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## SOCI 355.30: Population and Society

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# **\*\*\* SOCI 355: Population & Society \*\*\***

Summer 2011

Course Meetings: MTWTh 1:30-3:20 p.m., SS 258

Professor: Dr. Teresa Sobieszczyk  
Office Hours: M / W 11:30-1 or by appointment  
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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As global citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we face a variety of dilemmas related to population: a dearth of babies in some countries and an excess of babies in others, environmental degradation, threatened food and water security, the pressures of international migration, human trafficking, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to name a few. This course introduces theoretical and empirical literature concerning selected population problems, with a special emphasis on development and less industrialized countries. We will use the basic concepts and measurement techniques of demographic analysis to better understand the causes, meanings, and implications of these population issues. Students will be expected to develop a critical perspective as to why certain population trends are defined as problems and why analysts may disagree on the extent or nature of these problems. Student performance will be evaluated based on four exams, several homework sets, quizzes, attendance, and preparation for and participation in class.

This course is a content course for the International Development Studies minor. Please contact me or Dr. Peter Koehn (243-5294 or [peter.koehn@umontana.edu](mailto:peter.koehn@umontana.edu)) if you are interested in exploring this minor.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

During this term, students will:

1. Employ demographic concepts and basic measurement techniques to describe and explain trends in fertility, mortality, migration, population structure and population growth.
2. Evaluate theories and measures of fertility, mortality, migration, population structure and population growth.
3. Employ population theories and concepts to assess contemporary demographic issues, particularly in less industrialized countries.
4. Analyze population policies and related population outcomes.
5. Analyze and assess research literature including primary source research materials related to populations processes.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Classroom Environment**

We will be talking about some sensitive and potentially controversial issues this term. Please treat each other and each other's ideas respectfully. Keep in mind that the University of Montana forbids discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. I encourage you to think critically about various readings and videos and to bring in other evidence or articles to share with the class.

### **Attendance, Class Preparation, and Participation (20%):**

I expect students to attend each class and to be on time. If you are habitually absent or tardy, your grade will be lowered. I also expect you to complete assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned and to be prepared to discuss them with your peers in class. Several times during the semester, your participation and preparation for class will be evaluated with attendance, discussions, debates, quizzes, problem solving activities,

homework exercises, and/or other exercises, which are listed in the syllabus. Keep in mind that if you miss a class, you may not make up missed class work or attendance, which ultimately lowers your grade. Together, homework assignments, quizzes, class participation, attendance, and preparation for class will be worth 10 percent of your overall grade. Scheduled participation assignments are italicized and underlined and are denoted with (a), (b), (c) etc. in the syllabus. Unscheduled assignments or quizzes may be added, particularly if attendance drops or if it seems that many students are coming to class unprepared and/or unwilling to participate in discussions!

**Late Assignment or Homework:**

If you have to miss the class for which a homework assignment is due, please drop it off in my mailbox before class or send it to class with a friend. Late homework exercises will be accepted; however, assignments turned in later than the class period in which they were due will be lowered one letter grade from what they would otherwise have received. In other words, a paper that would originally have received an "A" will receive a "B." Quizzes, group discussions, problem solving activities, etc. conducted in class may not be made up. All late assignments must be turned in by the last day of class.

**Exams (80%):**

During the course, four exams will be given. Exams most likely will include essays questions, multiple choice, true/false, or short answer questions, as well as a few fairly simple demographic calculations or interpretations. Exams will ask you to think critically and synthesize arguments and will cover materials from course readings, lectures, and videos. The exams will be non-cumulative.

**Make up Exams:**

Students with documented health issues or who have three or more final exams in one day may be allowed to take a make-up exam *with prior notice and permission from the professor*. Make up exams will be scheduled at a time convenient to the professor, either very soon before or no more than *one week* after the scheduled exam date. It will not be possible to make up exams more than a week after the scheduled exam date. Make up exams likely will be in an essay format.

**Distribution of Course Grade:**

Exams	80
Homework, quizzes, participation, preparation, and attendance	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	100%

A plus / minus system of grading will be employed.

93+ = A	83-86 = B
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B- ETC.
87-89 = B+	

If you are enrolled Pass/Not Pass, you must earn a C or better to pass. All materials (books, videos) borrowed from Dr. Sobieszczyk must be returned by the final exam for the class or you will earn an 'Incomplete,' which will remain on your record until the materials are returned or replaced.

**Office Hours:**

Please feel free to visit me during office hours. Generally, I also will be available for a few minutes before and after class if you have a quick question. If you are unable to attend scheduled office hours, you may arrange to meet me at a different time by appointment.

**Required Readings:**

Readings are available through Mansfield Library On-line Course Reserve. You can access the readings under my last name with the password SOCI355. In addition, a complete set of the paper readings is available on regular reserve.

