

**Introduction to Demography  
Pardee RAND Graduate School  
2016 Spring Quarter**

**Professor Ernesto F. L. Amaral  
Question about March 29 class: Introduction**

**Instructions**

Students are required to answer one question prior to each of the five classes. These questions are going to be related to the main readings about demographic concepts and methods. Answers should be no more than 350 words and students must email their answers to the professor by the Monday before each class.

**Question**

A consistent discussion in demographic literature is related to how rapid population growth could potentially impact natural resources, climate change, and poverty in developing countries. Some researchers emphasize the need for more improvements in agricultural production and increased concern with the environmental limitations facing a growing population. Other researchers indicate that we've overcome these challenges through a reduction in poverty, educational improvements, and the provision of food to large populations. Discuss these different concerns related to population growth, transition, and evolution for current societies.

**Extra material**

***The Unrealized Horrors of Population Explosion***

Retro Report – Clyde Haberman – The New York Times – May 31, 2015

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/01/us/the-unrealized-horrors-of-population-explosion.html?comments&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/01/us/the-unrealized-horrors-of-population-explosion.html?comments&_r=1)

***The New York Times Gets it Wrong in a Story About the Population Explosion***

John Weeks – June 3, 2015

<http://weekspopulation.blogspot.com/2015/06/the-new-york-times-gets-it-wrong-in.html>

***Demography Is Destiny? Teaching About Cause and Effect With Global Population Trends***

Michael Gonchar – The New York Times – March 23, 2016

[http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/03/23/demography-is-destiny-teaching-about-cause-and-effect-with-global-population-trends/?\\_r=2](http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/03/23/demography-is-destiny-teaching-about-cause-and-effect-with-global-population-trends/?_r=2)

***The New York Times Primer on Demography***

John Weeks – March 25, 2016

<http://weekspopulation.blogspot.com/2016/03/the-new-york-times-primer-on-demography.html>