**Sociology 2080: Principles of Population**

Fall 2014

Professor: Beth Fussell, Elizabeth\_Fussell@brown.edu

Office: 204 Mencoff Hall

Class Meeting: Thursday, 2:00 – 5:00, Maxcy 108

Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Description**

Demography is the study of the size, composition, and distribution of human populations. Three demographic processes – birth, death, and migration – are the proximate causes of changes in populations’ sizes and compositions. To understand these demographic processes the field draws from many disciplines, including sociology, economics, biology, geography, history, and the health sciences. These disciplinary perspectives shed light on the more distal causes of fertility, mortality, migration, and changes in the characteristics of groups within a population. Since this is a sociology class, we focus on family processes, social stratification, environment and economic development as they relate to demographic processes.

Students will be introduced to demographic concepts and theories and will explore the population issues around the globe from the past to the present. Together with SOC2230, Methods of Demographic Analysis, the course prepares students for the Sociology Department’s preliminary examination in Social Demography. Students preparing for the exam will also take additional coursework in at least one of the areas of specialization in the department: households and families, migration and urbanization, demography of health, or demography of the life course.

**Course Structure and Assessments**

I have chosen materials that provide a broad overview of social demography, while emphasizing current concerns: population growth in Africa, very low fertility in more developed nations, the aging of populations, urbanization, international migration, and inequality between the global North and South.

It is critical that assigned materials be read prior to the Monday class. In order to structure the discussion to include all students in the class, each student must post on-line by Sunday at 1.00pm a 3 page (single space) response paper. The response papers should briefly summarize the week’s readings and *provide a critical review of common or conflicting themes and findings; critique of an argument, methodology, interpretation; linkage to previous readings*; or other themes or questions. Credit will be given only for response papers submitted on time and that go meaningfully beyond summarization. Each paper will count towards 3% of your final grade, for a total of 39%. Class discussion counts similarly toward your grade at 1% each class, and 13% of your final grade. There will be an in-class midterm examination and take home final examination each counting towards 24% of your final course grade. These assessments are designed to ensure a basic understanding of social demography.

**Reading Materials**

Purchase: Tim Dyson. 2010. Population and Development: The Demographic Transition Theory. Zed Books: London.

Other articles are available on the Canvas website for the course.

**Class Schedule**

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| 9/4 Week 1. Introduction: Counting people |
| One of the first question demographers ask is, “How many people are there?” It is a descriptive question, but one whose answer demands understanding the causes of population change. McFalls’ book introduces you to the concepts and measures demographers use to answer this type of question. Coale (1974) and Cohen (2003) provide two examples of the answers demographers have given to variants of this question, as does Carl Haub’s podcast about how many people have ever lived on earth. We will read and discuss these short articles today and review the syllabus. |
| * Joseph A. McFalls. 2007. Population: A Lively Introduction. Population Reference Bureau. * Ansley J. Coale. 1974. The history of human population. Scientific American XX: 40-51. * Joel E. Cohen. 2003. “Human population: the next half century.” Science 302(November 14, 2003): 1172-1175. * Video: <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Articles/2002/HowManyPeopleHaveEverLivedonEarth.aspx> |

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| 9/11 Week 2. Concepts and models |
| Demography is a data-driven field but data are made valuable because they relate to conceptual models. Data on population size, fertility, mortality, and migration are used not only to formulate the demographic balancing equation, but also to generalize a theory of demographic transition, which Dyson discusses. In two foundational articles, Ryder (1964) introduces the concept of a cohort and shows its importance in understanding social change and Keyfitz (1975) discusses the stable population model. In class we will use the 2014 Population Data Sheet to explore how demographers use this data to draw conclusions about a population. |
| * + Tim Dyson. 2010. Population and Development: The Demographic Transition. Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-79.   + Norman B. Ryder. 1964. “Notes on the concept of a population.” The American Journal of Sociology. 69: 447-463.   + Nathan Keyfitz. 1975. “How do we know the facts of demography?” Population and Development Review, 1(2), 267-88.   + Population Reference Bureau. 2014. Population Data Sheet. |
| Assignment 1:  Select a country from the Population Data Sheet and use the data provided, as well as several background articles on the country, to write an essay discussing one or two of the demographic issues facing that country. The essay should be 1,500 words (5 double spaced pages). Make sure that you use at least four of the measures and concepts we have discussed in class in your essay so that I can assess your understanding of them. Essay is due 9/25. |

