

Professor Saperstein

Office hours: Tues. 10 a.m. to Noon and by appt.

718 PLC

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Mondays and Wednesdays

10 - 11:20 a.m.

207 Chapman

Sociology 303

This course is a survey of the field of population studies. It introduces you to how global population patterns have changed over time, as well as to differences across major regions. Population studies, or demography, is an interdisciplinary field that combines an interest in calculating and quantifying population processes with a desire to understand the social, political, economic and environmental causes and consequences of demographic patterns.

By the end of this course, you will be able to describe the basic outlines of population dynamics around the world and explain how they are connected to a host of social issues from immigration policy to environmental sustainability. You also will be able to recognize and locate basic measures of mortality, fertility, age structure and migration, and use them to understand the past, present and future demography of a country of your choice. (Note: This course satisfies the International Cultures Multicultural Requirement.)

Outline of the course

The course is organized into three sections, each of which builds on the knowledge and skills covered previously:

Population Dynamics	Week 1	Introduction to the field
	Week 2	Population trends and demographic data
	Week 3	Theories of population dynamics
Measurement	Week 4	Health and mortality
	Week 5	Fertility and age structure
	Week 6	Migration and sex composition
Social Consequences	Week 8	Immigration policy and changing families
	Week 9	Urbanization and the environment

Grading policy

Everyone in this course can get an A if each of you participates regularly in class and turns in work that meets the standards of excellence required for each assignment. **You will have the opportunity to earn 1,000 points over the course of the quarter.** Your final grade will be calculated based on the percentage of points you accumulate. (Please see the grade scale on the following page.) You can track your progress in the course on Blackboard.

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Assignments and Assessment

The primary assignment for this course will be an 8-10 page individual research report on the population dynamics of a country of your choice. We will work on the report throughout the quarter and you will turn in three of the key sections for feedback before revising and assembling the final report, which is due at the end of the term. The country report will be discussed in more detail on Day 2 of class. (See page 5 for a detailed course calendar.)

You also will be given a short exam after each section of the course. The three exams will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. They will take place in class on October 14, November 9 and December 2. The lowest of the three exam grades will be dropped. As a result, no make-up exams will be allowed.

The final portion of your grade will be determined by your preparation for and participation in class. This does not necessarily mean talking a lot during class meetings – though active participation in lecture is encouraged and can help boost a borderline final grade. Expectations include completing weekly reading responses in time for Monday's class during weeks 2 - 9. At the beginning of Week 5, you will be asked to complete a mid-term course evaluation anonymously through Blackboard. In-class activities also may occur unannounced throughout the quarter. These assignments are required but will not be graded.

Grading weights	Quizzes	35%
	Country Report	50%
	Preparation and participation	15%

Points breakdown	Quizzes	350 points total, 175 points each
	Country Report	500 points total, 250 for final paper
	Preparation	60 points total, 10 per reading response
	<u>Participation</u>	<u>90 points total</u> , covers all in-class activities
	Total	1000 points

Letter grades	A+	97-100%	A	94-97%	A-	90-94%
	B+	87-90%	B	84-87%	B-	80-84%
	C+	77-80%	C	74-77%	C-	70-74%
	D+	67-70%	D	64-67%	D-	60-64%

Required Materials

Available only at the Duck Store :

- Weeks, John. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*. Custom Edition. (\$79.25)
- World Population and Social Structure Coursepack (\$14.96)
- iClicker (\$33.75 new, \$25.50 used)

Other in-class materials, such as videos and lecture slides, are also considered required.

What is an iClicker?

iClicker is a response system that enables you to respond to questions I pose during class. You will receive points based on your participation (though not necessarily on whether you get the correct answer). In order to receive this credit, you will need to register your iClicker remote on Blackboard (See first item under “Assignments”) by **October 7**. If you already own an iClicker from another class, you may use it in this class but you will need to re-register it.

Reading responses

The purpose of reading responses is two-fold: they help to keep you on track with the readings so you are prepared to ask questions and participate in discussions during class; they also help me use class time wisely, spending more time on material that you found most challenging or interesting. Reading responses are submitted through Blackboard, will consist of three short-answer questions and are due by 10 a.m. on Sundays. Late responses received before the start of class are eligible for half credit. You are required to complete 6 of the 7 responses. No make-ups are allowed.

