Course Objectives

• *Master the language and methods of Demography*
• *Analyze and interpret interactions among population dynamics with a critical historical and spatial lens*
• *Critically evaluate interactions among human and physical geographical processes and population dynamics across time and space*
Today’s Objectives

• Understand the objectives for the course and my expectations

• Introduction of population concepts and their importance
Today’s Agenda

• What is population geography? How does population change? And why do we care?

• How will we study it: A review of the syllabus

• Introduction to some population concepts and their importance
Population Studies

• What is Demography?
Demography is:

- The statistical study of human populations, especially with reference to size and density, distribution and vital statistics. 

- The study of the characteristics of populations, such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics.
  [www.hubbardbrook.org/education/Glossary/Glossary.htm](http://www.hubbardbrook.org/education/Glossary/Glossary.htm)

- The study of population.
  [www.geoexplorer.co.uk/sections/dictionary/d.htm](http://www.geoexplorer.co.uk/sections/dictionary/d.htm)
What is Population Geography?
Population Geography is:

a subset of Pop. Studies that focuses on:

- Spatial patterns and processes
- Geographers tend to study migration more than fertility and mortality
- Geographers wish to know why that distribution?
- What are the environmental impacts?
HOW DOES POPULATION CHANGE?
Population Change =

Fertility – Mortality +/- Migration
Why do we care?

Who said this?…

“Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence only increases in an arithmetical ratio.”

Is it true?

Answers on the next page…
Who said this?…


Is it true?
1. Sometimes
2. We don’t know
3. Maybe in the future
4. All of the above
While the developed nations have only about a billion of the world's population, they consume about 60% of all energy.  

www.internationalcartoons.com
Nature of the Course

Whether you are concerned with economics, politics, culture, or the environment, population dynamics play a huge role. Following millennia of relative population stability, the human population has exploded to over 6 billion persons. While the natural increase in the US and Europe is decreasing, the population of the developing world continues to swell. What will this mean for political stability in the Middle East, for deforestation in the Amazon, for economic development in China, for poverty in Africa? These are some of the watershed issues we face. To be better informed about these and other important phenomena, during this course, we will critically examine:

- the major concepts and basic tools of demography;
- key geographical and historical processes of population change: fertility, mortality, and migration.
- the socio-economic, political, and environmental causes and consequences of population dynamics in different world regions and over time (and the potential outcomes of various policy interventions).
HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES?

You will not sit passively while I lecture to you during each class period. Rather, several methods will be used during class time to maximize your mastery of the material. These could include:

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Debates
- Presentations
- Quizzes
- Activities
- Written and oral lecture summaries
- Laboratory assignments
- Writing assignments
- Analysis of videos on population
I want you all to succeed!
Here is how you do it:

• Consistently attend classes and labs
• Prepare for class by carefully completing assigned readings
• Actively participate in class discussions and activities
• Review your notes following each class
• Understand course requirements; if unsure, ask.
COURSE EVALUATION

• Mid-term Exam 20%
• Final Exam 30%
• 3 Lab Assignments 20%

• Papers/presentations (I encourage you to seek help at Campus Learning Assistant Services-building 477 & 300, ext. 3269-to improve your papers for this class and your writing skills for life!)
  □ • Undergrads: a 3-5 pg. double-space max. country comparison (20%) (presentations, team or individual, may comprise 5% of this grade).
  □ • Grads: 7-10 page double-space max. term paper (20%) and 15 minute presentation (5%)  

• Attendance/effort/in-class assignments or quizzes
  • Undergrads (10%)
  • Grads (5%)

* Class participation and attendance is expected — studies indicate it is strongly correlated with course grade.
Exams

• Will cover all course materials
  – Lectures
  – Readings
  – Labs
  – Videos
Types of Exam Questions

• **Multiple Choice**
  1. The population of Santa Barbara in 2004 is
  a) 226 million  b) 1.5 million  c) 74 thousand
d) 28 thousand  e) none of the above

• **Short Answer**
  Which was the only ethnic group ever explicitly excluded by law from immigrating to the US?

• **Short essay**
  Why would there be a high crude mortality rate in the 5 states longitudinally (vertically) north of Texas?
Class activities (e.g. discussions and debates)

• Be prepared for class activities.
• Share and explain your opinions.
• Don’t dominate; be fair about the amount of time you take to speak.
• Back up your arguments with evidence.
• Disagree politely.
• Listen carefully to other opinions.
• Change your mind when another argument is more cogent than yours.
• Do not hesitate to ask for clarification.
• Make your points succinctly, avoiding repetition, and providing a choice example of your point.
Lab and Writing Assignments
To earn an A on writing and lab assignments do the following:

• Fulfill task requirements.

• Use concepts appropriately and creatively.

• Synthesize, interpret, and evaluate.

• Organize with logic and clarity.

• Display accuracy and conceptual discipline.

• Present your work flawlessly (or nearly so).
POLICIES REGARDING LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE-UP EXAMS

• **Make-ups** may be allowed for excused work not completed—other means may also be devised to evaluate a student’s overall course performance in those cases.

• **Late assignments:** Grades on assignments turned in late will be reduced by 5 percentage points each day beyond the assigned deadline except under extraordinary circumstances authorized by the instructor.
READINGS

No single reading adequately covers the multiplicity of topics covered in the course. For that reason, readings will come from a text, a supplementary book, PRB reports, and from professional journals.

Required Text (available at the student store)


• Selected PRB Population Bulletins. These are located at: http://www.prb.org/Template.cfm?Section=Population_Bulletin1&Template=/PopulationBulletin2.cfm


• Selected Population Action International Publications. These are located at: http://www.populationaction.org/resources/publications/archive.htm.

Other Possible Readings…