

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
**Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science**  
**Syllabus for Geog 384: Population Geography, Fall 2015**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm

Teaching Times and Venue for this class: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00am - 12:20pm,  
113 Davenport Hall

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the problems and issues surrounding the geographic distribution of populations at the world, regional, and local levels particularly problems associated with population growth, decline, recent population redistribution, births and deaths. Methods of incorporating demographic analysis into scientific and policy research are introduced. Specifically, the course will study human populations and demographic dynamics from a spatial perspective. We will focus on a variety of themes: population size (how many people there are in particular places), sources of population data (censuses and vital statistics registration and others), theories of population change (Malthus, Marx, Demographic Transition, etc), population growth and decline (how the number of people changes over time both globally and regionally), population processes (levels of and trends in fertility, mortality, and migration), population distribution (where people are located and why and how this changes), population structure (how many males and females there are of a particular age), population control (family planning programs), and population characteristics (what people are like in a particular place with respect to such things as education, income, ethnicity). In addition, we will examine the relationship between global population growth, environmental degradation and food security.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTES**

Students will be responsible for material covered in lectures and assigned readings. The assigned readings should be completed well in advance of the lecture or class discussion. This will facilitate meaningful discussion in class. Active participation in class discussions is highly encouraged and will contribute a significant percentage to the final grade (10%). There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and an end of term paper (6-10 pages in length), and several exercises and reading quizzes. Remember that attending classes will greatly enhance your ability to do well on exams. The instructor reserves the right to take as many class attendances as he wishes throughout the semester.

## DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Grades will be distributed according to the following percentages:

1. Midterm Exam	20
2. Final Exam	25
3. End of Term Paper	20
4. Exercises (4 of them and mostly internet based)	19
5. In class quizzes & active participation in discussion	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### Required Textbook:

**Option 1:** Weeks, John R. 2012. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues* (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) Belmont, Ca.: Wadsworth Publishing Co. Hardcopy available in the Illini Bookstore (cost: about \$200).

**Option 2:** Weeks, John R. 2012. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues* (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) Belmont, Ca.: Wadsworth Publishing Co. Hardcopy available in the Illini Bookstore Electronic version available at [www.CengageBrain.com](http://www.CengageBrain.com) (cost: about \$86).

The direct link to the book at the CengageBrain.com website is as follows:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/en/US/storefront/US?cmd=CLHeaderSearch&fieldValue=Population+An+Introduction+to+Concepts+and+Issues+11th+Edition>

### WEB PAGE FOR THIS CLASS

Illinois Campus: <https://compass2g.illinois.edu/>

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

### INTRODUCTION

Tue Jan 20 First Day of Classes - Introduction to Population Geography

### I. OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION

Mon Aug 24 Introduction to Population Geography and Demography (weeks chapters 1 & 2)  
Brief History of world population  
Population distribution

Wed Aug 26 Major sources of population data (Weeks, Chap 4)  
Population censuses, vital statistics, sample surveys, etc.  
Population data: conceptual difficulties

Mon Aug 31 Population composition (Weeks, Chap 8)  
Sex ratio, population pyramids, dependency ratio, etc.

Wed Sep 2 Population composition (Weeks, Chap 8)

Mon Sep 7 Labor Day (No Class)

- Wed Sep 9 In-class quiz/discussion of material in chapters 1 and 2 (introduction to demographic and global population trends).
- Mon Sep 14 In-class Excel Demonstration to generate simple graphs such as Bar Graphs and Population Pyramids.
- Wed Sep 16 Population composition and in-class quiz/discussion on population composition and sources of population data (chapters 4 and 8, for chapter 8 read pages 308-340 only).  
**EXERCISE 1 DUE**

## II. DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES

- Mon Sep 21 Demographic perspectives (Weeks Chap. 3)  
Malthus, Marx, Boserup, Demographic Transition, Esterlin, Davis, etc.  
**EXERCISE 1 DUE**
- Wed Sep 23 Demographic perspectives (Weeks Chap. 3 – continued)
- Mon Sep 28 In-class quiz/discussion on theories (i.e. chapter 3).

## III. POPULATION PROCESSES -- FERTILITY (Weeks Chap 6)

- Wed Sep 30 Measures of fertility
- Mon Oct 5 Determinants and explanations of fertility  
Video: *India's Missing Girls*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7d7w8iOEB0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7d7w8iOEB0)

## IV. POPULATION PROCESSES -- MORTALITY (Weeks Chap 5)

- Wed Oct 7 Measures of mortality
- Mon Oct 12 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Wed Oct 14 Determinants of Mortality and Mortality Differentials  
**EXERCISE 2**

## V. POPULATION PROCESSES -- MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION (Weeks Chaps 7 and 9)

- Mon Oct 19 Migration: basic concepts and measures (Weeks chap 7)
- Wed Oct 21 Discussion Quiz on Mortality and Mortality Differentials  
Followed by lecture on Types and theories of migration (Weeks chap 7)
- Mon Oct 26 Population, Resources, Environment and Development (Weeks, Chapter 11)

- Wed Oct 28 Discussion quiz on migration and the urban transition (Chapters 7 and 9 in Weeks)
- Mon Nov 2 The Urban Transition (Chapter 9)
- Wed Nov 4 The Urban Transition (continued)  
Population, Resources, Environment and Development (Weeks, Chapter 11)

### **VIII. POPULATION ISSUES**

- Mon Nov 9 Population, Resources, Environment and Development (continued)
- Wed Nov 11 Class Discussion of the Urban Transition & Population and Environment  
**EXERCISE 3 DUE**
- Mon Nov 16 Video on Population, Resources, Environment and Food Security  
Video: *Earth 2025: Population Explosion -- Aftermath*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dymPP9RhPjw>
- Wed Nov 18 Coping with Demographic Change (Weeks Chap 12)
- Nov 23 & 25 Thanksgiving Break**
- Mon Nov 30 End of Term Paper Presentations and Discussion  
**EXERCISE 4 DUE**
- Wed Dec 2 End of Term Paper Presentations and Discussion
- Mon Dec 7 End of Term Paper Presentations and Discussion
- Wed Dec 9 Course Summary and Review for Final Exam  
End of Term Paper Presentations and Discussion  
**END OF TERM PAPER DUE**
- Thu Dec 17 FINAL EXAM, 1:30-4:30pm  
Room 113 Davenport Hall**