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| 9/18 Week 3. Demographic transition theory and evidence |
| Dyson’s interpretation of demographic transition theory is that mortality decline, and the social processes producing such a decline, cause a cascade of other transitions. We will read a few of the early formulations of demographic transition theory and discuss Dyson’s interpretation in light of these. While reading, consider whether earlier scholars identify causes of demographic change and, if so, what are those causes? |
| * + Tim Dyson. 2010. Population and Development: The Demographic Transition. Chapter 4. The demographic transition – facts and theory, pp. 83-124.   + Frank Notestein. 1945. “Population – the long view.” Food for the World, ed. Theodore W. Schultz. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 36-57.   + Kingsley Davis. 1963. “The theory of change and response in modern demographic history.” Population Index 29: 345-366.   + Ansley Coale. 1973. “The demographic transition.” IUSSP Liege International Population Conference: 1973. Liege: IUSSP. Volume 1: 53-72.   + Dov Friedlander, Barbara S. Okun, and Sharon Segal. 1999. “The demographic transition then and now: Processes, perspectives, and analyses.” Journal of Family History 24: 493-533. |

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| 9/25 Week 4. What causes mortality to decline? |
| This week’s readings focus on the multiple causes of mortality decline. Public health advances, modern medicine, economic development, nutrition, education and personal health knowledge and behavior all bear on a population’s mortality level. Are these models of mortality decline consistent with Dyson’s? How has mortality decline proceeded differently in historical and contemporary contexts? Does this research suggest that mortality decline is irreversible? |
| All read:   * Abdel Omran. 1971. “The epidemiological transition: a theory of the epidemiology of population change.” Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly 69: 509-538.   + Samuel Preston. 1975. “The changing relationship between mortality and level of economic development.” Population Studies 29: 231-248.   + David Cutler and Grant Miller. 2005. “The role of public health improvements in health advances: The twentieth century United States.” Demography 42(1): 1-22.   + Randall Kuhn. 2010. “Routes to low mortality in poor countries revisited.” Population and Development Review 36(4): 655-682. |
| Read one of the following:   * + Caleb E. Finch and Eileen M. Crimmins. 2004. “Inflammatory exposure and historical changes in human life-spans.” Science 305: 1736.   + Malena Monteverde, Kenya Noronha, Alberto Palloni, and Beatriz Novak. 2010. “Obesity and excess mortality among the elderly in the United States and Mexico.” Demography 47(1): 79-96.   + John C. Caldwell. 2000. “Rethinking the African AIDS epidemic.” Population and Development Review 26(1): 117-135. |

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| 10/2 Week 5. What causes fertility to decline? |
| Like mortality, there are a range of factors affecting a population’s fertility level. Why is the concept of natural fertility important to understanding fertility decline? How have the factors affecting fertility changed between historical and contemporary populations? Does fertility decline inevitably follow mortality decline? Will fertility stabilize at replacement-level, or will it continue to fall to below replacement levels? |
| All read:   * + John Bongaarts. 1978. “A framework for analyzing the proximate determinants of fertility.” Population and Development Review 4: 104-132.   + John Knodel. 1983. “Natural fertility: Age patterns, levels, and trends.” Chapter 3 in R. Bulatao and Ronald Lee. Determinants of Fertility in Developing Countries. Vol. 1: pp 61-70?   + Karen Oppenheim Mason. 1997. “Explaining fertility transitions.” Demography 34(4): 443-454.   + John Bongaarts. 2006. “Fertility transitions in developing countries: progress or stagnation?” Studies in Family Planning 39(2): 105-110. |
| Read one of the following:   * + Susan Cotts Watkins. 2000. “Local and foreign models of reproduction in Nyanza Province, Kenya.” Population and Development Review 26(4): 725-759.   + John C. Caldwell. 2001. “The globalization of fertility behavior.” Population and Development Review 27(Supplement): 93-115.   + John Bongaarts. 2014. “The impact of family planning programs on unmet need and demand for contraception.” Studies in Family Planning 45(2): 247-262. |

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| 10/9 Week 6. Population aging |
| As the demographic transition proceeds, populations age (Coale 1964). What are the consequences of population aging? How is aging contributing to global inequality? When do countries achieve a demographic dividend, and when do they miss this opportunity? |
| All read:   * + Ansley J. Coale. 1964. “How a population ages or grows younger.” Population: The Vital Revolution, Ronald Freedman, ed., New York: Doubleday, Random House.   + Samuel H. Preston. 1984. “Children and the Elderly: Divergent Paths for America’s Dependents.” Demography 21(4): 435-457.   + David E. Bloom and David Canning. 2008. “Global demographic change: Dimensions of Economic Significance.” Population and Development Review (Supplement) 34:17-52.   + James N. Gribble and Jason Bremner. 2012. Achieving a Demographic Dividend, Population Bulletin 67(2). Population Reference Bureau. [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org). |
| Read one of the following:   * + Wolfgang Lutz, Warren Sanderson, and Sergei Scherbov. 2008. “The coming acceleration of global population ageing.” Nature 461(7 February): 716-19.   + K.S. James. 2011. “India’s demographic change: opportunities and challenges.” Science 333, 576.   + Leon F. Bouvier. 2001. “Replacement migration?: Is it a solution to declining and aging populations?” Population and Environment 22(4): 377-381. |

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| 10/16 Week 7. The life course and transition to adulthood |
| Life course theory incorporates insights about the social salience of age, history, and shared birth cohort experiences to understand social change. The readings follow the development of life course theory, culminating with a demographic perspective on the topic. Why has the transition to adulthood changed so much in the last century? Why does it vary across contexts, gender, race and ethnicity, and social class? |
| All read:   * John Modell, Hirschberg, and Furstenberg. 1976. “Social change and transitions to adulthood in historical perspective.” Journal of Family History, 1(1): 7-32 * Michael J. Shanahan. 2000. “Pathways to adulthood in changing societies: Variability and mechanisms in life course perspective.” Annual Review of Sociology 26: 667-92. * Glenn H. Elder, Jr., Monica K. Johnson and Robert Crosnoe. 2003. “The Emergence and Development of Life Course Theory.” Pp. 3-19 in *Handbook of the Life Course*, J.T. Mortimer and M.J. Shanahan, editors. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers. * Francesco C. Billari and Aart C. Liefbroer. 2010. “Towards a new pattern of transition to adulthood?” Advances in Life Course Research 15: 59-75. |
| Read one of the following:   * Elizabeth Fussell and Margaret E. Greene. “Demographic Trends Affecting Youth around the World.” Pp. 21-60 of *The World's Youth: Adolescence in Eight Regions of the World*. B. Bradford Brown, Reed Larson, & T. S. Saraswathi, Editors. New York: Cambridge University Press. * Becky Pettit and Bruce Western. 2004. “Mass imprisonment and the life course: Race and class inequality in U.S. incarceration.” American Sociological Review 69(2): 151-169. * Christine R. Schwartz and Robert D. Mare. 2005. “Trends in educational assortative marriage from 1940 to 2002.” Demography 42(4): 621-646. * Megan M. Sweeney. 2002. “Two decades of family change: The shifting economic foundations of marriage.” American Sociological Review 67: 132-147. |