Additional grading issues

Late work. All assignments are due IN CLASS unless otherwise specified. A paper will be considered late if it is received after the class period has ended. Emailing a paper is acceptable only to establish whether or not the assignment is on time; it is not a substitute for turning in a hard copy (either bring it to the next class, or put it in my mailbox). Late assignments will be docked two full letter grades for each day they are late. After two days, assignments can be turned in for feedback only.

Grading queries. Please do not ask grade-related questions in person. If requesting a regrade on an assignment or exam, explain your concern in an email including a justification for your position. Be aware that your grade can go down as well as up; the entire assignment will be re-examined, and we make mistakes in both directions. Also, after getting an assignment or exam back, please wait 24 hours before contacting us to give you time to fully digest our

comments and go over your notes and any relevant class readings. However, if you believe a grade was incorrectly entered on Blackboard, please let me know as soon as possible.

Incompletes. Except in the most extraordinary circumstances, no incompletes will be given.

Goals and expectations

What you can expect of me. In general, to be respectful of you and your time. Specifically, that means:

Lectures will start on time and end on time. Class materials will be on point and up to date.

My cell phone will be turned off during class, and I will not take calls during office hours.

Assignments will be graded within a week of the due date so you receive prompt feedback.

I will learn the names of everyone who participates in class.

I will check my email at least once a day and reply to queries within 24 hours, Sun-Thurs.

I am always open to feedback and constructive criticism about the course.

If class must be cancelled, an email will be sent to the class list as soon as possible.

What I expect of you. In general, be respectful of me, the GTFs and your fellow students:

Be on time. If you arrive late, please enter through the rear doors to minimize disruptions.

Turn off cell phones and iPods. Laptops should be used for note-taking only, and laptop users must sit in the back of the class or next to the GTFs (with the screen angled down).

Eat/drink quietly. Unwrap items before class. Do not bring fragrant foods (e.g., hamburgers).

Keep outside conversations outside the classroom. If you have a question, ask me.

Raise your hand to request to speak. Refer to fellow students by name whenever possible.

Pay attention to how often you speak. Please allow space for other students to participate.

If you are struggling in the course, for any reason, let me or the GTFs know so we can help.

Requesting Accommodation

If you expect to encounter barriers to access or participation in the assignments or activities required for this class, please contact me as soon as possible and have your letter from Disability Services available. If you do not have a letter, or need other assistance in requesting accommodation, see: http://ds.uoregon.edu/DS_Pages/DS_SupportServices.html

Course calendar

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
M: Sep. 28	NO CLASS	--	Buy the materials!
W: Sep. 30	Introduction	Carr and Joyce (coursepack)	Clicker use, country pick
M: Oct. 5	Global, historical trends	Weeks, Ch. 1	Reading response #1
W: Oct. 7	The Census	“Census sensitivity”+ Ch. 3	Sources of data
M: Oct. 12	Demographic Transition	Lee + Ch. 2	Reading response #2
W: Oct. 14	End of Section 1	--	Quiz 1
M: Oct. 19	Mortality	Ch. 4 + Harding	Reading response #3
W: Oct. 21	Epidemiologic transition	Omran	Midterm evaluation
M: Oct. 26	Fertility	Ch. 5 + Jayson + Aldeman	Reading response #4
W: Oct. 28	Age Structure	Ch. 7 + Lee & Haaga	Mortality Report
M: Nov. 2	Migration	Ch. 6	Reading response #5
W: Nov. 4	Sex Composition	Rosenberg+ Kristof +Jacobs	Fertility Report
M: Nov. 9	End of Section 2	--	Quiz 2
W: Nov. 11	NO CLASS	--	--
M: Nov. 16	Immigration/Citizenship	Economist (2) + Semple (2)	Reading response #6
W: Nov. 18	Marriage and Families	Ch. 9 + Coontz + Swift	Age Structure Report
M: Nov. 23	Urbanization	Ch. 8 +Goldman&Longhofer	Reading response #7
W: Nov. 25	The Environment	Newbold + last 3 articles	--
M: Nov. 30	Course wrap-up	--	--
W: Dec. 2	End of Section 3	--	Quiz 3
T: Dec. 8	Final Exam Date	--	Country Report due