

SOCI 3805A: Studies in Population

Instructor	Dr. Rania Tfaily
Term	Fall 2024
Course Delivery	In-person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the field of demography, focusing on the study of human populations, particularly in relation to population growth, fertility (births), mortality (deaths), and migration. We examine Malthus's and Marx's theoretical perspectives on population growth and critically assess the demographic transition theory. We delve into the politics of population, and how population issues shape the world. We then explore issues related to mortality, fertility, and migration. We analyze the historical decline in mortality and examine racial/ethnic and socioeconomic inequalities in health, with a particular focus on Indigenous health. We then shift our attention to fertility and assess various explanations for the decline in fertility and the emergence of low fertility as well as discuss immigration and immigration policies. Finally, we focus on how to access reliable demographic data and interpret various demographic measures as well as discuss the limitations of current norms of collecting demographic data.

EVALUATION

Students must regularly attend class, complete the assigned readings, actively participate in class discussions, and submit assignments on time. The course grade distribution is as follows:

- In-class participation 15%
- Weekly critical reviews 35%
- Assignment 15%
- In-class exam 35%

In-class participation (15%)

- Active participation in class discussions is essential for improving oral skills and developing critical analysis. Students should thoroughly read the assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss, critique and engage in debates.

Weekly critical reviews (35%)

- To encourage thoughtful engagement and discussion of the course content, students must submit a critical review of all the readings for each class throughout the course. These weekly reviews **are due before each class** (no extensions). Each review should integrate and discuss all the readings for that week, synthesizing them into a cohesive narrative, and should be approximately three double-spaced pages long. **If you submit more than seven weekly reviews, I will drop the ones with the lowest grades.** Please submit your reviews via Brightspace. Instructions on how to write them will be provided in class.

Assignment (15%)

- There is one assignment in this course. The assignment will include looking up demographic data, interpreting specific demographic measures, preparing demographic profiles on several countries and answering related questions. The assignment will be discussed in class and posted on Brightspace. **The assignment is due on Friday, December 6.**
- The assignment should be typed and submitted via Brightspace. Assignments that are not submitted on time will incur a penalty of 2.5% per day, unless a valid excuse is provided.
- Students are encouraged to post their questions regarding the assignment on the Brightspace discussion board.

In-class exam (35%)

- This course includes an in-class closed-book exam. The exam will cover all materials discussed in class, including assigned readings, lectures and documentaries/ films shown during class. **The exam is scheduled for Monday, November 18.**
- The exam consists of short-answer questions, multiple-choice questions, and essays.

TEXT

Required readings are available through the library website and/or on Brightspace via ARES.