Population Economics  
Econ 317  
Fall 2017

Section ID 76965: 9:30-10:45am, T&R, Clark C337  
Section ID 79224: 11:00-12:15am, T&R Eddy 200

Professor: Dr. Sammy Zahran  
Office: C-312A Clark Building  
Office phone: 970.491.1877  
E-mail: szahran@colostate.edu  
Office Hours: TR 8:15-9:15am (or by appointment)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to population issues from an economic perspective. Population issues examined include: population growth and national accounts, the demographic transition, the economic determinants of mortality and morbidity, and fertility, age structure and the demographic dividend, the economics of family structure and intra-household allocation of resources, and the economic sources and consequences of migration.

Course Objectives

1. Inventory the concepts, theories, and methods of economic demography.  
2. Examine key variables of the balancing equation.  
3. Learn how economists and demographers use statistics to understand economic behavior.  
4. Analyze economic and demographic data.  
5. Consider public policies relating to population economics.

Required Text and Readings


Research Articles on Canvas

Evaluation

The final grade in this course is determined by performance on three exams (25 points each), five problem sets (3 points each), three population economic articles summaries (1.5 points each), and class discussion, participation, and random quizzes (5.5 points).

Exams

Three exams are required. Exams cover assigned readings, lectures, films, and distributed materials. Exams are a combination of multiple choice questions, essay questions, and quantitative exercises. Each exam is worth 25 percent of the final grade. Exams dates will be announced two weeks in advance.

Problems Sets and Quantitative Exercises

Five problem assignments are required. Assignments involve quantitative analysis of demographic and economic data. Problem sets introduce students to basic techniques for evaluating relationships between population and economic variables, life tables and mortality analysis, fertility indices, migration indices and
models, linear and cohort component forecasting, the balancing equation, and spatial econometrics. Each assignment is worth 3 percent of the final grade.

**Population Economic Articles**

You are required to find and summarize three articles that appear in the mainstream media on population economics. By mainstream media we mean reputable newspapers and magazines like the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Globe and Mail, the Economist magazine, the Boston Globe, and the Washington Post, to name a few. Studies in population economics can cover many topics, including: mortality, morbidity, fertility, migration, population structure and distribution, income inequality, family structure, labor markets, urbanization, and processes of economic change. Written summaries should be at least four full paragraphs in length, detailing (where possible) methodologies of data collection and analysis, and economic implications of the study highlighted in the mainstream press. Staple your summary to the article summarized. Acts of plagiarism will result in a score of zero. Each summary is worth 1.5 percent of the final grade.

**Discussion, Participation, and Random Quizzes**

In some class periods, assigned students will be responsible for leading class discussion. This involves 30-40 minute presentation of the assigned reading. Students leading class discussion are responsible for providing a pdf summary of their presentation. Occasionally, a quiz will be given at the beginning of the class period covering assigned readings. Discussion, participation, and random quizzes are worth 5.5 percent of final grade.

**Grade Scale**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96-100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-96 points</td>
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**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

If you require special accommodation to complete course requirements, please provide documentation and verification from the office of Resources for Disabled Students (see [http://rds.colostate.edu](http://rds.colostate.edu)).

**Expect Effort Distribution (Weekly)**

Attend class (3 hours), reading assignments (2 hours), and problem sets/test preparation/article summaries (4 hours).

**Title IX Statement**

CSU’s Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, and Retaliation policy designates faculty and employees of the University as “Responsible Employees.” This designation is consistent with federal law and guidance, and requires faculty to report information regarding students who may have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation. This includes information shared with faculty in person, electronic communications or in class assignments. As “Responsible Employees,” faculty may refer students to campus resources (see below), together with informing the Office of Support and Safety Assessment to help ensure student safety and welfare. Information regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking and retaliation is treated with the greatest degree of confidentiality.
possible while also ensuring student and campus safety. Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

- Emergency Response 911
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment (970) 491-1350
- Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency) (970) 491-6425

For counseling support and assistance, please see the CSU Health Network, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: http://www.health.colostate.edu/. And, the Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support.

Academic Integrity

This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. As per university policy “Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to an academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action.” (General Catalog 2014-2015, Section 1.6.). Any academic dishonesty in this course may result in a grade of “F” for the course and may be reported to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. Please beware that the General Catalog identifies the following examples of academic dishonesty: cheating in classroom, plagiarism, unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials, falsification, and facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is defined as: “Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one’s own without proper acknowledgement. Examples include a submission of purchased research papers as one’s own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source.” (General Catalog 2014-2015, Section 1.6.).

Copyright Statement

“Please do not share material from this course in online, print or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law & the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face disciplinary or legal action.”

Course Structure

Section 1: Introduction to Population Economics and a Tour of Global Population Trends


Section 2: Perspectives in Economic Demography


**Section 3:** Demographic and Economic Data


**Section 4:** Economics of Mortality and Morbidity


**Section 5:** Economics of Fertility


**Section 6:** Economics of Migration


**Section 7:** Economics of Age and Sex Structure


**Section 8: Family, Household, and Gender Economics**


