

**SO 4110**

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:**

**SO 4110 SOCIOLOGY OF POPULATION – LEVEL 6**

(Updated Fall 2010)

**UK CREDITS: 15**

**PREREQUISITES:** SO 1000 Introduction to Sociology *or*  
SO 1001 Sociology of Modern Life

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** The dynamics of population within the societal context. Examination of population growth, finite resources, mortality, fertility and migration and their connection with economy and culture.

**RATIONALE:** The analysis of the basic demographic processes and their socio-economic and socio-cultural determinants enables the student to recognize the forces that shape contemporary societies. A discussion of population theories and policies provides the background for interpreting and evaluating the response of demographers and policy-makers to population phenomena and their importance for society's well-being.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize the global nature of population change.
2. Evaluate the effects of mortality, fertility and migration.
3. Assess the connections between population and resources such as food and water.
4. Recognize the unequal patterns of population growth in wealthier and poorer countries.
5. Discuss the consequences of population growth both globally and regionally.

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:** In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the College, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures, showing of video documentaries and experiential learning activities involving illustrations of various issues.
- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can address issues pertinent to the course material and ask questions.
- Use of a blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.

**ASSESSMENT:**

One in-class, 1-hour, "diagnostic" test	0%	Essay-type
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- <b>formative</b>		questions (choice: 3 out of 5)
Term Project (3,000 – 4,000 words) - <b>summative</b>	50%	Project based on applications of various demographic concepts to a specific population.
Final Examination (2-hour, comprehensive) - <b>summative</b>	50%	Essay-type questions (choice: 4 out of 6)

The formative test aims to help students internalize and apply the core concepts.

The term project tests Learning Outcomes 2, 3

The final examination tests Learning Outcomes 1, 4, 5

## READING LIST:

### Required Reading

- Martin, Philip and Jonas Widgren. (1996). "International Migration: A Global Challenge." Population Bulletin 51(1).
- McFalls, Joseph. (1998). "Population: A Lively Introduction." Population Bulletin 53(3).
- Yaukey, David, Douglas L. Anderson and Jennifer Hickes Lundquist. 2007. Demography: The Study of Human Population. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.
- Saunders, John. 1988. Basic Demographic Measures: A Practical Guide for Users. New York: University Press of America.

### Recommended Readings

- Erlich, Paul R. (1968). The Population Bomb. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Erlich, Paul R. and Anne Ehrlich. (1991). The Population Explosion. New York: Touchstone Books.
- Shryock, Henry S and Jacob S. Siegel. 1976. The Methods and Materials of Demography. London: Academic Press, Inc.
- Smil, Vaclav. (1994). "How Many People Can the Earth Feed?" Population and Development Review, 20(2):255-292
- Weeks, John. (2002). Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues. London: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

## WWW RESOURCES:

- [www.sociosite.net](http://www.sociosite.net): From the University of Amsterdam, one of the best sociological sites organized by subject matter.
- [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org): An excellent site for any population topic by Population Reference Bureau.
- [www.ucalgary.ca/~mbdurieu/PopulationTop20Websites.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~mbdurieu/PopulationTop20Websites.pdf): A list of population related sites.

- [www.un.org/popin/](http://www.un.org/popin/): The site of the UN Population Division.

**SOFTWARE  
REQUIREMENTS:**

Word

**COMMUNICATION  
REQUIREMENTS:**

Verbal skills using academic/professional English

**INDICATIVE  
CONTENT:**

1. Concepts and Measurement in Demography
2. Population Growth
3. Population Composition
4. Population and Resources
5. Mortality
6. Fertility
7. Migration