6-2011

SOCI 355.30: Population and Society

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*** SOCI 355: Population & Society ***
Summer 2011
Course Meetings: MTWTh 1:30-3:20 p.m., SS 258

Professor: Dr. Teresa Sobieszczyk
Office Hours: M / W 11:30-1 or by appointment
Office: SS 303

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
As global citizens of the 21st century, we face a variety of dilemmas related to population: a dearth of babies in some countries and an excess of babies in others, environmental degradation, threatened food and water security, the pressures of international migration, human trafficking, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to name a few. This course introduces theoretical and empirical literature concerning selected population problems, with a special emphasis on development and less industrialized countries. We will use the basic concepts and measurement techniques of demographic analysis to better understand the causes, meanings, and implications of these population issues. Students will be expected to develop a critical perspective as to why certain population trends are defined as problems and why analysts may disagree on the extent or nature of these problems. Student performance will be evaluated based on four exams, several homework sets, quizzes, attendance, and preparation for and participation in class.

This course is a content course for the International Development Studies minor. Please contact me or Dr. Peter Koehn (243-5294 or peter.koehn@umontana.edu) if you are interested in exploring this minor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
During this term, students will:
1. Employ demographic concepts and basic measurement techniques to describe and explain trends in fertility, mortality, migration, population structure and population growth.
2. Evaluate theories and measures of fertility, mortality, migration, population structure and population growth.
3. Employ population theories and concepts to assess contemporary demographic issues, particularly in less industrialized countries.
4. Analyze population policies and related population outcomes.
5. Analyze and assess research literature including primary source research materials related to populations processes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Classroom Environment
We will be talking about some sensitive and potentially controversial issues this term. Please treat each other and each other's ideas respectfully. Keep in mind that the University of Montana forbids discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. I encourage you to think critically about various readings and videos and to bring in other evidence or articles to share with the class.

Attendance, Class Preparation, and Participation (20%):
I expect students to attend each class and to be on time. If you are habitually absent or tardy, your grade will be lowered. I also expect you to complete assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned and to be prepared to discuss them with your peers in class. Several times during the semester, your participation and preparation for class will be evaluated with attendance, discussions, debates, quizzes, problem solving activities,
homework exercises, and/or other exercises, which are listed in the syllabus. Keep in mind that if you miss a class, you may not make up missed class work or attendance, which ultimately lowers your grade. Together, homework assignments, quizzes, class participation, attendance, and preparation for class will be worth 10 percent of your overall grade. Scheduled participation assignments are italicized and underlined and are denoted with (a), (b), (c) etc. in the syllabus. Unscheduled assignments or quizzes may be added, particularly if attendance drops or if it seems that many students are coming to class unprepared and/or unwilling to participate in discussions!

**Late Assignment or Homework:**
If you have to miss the class for which a homework assignment is due, please drop it off in my mailbox before class or send it to class with a friend. Late homework exercises will be accepted; however, assignments turned in later than the class period in which they were due will be lowered one letter grade from what they would otherwise have received. In other words, a paper that would originally have received an "A" will receive a "B." Quizzes, group discussions, problem solving activities, etc. conducted in class may not be made up. All late assignments must be turned in by the last day of class.

**Exams (80%):**
During the course, four exams will be given. Exams most likely will include essays questions, multiple choice, true/false, or short answer questions, as well as a few fairly simple demographic calculations or interpretations. Exams will ask you to think critically and synthesize arguments and will cover materials from course readings, lectures, and videos. The exams will be non-cumulative.

**Make up Exams:**
Students with documented health issues or who have three or more final exams in one day may be allowed to take a make-up exam with prior notice and permission from the professor. Make up exams will be scheduled at a time convenient to the professor, either very soon before or no more than one week after the scheduled exam date. It will not be possible to make up exams more than a week after the scheduled exam date. Make up exams likely will be in an essay format.

**Distribution of Course Grade:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework, quizzes, participation, preparation, and attendance</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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A plus/minus system of grading will be employed.

- 93+ = A
- 90-92 = A-
- 87-89 = B+
- 83-86 = B
- 80-82 = B-

If you are enrolled Pass/Not Pass, you must earn a C or better to pass. All materials (books, videos) borrowed from Dr. Sobieszczyk must be returned by the final exam for the class or you will earn an 'Incomplete,' which will remain on your record until the materials are returned or replaced.

**Office Hours:**
Please feel free to visit me during office hours. Generally, I also will be available for a few minutes before and after class if you have a quick question. If you are unable to attend scheduled office hours, you may arrange to meet me at a different time by appointment.
Required Readings:
Readings are available through Mansfield Library On-line Course Reserve. You can access the readings under my last name with the password SOCI355. In addition, a complete set of the paper readings is available on regular reserve.

### SOCI 355 Summer 2011 Reading/Assignment Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic, Readings, and Assignments Due</th>
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| Week 1    | 6/27/11 | **M**  Introduction to Course & Thinking Demographically; Researching Population Issues  
**Reading:**  
| 6/28/11   | T    | **Conceptualizing and Measuring Fertility; Cultural Explanations of High Fertility** (Biological & Social Components)  
**Reading:**  
**DVD:** "The Desired Number" (excerpt from "Women's Lives & Choices") (ML) & discussion |
| 6/29/11   | W    | **High Fertility & Explanations of the Fertility Transition**  
(a) Fertility Exercise due at beginning of class |
| 6/30/11   | Th   | **Low Fertility - Europe & Japan's New Population Dilemma**  
**Readings:**  
**DVD:** Excerpts from "World in the Balance: The People Paradox" (TS/ML) & discussion |
| Week 2    | 7/4/11 | **M**  No Class–Happy Independence Day! |
| 7/5/11    | T    | **Exam #1** (first 50 minutes) (covers materials 6/27-6/30 only)  
**Conceptualizing and Measuring Mortality**  
**Reading:**  
| 7/6/11    | W    | **Disease and Mortality through the Ages; Mortality Issues in Contemporary America**  
**Readings:**  
**DVD:** "When the Bough Breaks" (ML)  
(b) Mortality Exercise Due at beginning of class |
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<th>Readings</th>
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**Short video: "The Year of the Woman" (ML) & discussion** |           |
| Week 3 |     |                                                              | **Week 3**                                                                                 |                        |
**DVD:** "Dying for Sex" (TS) & discussion |           |
| 7/12/11| T   | **Exam #2** (first 50 minutes; covers materials 7/5-7/11 only) |                                                                                          |                        |
(c) In-class group work due at end of class |
**DVD:** "Food for All" (ML) & discussion |           |
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<tr>
<td>7/21/11</td>
<td>Th Exam #3 (first 50 minutes, covers materials 7/12-7/20 only) Conceptualizing &amp; Measuring Migration</td>
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| 7/26/11| T   | Introduction to Population Policies & International Population Policy Agendas; Gender & Reproductive Policies | Readings:  
**DVD:** "Holding Our Ground" *(ML)* & discussion |
| 7/27/11| W   | China's Fertility: Population, Gender, & the State                   | Readings:  
**DVD:** “China’s Only Child” *(TS)* & discussion |
| 7/28/11| Th  | Course Wrap Up;                                                      | **Exam #4** (covers materials 7/21-7/28)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |