

# NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

SOCI-2206

## Demography: Introduction to Population Studies

Fall 2009

**Instructor:** Dr. Amir Erfani

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**Class Time and Location:** TH. 8:30- 11:30AM; Rm. R309

**Office hours:** Thursday 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

### Course Description

This course presents the student with an introduction to demography, the study of human population. The main objective is that you become familiar with the basic concepts, methods, and theories of demography. Although the course is a non-technical introduction to demography, some attention will be paid to techniques of measurement. Themes covered include the changing trends of population growth in developed and developing countries, the population processes (childbearing, mortality, and immigration) and the ways that these processes influence population size, composition, and growth. By the end of the course, you should have a good understanding of the significance of population patterns and population changes for a variety of issues in our society and other countries.

### Required Text

- McFalls Jr., Joseph A. 2007. "Population: A Lively Introduction, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition," Population Bulletin 62, no. 1 (Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau). [**primary text**]

This reading is available online at: <http://www.prb.org/pdf07/62.1LivelyIntroduction.pdf>

- Trovato, Frank. 2009. Canada's Population in a Global Context : An Introduction to Social Demography. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 9780195419078 (**secondary text**). A copy of this book is available in the NU library.
- Students also will be assigned articles to read and present in the class.

### Blackboard

I shall place the class presentations and other material on the Blackboard page. You may have access to Blackboard through this link:

<http://blackboard.nipissingu.ca/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

## Examinations

There will be two examinations during the term:

- Mid-term exam on **October 22, 2009** within class (Room R309) at 8:30AM
- Final Examination during the exam period, in December.

## Assignments

There will be two assignments during the course. First, every student must present a **“critical reading summary”** of an assigned article in class over 10 minutes. The summary must be submitted to the professor before the presentation in one page, single space, written in font 12 by Microsoft Word. The date of presentation will be determined at the first day of the class. Second, each student is asked to select a country of the glob, except Canada, by the second week. As we proceed during the course, students are expected to complete a written “country demographic report” session by session, where the student will describe the key demographic characteristics of the selected country and then will compare them with those of Canada. By the due date, students are required to submit to the professor the “country demographic report”, written in **three pages** using the Microsoft Word, 1.5 lines space and 12 fonts. Full details will be provided in a separate handout in class.

All assignments should be submitted on or before due date to me. If a valid reason prevents you from submitting an assignment on the due date, please inform me in advance by telephone or by e-mail. Assignments received after the due date without a valid reason will have a grade zero.

## Grading Scheme

Class Participation (attendance, thoughtful discussion)	(10 x 0.5)	= 5%
Class presentation		= 10%
Country Demographic Report	(Due: <b>Dec 2</b> )	=15%
Mid-term Exam	(Date: <b>Oct. 22</b> )	= 30%
Final Exam		<u>= 40%</u>
		100%

## Official Information

*Missed Exams and Late Assignments:* “As a rule, only a verifiable and extraordinary circumstance will be considered a legitimate reason for missing an exam or assignment deadline (e.g., serious illness/accident, death in the immediate family). In all cases, action must be taken at the earliest possible opportunity, **prior** to the scheduled examination, test or assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the professor before the exam or due date and inform him of the problem. This can be done either by email or by telephone (leave message in voicemail).”

*Note on Plagiarism:* “Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that involves the theft of other people's words and ideas. If you copy other people's words or ideas, at a minimum you will be given a grade of 0 on the plagiarized assignment. Students must write their assignments in their

own words. Whenever you need to take an idea, or a passage from another author, you must acknowledge your debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.”

*Note on Plagiarism Checking:* “All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the Nipissing University for the detection of plagiarism.”

*Scantron Exams:* “Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.”

*Prerequisite:* check Academic Calendar:

[http://www.nipissingu.ca/calendar/downloads/AcadCal2009\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nipissingu.ca/calendar/downloads/AcadCal2009_2010.pdf)

## **NOTES**

- Students are expected to attend ALL lectures and class discussions. A great deal of material will be presented and/or distributed in class and the tests will be largely based on this material. If you cannot attend class due to illness or another valid reason, please ensure you get the necessary material from another student.
- “The final examination is cumulative and will cover the assigned readings and lecture from the entire course, but will stress material covered after the mid-term examination.”
- “There are no provisions for "make-up" work or marks in this course.”

## Tentative Schedule for Lecture Sessions on Thursdays

Date	Topics	Readings
Sept 10	Administration & Introduction	McFalls, pp. 3-4 Trovato, Ch. 1
Sept 17	Fertility: Adding New People	McFalls, pp. 4-8 Trovato, Ch. 6
Sept 24	Nuptiality & Fertility: Changing Family & Childbearing	Trovato, Ch. 5 Erfani & Beaujot
Oct 1	Mortality: Subtracting People	McFalls, pp. 8-12 Trovato, Ch. 7
Oct 8	Migration: Adding and Subtracting People	McFalls, pp. 12-15 Trovato, Ch. 9-10
Oct 15	Study Week: No Class	
Oct 22	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
Oct 29	Population Size & Demographic Data	McFalls, pp. 15-16 Trovato, p.8, Ch. 2
Nov 5	Population Composition	McFalls, pp. 17-23 Trovato, Ch. 4
Nov 12	Population Distribution: Where People Live?	McFalls, pp. 23-25 Trovato, Ch.10
Nov 19	Why Population Numbers and Growth Matter?	McFalls, pp. 25-29 Trovato, Ch.3 &11
Nov 26	Population Policy: Changing populating & our future	Trovato, Ch.12
Dec 3	Review	
<b>Final Examination – Date TBA</b>		

