COURSE DESCRIPTION

Population, or demography, is the scientific study of human populations including their size, composition, and change. It includes investigating the social roots and consequences of these population structures and processes.

Perhaps you have already noticed that demographic processes are constantly influencing your life. Patterns of childbearing (fertility), death (mortality), and the geographic movement of people (migration), both in the US and globally, all come to bear on your life in one way or another. Population study is fascinating and it deals with many questions you may find personally relevant, such as: At what age will I marry? Have children? Will I live with a partner before marriage? What are my chances of divorce? What kind of job will I have? How many times will I move? When will I retire? How long will I live? What will be my cause of death? In sum, almost all major life events have demographic implications.¹

This course provides you with a basic introduction to the discipline of demography, in terms of its main theories, concepts, measures, and uses. Emphasis is placed on contemporary population issues and their origins, although important past developments will also be examined. Lectures and discussions often will focus on the global situation with frequent comparisons between more developed and less developed countries.

You will become a more informed consumer of demographic information. This course provides you with practical experience that can be applied to careers in business, marketing, government, and human services. To this end, you will learn how to access demographic data, calculate demographic measures, interpret these measures, and evaluate their usefulness. Demography is one of the more quantitative subfields of sociology and requires basic math skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). We will work on calculations together in class, so I ask that you bring a calculator/laptop to each class period for this purpose.


BY THE WAY....
If you have any questions about the class material or the class assignments (or if you just want to chat), please do not hesitate to contact me. If you feel your test was not graded fairly, please visit with me without delay. My phone numbers and office hours are listed above.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
By the end of the semester students should be able to:

1. Understand the nature of population processes—fertility, mortality, and migration.
2. Understand the relationship between demographic processes and social, economic, and political factors.
3. Identify sources of demographic data and apply them in areas of social, economic, and political change.
4. Interpret global, national, and local implications of demographic trends and issues from multiple theoretical perspectives.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

For each test, students will be provided an assignment sheet indicating the appropriate chapters to be read for each lecture topic. Each student should be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for each class period. A good strategy is to read through the material BEFORE it is scheduled for class discussion and then read it again AFTER it has been discussed. Plan ahead and pace yourself so that you do not get behind in the reading and homework assignments.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**
Evaluation is done on a point basis as listed below:

- **Exams** .......................................................... 300
  - Includes two exams and a final exam, each worth 100 points. The exams have multiple choice, identify, and short essay questions. All exams are compulsory regardless of the number of points you earn.
  - MAKE-UP EXAM GIVEN WITH PRIOR ARRANGEMENT

- **Written assignment** ........................................ 100
  - This project is designed to enhance the student’s learning experience and expose you to table creation using found data. The exercise is due on the assigned date and will be accepted late only with the instructor’s approval.
  - Instruction sheets outlining the requirements for the project will be distributed during class.

- **In-class assignments and participation (Quizzes, exercises, etc.)** ........... 100
  - Activities are designed to be thought provoking and analytical work about current issues. Group Activities are done during class and each group is required to turn in written responses for individual points. You must be present to receive points. No make-ups are given for Group Activities.

**TOTAL 500**
CLASS ATTENDANCE
Class attendance records are not maintained daily, but daily **class attendance is important**. Many class sessions incorporate materials that are not in the textbook and would be difficult to get outside of class. In addition, **group activities and quizzes take place during class times**. There are no make-ups for missed in-class assignments and quizzes. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with the work. It is also the responsibility of the student to personally withdraw from the course if necessary.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM*
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

DROPPING A CLASS*
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. Events can sometimes occur, however, that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. **Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.** April 6, 2018 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

GRADE APPEALS***
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, **Student Grade Appeals**, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details,
including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of
days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure
13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_gra
de_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students
may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For
complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit
the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS***
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
call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access
issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office
for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY*
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes
could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi;
this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition,
the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course.
Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational
within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to
make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of
contacting each student.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as
soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA
Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any
amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean.
All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be
completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is
located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTIONS-PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE What in the world is Demography? TEXT ch.1 Check out <a href="http://www.livingto100.com">www.livingto100.com</a></td>
<td>1/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Global Population Trends TEXT ch.2</td>
<td>1/24</td>
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<td>1/29</td>
<td>Demographic Perspectives TEXT ch.3</td>
<td>1/31</td>
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<td>Demographic Data TEXT ch.4</td>
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<td>TEST 1</td>
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<td>The Health and Mortality Transition TEXT ch.5</td>
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<td>2/26</td>
<td>The Fertility Transition TEXT ch.6</td>
<td>2/28</td>
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<td>The Migration Transition TEXT ch.7</td>
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<td>3/12</td>
<td>Spring Break!</td>
<td>3/15</td>
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<td>Review for TEST 2</td>
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<td>PART III: POPULATION STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS The Age Transition TEXT ch.8</td>
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<td>4/16</td>
<td>The Family and Household Transition TEXT ch.10</td>
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What are the implications of these trends?