Soc 452H. Theories, Models and Methods in Demography

Fall 2013 (Sept 10th - Dec 3rd)

Instructor: Brent Berry (brent.berry@utoronto.ca), 725 Spadina Ave (office is room 366)

Seminar: Tuesdays 12-2pm, Room 177, University College

Office Hours: Tuesday afternoons 2:00-3:30, or by appointment

Summary

This is a small project oriented undergraduate course that will examine the key theories, models, methods and data sources in demography. The maximum enrollment is 25 students. Grades are based on both individual and group work. Individually, students will complete one exercise on a topic such as constructing a life table, calculating mortality, fertility, and migration rates, and applying concepts of stable population theory in making projections. In groups of 3-4 students, students will complete a research report that poses a demographic question, identifies related theories and hypotheses, and analyzes data using appropriate methods. The instructor will advise each group along the way. As we move further into the semester, part of our discussion in class will focus on your research projects, seeking to relate your research interests to the course material. The instructor will discuss project options early in the semester.

Having some background in demography is recommended but not essential for success in this course. A prerequisite for taking this course is having completed a 300+ level sociology course. Students without this prerequisite will be automatically removed without notice.

Evaluation

There are three components of final grades -- contributing to in-class discussion (25%), individual exercise (25%) due Oct 22nd, and group project (50%) due Monday, Nov 18th.

Readings and Class Discussion

With the exception of the Levi-Bacci book (available for purchase as a hardcopy or e-book on Amazon.ca), the readings can be downloaded from the course website on portal (portal.utoronto.ca). The readings and discussion will introduce you to demographic theories, models, data, and methods. Some of the readings are general overviews of topic areas, while others provide case studies of what questions can be answered with demographic data and methods. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings in class. The instructor will supplement the discussion of the readings with illustrations of demographic measures and methods.

Attendance

Class attendance is important. Contributing to in-class discussion is worth 25% of your final grade.

Deadlines
Assignments are due on the due date posted in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without proper documentation from a student’s physician or college registrar.

**Plagiarism**

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

**Accessibility Needs**

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit [http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility) as soon as possible.

**Schedule**

1. Sept 10 -- Introduction: Population and Demography

2. Sept 17 -- Demography: Basic Measurements, Rates, & History
   - Readings: McFalls (2007)
   - Livi-Bacci (2006) – chapter one

3. Sept 24 -- Population History and Human Ecology

4. Oct 1 -- Big Theories: Demographic Transition (I and II)
   - Kirk (1996)

5. Oct 8 -- Demography: Fertility Methods & Literature
   - Belanger & Ouellet (2001)

6. Oct 15 -- Demography: Mortality Methods & Literature
   - Readings: Bongaarts (2006)

7. Oct 22 -- Demography: Migration & Mobility Methods & Literature
   - *individual exercise due today*
   return Exercises
   Readings: Burch & Matthews (1987),
             Kohler, Berhman, Skytthe (2005)

   Readings: Goldscheider (1997)
             Rotermann (2008)
             Settersten & Mayer (1997)
--- Nov 12th fall break ----

Note -- group projects are due Monday, November 18th

              Crafts (1997)

              VanWey, D’Antona, & Brondizio (2007)

12. Dec 3 -- Demographic Theory Revisited
    Readings: Bollen, Glanville, Stecklov (2001)
              Bryant (2007)

Syllabus Sources (plus optional supplementary material)
Bélanger, Alain & Geneviève Ouellet (2001) “A Comparative Study of Recent Trends in


Bollen, Glanville, and Stecklov (2001) “Socioeconomic Status and Class in Studies of Fertility
and Health in Developing Countries” ARS 27: 153-185.


Note: ARS = Annual Review of Sociology PDR = Population and Development Review

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Resources

A Few Key Statistical Sources


Statistics Canada (www.statscan.ca)

The US Census Bureau (www.census.gov)

The IPUMS Project (www.ipums.org)

Population Reference Bureau (www.prb.org)

Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project (http://ccri.uvic.ca/)

Key Journals for Population Research:


Other Resources


Second Demographic Transition Project http://sdt.psc.isr.umich.edu/