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| 10/23 Week 8. Urbanization and internal migration |
| Urbanization occurs when a growing proportion of a population lives in urban areas. Rural-to-urban migration and rural/urban differences in fertility and mortality potentially contribute to this process. Dyson asserts that mortality decline is the ultimate cause of urbanization. Does this match up with Lee’s (1966) and Zelinsky’s (1971) theories of migration and mobility? Does it square with more contemporary evidence? |
| All read:   * + Tim Dyson. 2010. Population and Development: The Demographic Transition. Chapter 5. Urbanization and the transition.   + Everett S. Lee. 1966. “A theory of migration.” Demography 3(1): 47-57.   + Wilbur Zelinsky. 1971. “The hypothesis of the mobility transition.” Geographical Review 61(2): 219-249.   + Glenn Firebaugh. 1979. “Structural determinants of urbanization in Asia and Latin America, 1950-1970.” American Sociological Review 44(2): 199-215.   + Sean Fox. 2012. “Urbanization as a global historical process: Theory and evidence from sub-Saharan Africa.” Population and Development Review 38(2): 285-310. |
| Read one of the following:   * + Zhen Guo, Zheng Wu, Christoph M. Schimmele, Shuzhuo Li. 2012. “The effect of urbanization on China’s Fertility.” Population Research and Policy Review 31: 417-434.   + Aude Bernard, Martin Bell, and Elin Charles-Edwards. 2014. “Life-course transitions and the age profile of internal migration.” Population and Development Review 40(2): 213-239.   + Ronald Skeldon. 2012. “Migration transitions revisited: Their continued relevance for the development of migration theory.” Population, Space and Place 18: 154-166. |

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| 10/30 Week 9. International migration, origins and destinations |
| International migration is also part of the mobility transition, though it is less frequent than internal migration. What are the causes and consequences of international migration that distinguish it from internal migration? Are the causes and consequences of international migration two separate fields of research? Why or why not? What are the challenges in studying international migration, particularly from a comparative perspective? |
| All read:   * + Douglas S. Massey. 1999. “Why Does Immigration Occur? A Theoretical Synthesis.” *The Handbook of International Migration: The American Experience*, Charles Hirschman, Philip Kasinitz, and Josh DeWind, editors. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.   + Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson. 1994. “What drove the mass migrations from Europe in the late nineteenth century?” Population and Development Review 20(3): 533-559.   + Mark Ellis, Richard Wright, and Matthew Townley. 2014. “The Great Recession and the allure of new immigrant destinations in the United States.” International Migration Review 48(1): 3-33.   + Daniel T. Lichter and Kenneth M. Johnson. 2009. “Immigrant gateways and Hispanic migration to new destinations.” International Migration Review 43(3): 496-518.   + Alejandro Portes, Patricia Fernández-Kelly, and William Haller. 2007. “Segmented assimilation on the ground: The second generation in early adulthood.” Ethnic and Racial Studies 28(6): 1000-1040. |
| Read one of the following:   * + Douglas S. Massey. 1988. “Economic development and international migration in comparative perspective.” Population and Development Review 14(3): 383-413.   + Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson. 2010. “Are third world emigration forces abating?” World Development 39(1): 20-32.   + Emilio A. Parrado and Marcella Cerrutti. 2003. “Labor migration between developing countries: The case of Paraguay and Argentina.” International Migration Review 37(1): 101-132. |

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| 11/6 Week 10. Demographic transition and family change in more developed countries |
| Dyson argues that the demographic transition has had social effects, particularly on family formation and gender relations. What is the evidence for and against such an argument? Is there a second demographic transition, or is it simply the end of the demographic transition? Is there a risk of population decline as a result of the demographic transition? |
| All read:   * + Tim Dyson. 2010. Population and Development: The Demographic Transition. Chapter 6. Social effects of the transition.   + Susan Cotts Watkins, Jane A. Menken, and John Bongaarts. 1987. “Demographic foundations of family change.” American Sociological Review 52(3): 346-358.   + Larry L. Bumpass. 1990. “What’s happening to the family: Interactions between demographic and institutional change.” Demography 27(4): 483-498.   + Karen Oppenheim Mason. 2001. “Gender and family systems in the fertility transition.” Population and Development Review 27(Supplement): 160-176.   + Ron Lesthaeghe. 2010. “The unfolding story of the second demographic transition.” Population and Development Review 36(2): 211-251. |
| Read one of the following:   * + David I. Kertzer, Michael J. White, Laura Bernardi, and Guiseppe Gabrielli. 2009. “Italy’s path to very low fertility: The adequacy of economic and second demographic transition theories.” European Journal of Population 25(1): 99-115.   + Minja Kim Choe, Larry L. Bumpass, Noriko O. Tsuya, Ronald R. Rindfuss. 2014. “Non-traditional family-related attitudes in Japan: Macro and micro determinants.” Population and Development Review 40(2): 241-271. |

