

**Geography 300-001: World Populations
Course Syllabus - Fall 2011**

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Office Hours: W 10-12 am; or, by appointment

Time: MW 1:30-2:45 pm
Location: AH 1316
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Course Website: <http://www.siue.edu/~gacheso>

Course Description & Objectives: In August of 2011, the world's population is approximately 6.95 billion people. No matter what your interest - economics, politics, culture, the environment - this number of people cannot be discounted. In this course, we examine the three processes that cause population to change - fertility, mortality, and migration - from a geographic perspective. In particular we will examine the following topics:

- the basics of demography
- key processes of population change (fertility, mortality, migration)
- the causes and consequences of population change over space and time
- the role of culture, politics, and the environment in population geography

Students who are successful in this course will be able to demonstrate an understanding of population processes and concepts, and the relationship between geography and demography.

Please note that this is a lab-based course; one-third of class time will be devoted to applied projects. These applied projects comprise the majority of your grade in this class.

Text:

1. G. Peters and R. Larkin. 2008. Population geography: Problems, concepts, and prospects (9th edition). Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing.
2. Additional readings to be assigned (available on Blackboard).

Course Mechanics: Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Two exams	
Mid-term	20%
Final (comprehensive)	20%
Applied projects	
Small projects (6)	30%
Larger projects (2)	20%
Project reflection	10%

Final grades are based on your weighted average, and are as follows: A = 90% and above, B = 80.0-89.99%, C = 70.0-79.99, D = 60.0-69.99, F = 59.99 and below.

Exams are a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions based on lecture material and on assigned readings. A review sheet will be provided prior to exams to help guide your preparation. Make-up exams will only be granted if you (1) contact me within 24 hours of missing the exam, and (2) have a valid, University-sanctioned excuse. Make-up exams will be different in content and format from the standard exam.

Applied projects: You will complete six small projects and two larger projects throughout the semester. A significant portion of the project work will be completed in class, although you will likely need to complete some of the work outside of class, especially for the two larger projects. You will be given the option on some projects to work in pairs or small groups. Complete directions for all assignments will be given in class and posted to the course website.

Project reflection: In this comprehensive entry, you are expected to reflect on all the applied projects you completed, and consider what you have learned about population geography over the course of the semester. This entry should be a synthesis of what you learned; try answering the question: *What do you know about population geography after completing this assignment that you didn't know previously?* Complete directions for the project reflection will be given in class and posted to the course website.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a deduction of 5 points from your final average. *You are responsible for all course material regardless of attendance.*

First day attendance policy: Students who fail to attend the first day of class will be dropped from the course at the instructor's discretion.

Class Courtesy: It is important for each person enrolled in this course to be treated with, and to treat others, with respect and courtesy. To that end:

- (1) come to class by 1:30 pm and stay until 2:45 pm. If you must arrive late or depart early, do so quickly and quietly;
- (2) turn your cell phone off; no ringing and no text messaging;
- (3) come to class prepared to listen and participate (in other words, do not do other work while in class);
- (4) listen to each other's comments and opinions with an open mind; and,
- (5) avoid using offensive speech. Inflammatory comments that provoke or insult anyone in this class will not be tolerated.

Scholastic Honesty: Each student enrolled is expected to earn her/his grade honestly and with integrity. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses; they will not be tolerated. Cheating of any kind will be dealt with according to the *Student Code of Conduct*. (See www.siu.edu/policies/1i6.shtml for more information.)

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Disability Support Services at 650-3726.

Schedule of Readings & Assignments: The schedule listed below is flexible and can be modified over the course of the semester. Readings from the text are listed below; additional readings may be assigned over the course of the semester. Readings must be completed prior to class. (P = Peters & Larkin; A = Additional Reading, TBA)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
8/22	Introduction	
8/24	Population growth & change	P Chapter 1 Lab 1: Demographic profile
8/29		
8/31		
9/5	<i>Labor Day - No Class!</i>	
9/7	Population data	P Chapter 2 Lab 2: Census data
9/12		
9/14	Population distribution & composition	P Chapter 3 Lab 3: Age & sex structure
9/19		
9/21		
9/26	Theories of population change	P Chapter 4
9/28		
10/3	Mortality patterns & trends	P Chapter 5 Lab 4: The ageing population
10/5		
10/10		
10/12	Midterm exam	
10/17	Fertility patterns & trends, planning	P Chapters 6 & 7 Lab 5: Fertility Measures Lab 6: Poverty & education measures
10/19		
10/24		
10/26		
10/31		
11/2	Migration and mobility	Chapter 8 Lab 7: Immigration in the US
11/7		
11/9		
11/14	Population and the Environment	Chapter 9
11/16		
11/21-23	<i>Thanksgiving Break - No Class!</i>	
11/28	Population and the Environment (cont)	Lab 8: Ecological footprint

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
11/30	Population & Food Supply	Chapter 10 Project reflection due 12/5
12/5		
12/7		
12/13 T	Final Exam: during schedule final exam period, 12:00-1:40 pm	