

**POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT  
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY TERM PAPER**

**WINTER 2003**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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- TASK** Write a 20-30 page (double-spaced and standard font) regional geography that provides an integrated assessment of demographic processes and their relationship to the natural environment and the economic development status of a particular country.
- GOAL** The three pillars of the course, population-development-environment, are each complex subjects in their own right. One of the primary goals of the course is to foster an integrated understanding of the trivariate interactions. The regional geography is a natural means to achieve that integration. Ideally, by the end of the quarter, you will emerge as a budding regional expert on human-environment interactions in your country.
- LOGISTICS** Writing is an inherently difficult process and term papers are often a daunting prospect for students at the beginning of the quarter. The writing of the paper is structured around weekly assignments. There are seven weekly assignments which will guide the research and writing process. Every two weeks you will turn in an progress report and will receive constructive feedback. The final version of the term paper is due in my mailbox (Ellison Hall 3611) on March 18<sup>th</sup> before 2pm.
- SPECIFICS** The paper will be graded on both the content and the quality of the writing. The overall composition of the paper as well as the grammar, usage, and mechanics should all be in order in the final version. The paper should include a bibliography with the citations conforming to formatting standards contained in either the *MLA handbook for writers of research papers* (Achttert and Gibaldi) or *A manual for writers of term papers, theses, and dissertations* (Turabian).
- You can work individually on the term paper or work in teams of up to three. If you work as a team, the paper will receive a single grade and each team member will be asked to assess the contribution of other team members. The group-reported relative effort will be used to assign the group paper grade to each member.

**CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

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As noted above, the goal of the term paper is to produce an integrated vision of the complex interactions between demographic processes, the environment, and development. The weekly assignments will provide important pieces of the puzzle but your task is to integrate those pieces into a comprehensive whole. Although each term paper will include roughly similar sets of analysis, I do not want to impose any prior structure on the final report. Depending on the specific country, some elements of analysis may be more important than others. There will also be some flexibility in the assignments to tailor your analysis to the important issues in your country. The final structure of the term paper should emerge organically as you push on through the quarter.

## **OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

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WEEK 1. **Archival research**

WEEK 2. **Demographic accounts and simple population projections**

WEEK 3. **Demographic transition and development status**

WEEK 4. **Age structure and demographic momentum**

WEEK 5. **Migration, population distribution, and urbanization**

WEEK 6. **Bi-regional population projections**

WEEK 7. **Health indicators, disease, and cause elimination**

## **RESEARCH-WRITING PROCESS GUIDE**

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1. Selecting a topic:

- Your country will be assigned but you still need to decide on matters of emphasis within the report. For example, if you are studying health and disease you will need to decide which health problems are most important.
- Limit the scope of the topic to something that is manageable within the page limit.

2. Gathering sources:

*Literature searches:*

- Online catalogues (MELVYL, PEGASUS)
- Edited volumes, identifies core sets of authors working on topic.
- References from references.
- Academic journals

*Government data sources:*

see the G143 web page links.

3. Working bibliography:

- Preliminary, ongoing record of all sources of information you use in your paper.
- Organizes and tracks the sources of information.
- Choose a bibliographic and reference style and be consistent throughout the paper and

bibliography.

- Notes either kept separately or work towards an annotated bibliography.

4. Taking notes:

- Annotations in book or article (if you own it or make a photocopy)
- Quotes, paraphrasing, summarizing, outlining
- You may want to use index cards or a spiral notebook
- Use some consistent organizational style.

5. Brainstorming-discovering-organizing ideas:

- Free association or brainstorming to figure out how much you know and how you have digested the material.
- Mapping - clustering, listing, outlining to identify topics, supporting topics, concepts, and ideas and their interrelationships.

6. Outlining:

- Organize your ideas from number 5.
- Culminate in a sketch outline as a tentative structure to paper
- Will the structure work as a composition?

7. First draft:

- Continuous writing, not worrying about grammar, spelling, or details.
- Main thing... push forward through each section of the outline.
- Physical environment is important; find a location that is quiet and where there will be no interruptions. Also, find a place where you can spread out your material.

8. Revisions:

- Writing is an iterative process.
- Revisions target different elements: strategy, composition, style, grammar, mechanics.
- Keep the drafts as separate word processing files (e.g. G143 draft 11-1.doc, G143 draft 11-5.doc)

9. External review:

- Have a friend read your paper and make comments.
- Read a friends paper and make comments.

10. Final edit:

- Make sure all the details are in order. Both computer and visual spell checks to catch any typos.
- Are all of the citations and the bibliography in order?
- Are the page numbers correct?
- Are the tables and figures in final form?