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| 11/13 Week 11. No seminar due to professor’s travel |

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| 11/20 Week 12. Demographic transition and family change in developing countries |
| How do the effects of the demographic transition on families manifest in developing countries? What are the linkages between changing family and household structures, poverty, elder support, and investments in children, particularly girls? How is the demographic transition likely to look different in developing countries than it did at a similar point in the transition in more developed countries? |
| All read:   * + Tim Dyson. 2010. Population and Development: The Demographic Transition. Chapter 7. Economic and political effects of the transition.   + Cynthia Lloyd. 1998. “Household structure and poverty: What are the connections? Population and poverty in the Developing World. Livi-Bacci and De Santis (eds.) Pp. 84-102.   + Kirsty McNay. 2005. “The implications of the demographic transition for women, girls and gender equality: A review of developing country evidence.” Progress in Development Studies 5(2): 115-134.   + David Lam and Letícia Marteleto. 2008. “Stages of the demographic transition from a child’s perspective: Family size, cohort size, and children’s resources.” Population and Development Review 34(2): 225-252. |
| Read one of the following:   * + Susan Cotts Watkins. 1993. “If all we knew about women was what we read in Demography, what would we know?” Demography 30(4): 551-577.   + Parfait M. Eloundou-Enyegue and Lindy B. Williams. 2006. “Family size and schooling in Sub-Saharan Africa: A re-examination.” Demography 43(1): 25-52.   + Peter Lloyd-Sherlock. 2000. “Old age and poverty in developing countries: New policies challenges.” World Development 28(12): 2157-2168. |

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| 11/27 Thanksgiving Break |

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| 12/4 Week 13. Population and environment |
| Demographers have not paid much attention to the environment but are increasingly recognizing and are able to measure the relationship between population and the environment. The readings this week are presidential addresses to the Population Association of America (and responses to one address), as well as an assessment of how population matters for climate change. What are demographers bringing to the discussion of the environment and climate change? What might they be missing? |
| * + Anne R. Pebley. 1998. “Demography and the Environment.” Demography 35(4): 377-389.   + Lam, David. 2011. “How the World Survived the Population Bomb: Lessons from 50 years of demographic history.” Demography 48: 1231-1262.   + Becker, Stan. 2013. “Has the *World* Really Survived the Population Bomb?” Demography 50:2173-2181.   + Lam, David. 2013. “Reply to Stan Becker…” Demography 50: 2183-2186.   + Leiwen Jiang and Karen Hardee. 2011. “How do recent population trends matter to climate change?” Population Research and Policy Review 30(2): 287-312. |
| * + Charles A.S. Hall and John W. Day, Jr. 2009. “Revisiting the limits to growth after peak oil.” American Scientist 97(May-June): 230-37.   + McMichael, Anthony J. 2013. “Globalization, Climate Change, and Human Health.” The New England Journal of Medicine. 368(14): 1335-1343. |

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| 12/11 Week 14. Description and causality in demography |
| Throughout the semester we’ve been considering causal explanations for demographic change, yet demography is a basically descriptive social science. In this class we will reflect on the semester’s readings and the kinds of mechanisms that demographers typically consider in their explanations. |
| * + Charles Hirschman and Stewart E. Tolnay. 2005. “Social demography.” Chapter 14 in Handbook of Population, Dudley L. Poston and Michael Micklin (eds) New York: Klewer.   + Máire Ní Bhrolchain and Tim Dyson. 2007. “On causation in demography: Issues and illustrations.” Population and Development Review 33(1): 1-36.   + Steven Sinding. 2000. “The Great Population Debates: How relevant are they for the 21st Century?” American Journal of Public Health 90(12): 1841-1845.   + Michael Marmot. 2005. “Social determinants of health inequalities.” Lancet 365: 1099-104.   + Bruce G. Link. 2008. “Epidemiological sociology and the social shaping of population health.” Journal of Health and Social Behavior 49: 367-384. |