**SOCI 355 Summer 2011 Reading/Assignment Schedule (subject to change)**

<b>Week/ Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic, Readings, and Assignments Due</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 6/27/11	M	<b>Introduction to Course &amp; Thinking Demographically; Researching Population Issues</b> <i>Reading:</i> 1. Weeks, John. 2008. "Demographic Data." In <u>Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues</u> , 108-145. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group.
6/28/11	T	<b>Conceptualizing and Measuring Fertility; Cultural Explanations of High Fertility (Biological &amp; Social Components)</b> <i>Reading:</i> 1. Weeks, John. 2008. "The Fertility Transition." In <u>Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues</u> , 198-261. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group. <i>DVD: "The Desired Number" (excerpt from "Women's Lives &amp; Choices") (ML) &amp; discussion</i>
6/29/11	W	<b>High Fertility &amp; Explanations of the Fertility Transition</b> <i>a. Fertility Exercise due at beginning of class</i>
6/30/11	Th	<b>Low Fertility - Europe &amp; Japan's New Population Dilemma</b> <i>Readings:</i> 1. Specter, Michael. 1998. "Population Implosion Worries a Greying Europe." <u>New York Times</u> , 10 July. 2. Ayres, Robert. 2004. "The Economic Conundrum of an Aging Population." <u>World Watch</u> (Sept./Oct.), 45-49. <i>DVD: Excerpts from "World in the Balance: The People Paradox" (TS/ML) &amp; discussion</i>
<b>Week 2</b> 7/4/11	M	No Class--Happy Independence Day!
7/5/11	T	<b>Exam #1</b> (first 50 minutes) (covers materials 6/27-6/30 only) <b>Conceptualizing and Measuring Mortality</b> <i>Reading:</i> 1. Weeks, John. 2008. "The Mortality Transition." In <u>Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues</u> , 146-197. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group.
7/6/11	W	<b>Disease and Mortality through the Ages; Mortality Issues in Contemporary America</b> <i>Readings:</i> 1. Aaron, Henry J. and William B. Schwartz. 2006. "Coping with Methuselah." In <u>Annual Editions: Sociology</u> , ed. Kurt Finsterbusch, 184-187. Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill 2. Bakalar, Nicholas. 2009. "U.S. Still Struggling with Infant Mortality." <u>New York Times</u> , 7 April. 3. Eckholm, Erik. 2007. "In Turnabout, Infant Deaths Climb in South." <u>New York Times</u> , 22 April. <i>DVD: "When the Bough Breaks" (ML)</i> <i>(b) Mortality Exercise Due at beginning of class</i>

7/7/11	Th	<p><b>Mortality Issues in LICs; HIV/AIDs and Inequality: A Global Overview</b>  <u>Readings:</u>  1. Gargann, Edward A. 1993. "For Many Brides in India, a Dowry Buys Death." <u>New York Times</u>, 30 December.  2. Craine Ronsemans, Wendy. 2006. "Maternal Mortality: Who, When, Where, and Why." <u>The Lancet</u>, 368 (September 30).  3. Ashford, Lori S. 2006. "How HIV and AIDS Affect Populations." Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau.  4. Dugger, Celia W. 2008. "Study Cites Toll of AIDS Policy in South Africa." <u>New York Times</u>, 26 November  Short video: "The Year of the Woman"(ML) &amp; discussion</p>
<b>Week 3</b>		
7/11/11	M	<p><b>Thailand and the HIV/AIDS Crisis</b>  <u>Reading</u>  1. Bello, Walden, Shea Cunningham, and Li Kheng Poh. 1998. "The AIDS Crisis." In <u>A Siamese Tragedy: Development &amp; Disintegration in Modern Thailand</u>, 221-242. New York, Zed Books.  DVD: "Dying for Sex"(TS) &amp; discussion</p>
7/12/11	T	<p><b>Exam #2</b> (first 50 minutes; covers materials 7/5-7/11 only)  <b>Global Population Trends</b>  <u>Reading:</u>  1. Weeks, John. 2008. "Global Population Trends." In <u>Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues</u>, 30-65. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group.  On-line clip: "World Population" <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BbkQiQyaYc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BbkQiQyaYc</a> &amp; discussion</p>
7/13/11	W	<p><b>Population Structure &amp; Population Pyramids; Historical Perspectives on Population Growth</b>  <u>Readings:</u>  1. Haupt, Arthur, and Thomas T. Kane. 2004. "Age and Sex Composition." In <u>Population Handbook</u>, 5<sup>th</sup> International Ed., 5-11. Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau.  2. Weeks, John. 2008. "Demographic Perspectives." In <u>Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues</u>, 66-107. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group.  On-line Clip: <u>Population Reference Bureau's Haub on Population Pyramids</u> <a href="http://www.prb.org/Journalists/Webcasts/2009/distilleddemographics1.aspx">http://www.prb.org/Journalists/Webcasts/2009/distilleddemographics1.aspx</a>  (c) <u>In-class group work due at end of class</u></p>
7/14/11	Th	<p><b>Population, Poverty, &amp; Food Supply</b>  <u>Readings:</u>  1. Pimentel, David and Anne Wilson. 2004. "World Population, Agriculture, and Malnutrition." <u>World Watch Institute</u> (Sept./Oct. 2004): 22-25.  2. Nierenberg, Danielle, and Mia MacDonald. 2004. "The Population Story. . .So Far." <u>World Watch Magazine</u> 17, 5 (Sept./Oct.).  DVD: "Food for All"(ML) &amp; discussion</p>

