Sociology 212
Demography: Theory, Substance, Techniques, Part I

Fall 2005
Fridays 9-11:50am
151 Hamilton Hall

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Description: This is the first part of a two-course series serving as a graduate-level introduction to the field of demography. This first course covers foundational theories, concepts, measures, and tools used to study mortality, fertility, family demography, and population and environment connections. While learning key demographic techniques for studying these topics, students will also read and discuss key theoretical and practical contributions in these fields. Classes will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and hands-on computations, depending on the topic of the day.

Reading Materials:
• Other required readings are available on the course website or other electronic journal databases as noted in the course schedule.

Requirements: A student’s performance in this course will be judged equally on four criteria: class participation, reading notes to be turned in every class day, four homework assignments, and a comprehensive final exam.

1. Class Participation. All students are expected to actively and thoughtfully engage in class discussions.

2. Reading Notes. Students are to turn in written notes to questions posted on the course website applying to each assigned reading. Some weeks, answers will be in the form of formulas or computations. Some weeks, answers will be in the form of thoughtful responses to substantive questions. Class lecture and discussion will focus on these questions and all students should have their notes complete prior to class.
3. Homework Assignments. Throughout the course of this class, four assignments designed to expose students to demographic data sources and fundamental calculations will be distributed and collected on the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Assigned</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Rates &amp; Probabilities</td>
<td>Sept 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Life Tables</td>
<td>Sept 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Fertility Estimates</td>
<td>Nov 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Population Projections</td>
<td>Dec 9</td>
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4. Final Exam. Students will be given a take-home final exam covering the demographic theory, substance, and techniques covered in this course. The exam will be emailed to students on Wed, Dec 14th at 9am and will be due back via email or in Dr. Pearce’s mailbox (Hamilton Hall or CPC) by Dec 15th at 4pm. Please mark your calendars now and report any scheduling conflicts as soon as you are aware of them.

**Grading:** Final grades will be equally based on a student’s participation in class, the regularity and quality of reading notes, scores on homework assignments, and performance on the final exam. Students excelling at all four components of this seminar will receive Hs (not easy—usually only achieved by a couple of students, but can vary). Students showing satisfactory mastery on all four levels will receive Ps (almost always the modal category). Those who consistently perform less than satisfactorily will receive Ls (rare, but possible), and those who give little to no effort will receive Fs (even more rare, but also possible).

**Course Schedule**

Sept 2–COURSE OVERVIEW AND DEFINING DEMOGRAPHY

Sept 9–FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS AND MEASURES
- Demography, Chapters 1 & 2

Assignment: Rates & Probabilities, Due Sep 16

Sept 16–LIFE TABLES
- Demography, Chapter 3
- Hayward, Mark and Melonie Heron. 1999. “Racial Inequality in Active Life among Adult
Assignment: Life Tables, Due Sept 30

Sept 23—MORTALITY TRANSITIONS & DIFFERENTIALS


Sept 30—NO CLASS

Oct 7—INFANT/CHILD MORTALITY & AIDS


Oct 14—MULTIPLE DECREMENT LIFE TABLES

- Demography, Chapter 4, Sections 4.1-4.3 (pp.71-80)

Oct 21—NO CLASS (Fall Break)

Oct 28—FERTILITY MEASURES, METHODS, THEORIES, AND FRAMEWORKS

Assignment: Fertility Estimates, Due Nov 4

Nov 4—FERTILITY TRANSITIONS & DIFFERENTIALS


Nov 11–FAMILY PLANNING, CONTRACEPTIVE USE, AND ABORTION


Nov 18—FAMILY DEMOGRAPHY

Nov 25–NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Dec 2–POPULATION PROJECTIONS
- Demography, Chapter 6

Assignment: Population Projection, Due Dec 9

Dec 9–POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM: Dec 14-15