their influences. We will also examine the demographic variables (fertility, mortality, and migration), and look at each of the variables and how it impacts society. We will further examine the changing family structures and its impact on society as well as aging related issues. We will conclude with debates over population and sustainability. These goals will be achieved through reading assignments and video assignments that are intended to illustrate various aspects of particular issues under consideration.

(1) understand the importance of demography

(2) see the interrelationships between demography and other sciences

(3) know the demographic variables and their impact on human population

(4) explain demographic events

(5) calculate and interpret basic measures in demography literature

(6) construct and interpret charts and tables related to population characteristics

(7) explain current US and world population patterns and trends.
It is important for students to stay up with assignments and complete them on time. You CANNOT procrastinate. To do well in this class, students should ask questions whenever they have one, and complete assignments ON TIME (quizzes, video evaluations, and exams). Please PROOF-READ your work before submitting it as your grades will be partially based on the clarity of your writing. Your grades in this course will be based on video assignments, quizzes, and exams. I will calculate grades at the end of the course. If you have a pressing desire to know what your grade is after each assignment, you can easily calculate your grades by weighting the posted grades. For example:

if quizzes are worth 20% and you have an average grade of 100% on quizzes, you will get 20 points.
if the midterm is worth 30% and you received a 90%, you will get 27 points.
if the video assignments are worth 20% and you received a 90%, you will get 18 points.

Combined this puts you at 65 points out of a possible 70 points or a 92.85% going into the final.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Other required readings will be made available on Canvas. They are available under the “Readings” folder that is located under files. The readings are designed to preview, overlap, as well as reinforce lectures. The amount of reading is manageable and necessary to perform well in the class.

COURSE GRADING BASIS
In class participation, pop quizzes, and/or attendance (20%)
Students are expected to finish the readings before the start of class. I expect students to attend lectures, participate in in-class assignments, and use topics from reading materials to engage in in class discussions. These are given to students on random lectures and there are no makeups.

Video evaluations (20%)
Four short videos will be shown in class. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on particular issues that are being covered. You are required to submit a one-page typed-written (font size =12) double-spaced reaction paper of the video. The minimum requirement is 300 words and bear in mind, this minimum is if you are efficient and adequately address all the prompts. You will not be penalized for going over this word count, but nor do longer papers mean you actually addressed the point. The paper will be submitted via canvas by that closing Friday @ midnight. The upload will open on Tuesday after class at 4:00pm. You will submit your responses online as a doc, docx, or pdf file.

Midterm Examination (30%):
The midterm will cover topics covered in lecture, the assigned readings, and class-assigned videos and audio. The test will be composed of 35 multiple-choice questions. A study guide will be provided to facilitate student preparation for the exam. Missing and rescheduling the exams will require extreme circumstances and must be discussed with me before the exam date.

Final Exam (30%)
The final exam will consist of 35 multiple-choice questions in a format that resembles the midterm and quizzes. Topics for the exam will predominantly focus on the latter part of the course. Students will be provided a study guide priorly to prepare for the exam.

The grading breakdown is as follows below:

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<th>Grade Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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I will do my best to be straightforward and fair. Please feel free to approach me if you encounter any difficulties. **However, final grades are final and are NOT OPEN FOR DEBATE. Please do not ask for make up assignments, extra credit, or a grade bump up once final grades are posted. Missing assignments should be taken care of before they are due.**

**CLASSROOM GUIDELINES**

**Attendance:** I cannot overemphasize the importance of regular class attendance. A substantial amount of exam questions is based on lecture materials, which may not be covered in the readings. This is still fair game for the exam. Moreover, class is (by far) the optimal time to ask questions to clarify. Please arrive to class on time. It is incredibly disruptive for other students and the instructor.

**COVID related class procedures:** Individuals who test positive for COVID should follow current CDC guidelines for quarantine/isolation and follow the treatment advice of their primary care physician. I will make alternative arrangements for you on assignments. Please visit [https://healthalerts.unt.edu/](https://healthalerts.unt.edu/) for a full description of UNT’s policy.

**Electronic use:** Please keep electronic use during the class period confined to class materials. It is distracting for me as well as other students when it is not. I will ask students to leave the classroom if I see that they are using their electronic classes for non-class reasons. All students are expected to take their own notes and students are not permitted to record lectures in any format.

Please turn off all cell phones or put them on silent. In the event of a distraction, I have the authority to change a student’s seat or request a student to exit the classroom. One-day suspensions will be reported to appropriate departmental and collegiate personnel.

**Make up exams and/or incompletes:** I generally do not give make-up exams or give incomplete grades, except under the most extreme emergencies. If you encounter an emergency, you should contact me **before** the test is administered.

**Classroom decorum:** A great deal of this course involves class discussion. Please respect the “rules of good discussion”. In particular, please consider the following: a) be good listeners to your fellow students (a democratic and open classroom necessitates a respectful environment); b) try to focus your discussion on course material; c) discussion is usually more stimulating when many people are involved, thus I ask for your help in trying to get everyone to contribute.

Respect the UNT guidelines for academic integrity: [https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)
I appreciate the majority of students are honest. To the few students who do not hold such ideals, I want to stress that cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Students are
encouraged to work together and discuss problem sets. However, I expect each student to complete their own work. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the assignment in question. A second offense will result in a failure of the course.

**Accommodations:** Students with disabilities that may affect their ability to participate fully in the class or to complete all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to my attention promptly so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Students must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. For additional information, please visit the ODA website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda).

**Lectures and other classroom documents:** Many of the classes key materials can be found under files. Lectures will be posted after class. They will be organized by week headings and contain under FILES>LECTURES. The syllabus will also be contained under FILES>SYLLABUS. The rubric for the video responses will be under FILES>VIDEO RESPONSES, but will be posted after the class. Materials for exam reviews will be under FILES>EXAM MATERIALS.

**CALENDAR:**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION**

**WEEK 2: DEMOGRAPHY & GLOBAL POPULATION TRENDS**

**WEEK 3: DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES**

**WEEK 4: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

**WEEK 5: HEALTH AND MORTALITY TRANSITION**

**WEEK 6: MIDTERM AND REVIEW**

**WEEK 7: THE FERTILITY TRANSITION**

**WEEK 8: THE MIGRATION TRANSITION**

**WEEK 9: AGE STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS**

**WEEK 10: THE URBAN TRANSITION**

**WEEK 11: THE FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD TRANSITION**

**WEEK 12: POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**WEEK 13: THANKSGIVING (No classes)**

**WEEK 14: WHAT LIES BEYOND**

**WEEK 15: FINALS**

*These are tentative dates and I reserve the right to alter assignment given sufficient notice.*