<b>Week 4</b> 7/18/11	M	<b>Population &amp; Environment: I=PAT and Beyond</b> <u>Reading:</u> 1. Weeks, John. 2008. "Population and the Environment." In <u>Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues</u> , 439-486. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group 2. Hardin, Garrett. 2006. "Life Boat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor." In <u>Social Ethics: Morality and Social Policy</u> , 7 <sup>th</sup> ed., Thomas A Mappes and Jane Zembaty, ed., 778-789. New York: McGraw Hill. <i>DVD: "Paul Ehrlich and the Population Bomb" (TS) &amp; discussion</i>
7/19/11	T	<b>Global Population and Environment Issues</b> <u>Reading:</u> 1. Kohn, Joseph and Jim Yadley. 2007. "As China Roars, Pollution Reaches Deadly Extremes." <u>New York Times</u> , 26 August. 2. Townsend, Mark. 2002. "Environmental Refugees." <u>The Ecologist</u> 32, 6 (July/August): 22-25. 3. Hunter, Lorie. 2000. "Population and the Environment." RAND Policy Brief. Online at <a href="http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB5045/index1.html">http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB5045/index1.html</a> , accessed 18 January 2010. <i>DVD: "China Revs Up" (excerpt from "World in the Balance: The People Paradox" (TS, ML) &amp; discussion</i> <i>Video Clip: "Tuvalu - Islands on the Frontline of Climate Change" <a href="http://vimeo.com/4997847">http://vimeo.com/4997847</a></i>
7/20/11	W	<b>Should reducing population growth be a global priority or not?</b> <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mitchell, Jennifer. 2003. "Next Doubling." <u>Sociological Footprints</u> , 9 <sup>th</sup> ed., ed. L. Cargan and J.H. Ballantine, 415-423. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth. 2. Longman, Phillip. 2004. "The Global Baby Bust." <u>Foreign Affairs</u> 83, 3 (May/June): 64-79. 3. Simon, Julian. 1995. "There Is an Impending Shortage of People." In <u>Population: Opposing Viewpoints</u> , 69-74. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, Inc. 4. Cohen, Joel E. 1995. "There Are Too Many People on the Planet." In <u>Population: Opposing Viewpoints</u> , 64-68. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, Inc. 5. "Ten Reasons to Rethink Overpopulation." 2006. <u>Different Takes</u> : 40. <i>DVD: "How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth" (ML) &amp; discussion</i>
7/21/11	Th	<b>Exam #3</b> (first 50 minutes, covers materials 7/12-7/20 only) <b>Conceptualizing &amp; Measuring Migration</b>
<b>Week 5</b> 7/25/11	M	<b>International Labor Migration and Development</b> <u>Readings</u> 1. Koser, Khalid. 2009. "International Migration and Development." In <u>Introduction to International Development</u> , ed. Paul A. Haslam, Jessica Schager, and Pierre Beaudet, 406-423. Don Mills, Canada: Oxford University Press. 2. "Dreaming of the Other Side of the Wire." 2005. <u>The Economist</u> 374, 8417 (March 12): 27-29. <i>DVD clip: "Sixty Minutes: Nursing Shortage" (TS)</i> <i>DVD: "Modern Heroes, Modern Slaves" (ML) &amp; discussion</i>

7/26/11	T	<p><b>Introduction to Population Policies &amp; International Population Policy Agendas; Gender &amp; Reproductive Policies</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kent, Mary M. 1999. "Shrinking Societies Favor Procreation." <u>Population Today</u>, 27, 12 (Dec.).</li> <li>2. Bandarage, Asoka. 1997. "Politics of Global Population Control." In <u>Women, Population and Global Crisis</u>, 63-112. Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Zed Books Ltd..</li> <li>3. Jayasankaran, S. 2000. "Baby Blues." <u>Far Eastern Economic Review</u> 163, 42 (19 October): 94.</li> </ol> <p>DVD: <i>"Holding Our Ground"</i>(ML) &amp; discussion</p>
7/27/11	W	<p><b>China's Fertility: Population, Gender, &amp; the State</b></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meulenberg, Claudia. 2008. "Definitely Probably One: A Generation Comes of Age Under China's One-Child Policy." In <u>Technology and Society: Issues for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Beyond</u>, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., ed. Linda S. Hjorth et al., 413-416. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.</li> <li>2. Faison, Seth. 1997. "Chinese are Happily Breaking the 'One Child Policy' Rule." <u>New York Times</u>, 17 August 1997.</li> <li>3. Lee, Don. 2004. "China Fears a Baby Bust." <u>Los Angeles Times</u>, 6 December.</li> <li>4. Eimer, David. 2005. "Bride-Trafficking Grows as China's Population of Single Men Soars." <u>The Independent</u>, 31 July.</li> </ol> <p>DVD: <i>"China's Only Child"</i>(TS) &amp; discussion</p>
7/28/11	Th	<p><b>Course Wrap Up;</b></p> <p><b><u>Exam #4</u></b> (covers materials 7/21-7/28)</p>