**NB: All dates and topics are approximations and may have to be adjusted.**

## Readings that will be presented by the students

### **Fertility (Sept 17)**

1. Malenfant, Éric Caron and Alain Bélanger. 2006. "The fertility of visible minority women in Canada," in *Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada 2003 and 2004 Catalogue no. 91-209-XIE*, pp. 79-94: Statistics Canada  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-209-x/91-209-x2003000-eng.pdf>
2. Roudi-Fahimi, Farzaneh and Lori Ashford. 2005. "Investing in reproductive health to achieve development goals in the Middle East and North Africa," Policy Reports: Population Reference Bureau (PRB).  
[http://www.prb.org/pdf06/MENA\\_Investing\\_in\\_Reproductive\\_Health\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf06/MENA_Investing_in_Reproductive_Health_Eng.pdf)

### **Changing Family and Childbearing (Sept 24)**

3. Clark, Warren. 2007. "Delayed transitions of young adults," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008.  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2007004/pdf/10311-eng.pdf>
4. Milan, Ann. 2000. "One hundred years of families," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/1999004/article/4909-eng.pdf>
5. Turcotte, Martin. 2007. "Staying at home longer to become homeowners?" *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2007006/article/10378-eng.pdf>

### **Mortality, Aging, and Health (Oct 1)**

6. Ng, Edward, Russell Wilkins, François Gendron and Jean-Marie Berthelot. 2005. "The changing health of immigrants," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2005002/article/8454-eng.pdf>
7. Ashford, Lori S. 2006. "How HIV and AIDS affects Populations," Policy Reports: Population Reference Bureau (PRB).  
<http://www.prb.org/pdf06/HowHIVAIDSAffectsPopulations.pdf>
8. Cranswick, Kelly and Donna Dosman. 2008. "Eldercare: What we know today," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue no. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2008002/article/10689-eng.pdf>

### **Migration (Oct 8)**

9. Statistics Canada. 2008. "Census snapshot- Immigration in Canada: A portrait of the foreign-born population, 2006 census," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue no. 11-008-X  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2008001/article/10556-eng.pdf>
10. Bélanger, Alain and Éric Caron Malenfant. 2005. "Ethnocultural diversity in Canada: Prospects for 2017," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2005003/article/8968-eng.pdf>

### **Population Size & Demographic Data** (Oct 29)

11. Stobert, Susan and Kelly Cranswick. 2004. "Looking after seniors: Who does what for whom?" Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2004002/article/7002-eng.pdf>
12. Franke, Sandra. 2003. "Studying and working: The busy lives of students with paid employment," Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2002004/article/6499-eng.pdf>

### **Population Composition** (Nov 5)

13. Ashford, Lori S. Ashford. 2007. "Africa's youthful population: risk or opportunity?" Policy Reports: Population Reference Bureau (PRB).  
<http://www.prb.org/pdf07/AfricaYouth.pdf>
14. Rachel Nugent. 2006. "Youth in a Global World," Policy Reports: Population Reference Bureau (PRB).  
<http://www.prb.org/pdf06/YouthInAGlobalWorld.pdf>

### **Population Distribution** (Nov 12)

15. Gionet, Linda. 2009. "First Nations people: Selected findings of the 2006 Census," *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada — Catalogue no. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2009001/article/10864-eng.pdf>
16. Turcotte, Martin. 2008. "The city/suburb contrast: How can we measure it?," Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2008001/article/10459-eng.pdf>

### **Why Population Numbers and Growth Matter?** (Nov 19)

17. Turcotte, Martin. 2007. "Young people's access to home ownership," Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2007005/pdf/10314-eng.pdf>
18. Cara Williams. 2005. "The sandwich generation," Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada — Catalogue No. 11-008  
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2005001/article/7033-eng.pdf>

### **Population Policy** (Nov 26)

19. Bremner, Jason. Carl Haub, Marlene Le, Mark Mather, and Eric Zuehlke. 2009. "World Population Highlights: Key findings from PRB's 2009 World Population Data Sheet," Population Bulletin, Vol. 64, No. 3. Population Reference Bureau (PRB)  
<http://www.prb.org/pdf09/64.3highlights.pdf>
20. Beaujot, Roderic & Juyan Wang. 2009. "Low fertility lite in Canada: The Nordic model in Quebec and the U.S. model in Alberta," Discussion Paper No. 09-03, Population Studies Centre, University of Western Ontario.  
<http://sociology.uwo.ca/popstudies/dp/dp09-03.pdf>