



Course information

Course website: <http://www.ernestoamaral.com/soci312-19spring.html>

Meeting location: Chemistry Building (CHEM) 255 (<https://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?bldg=0484>)

Meeting times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:10–10am

Instructor information

Ernesto F. L. Amaral, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

Office location: Academic Building 415 (<http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?bldg=0462>)

Office hours: Wednesday, 1–2:30pm; and by appointment.
Appointment requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance.

Phone: (979)845–9706

Email: amaral@tamu.edu

Course description

The main objective of this course is to introduce concepts and methods in demography, related to the three components of fertility, mortality, and migration. This is an introduction to the sociological study of populations (social demography). Demography is the scientific study of human populations and the changes in size, composition, and distribution of these populations. Discussions about demographic issues will be linked to the methods needed to analyze these topics. In recent years, few issues in the world are as important as population growth and change.

This course will cover topics related to population growth and decline, age-sex composition, data sources, and the association between demographic transition and economic outcomes. We will present general concepts on periods and cohorts, Lexis diagram, mortality measures, epidemiological transition, causes of mortality decline, life tables, period measures, and behavioral and policy influences on health. The course will address trends and differentials in fertility, proximate determinants of fertility, period measures, and tempo-quantum effects. The classes on migration will evaluate trends and differentials in population flows, estimation of migration rates, urbanization, and effects on receiving and sending areas. We will also cover demographic projections, age structure transition, changes in household composition, labor force participation, and population policies.

Learning outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify main concepts and methods in demography, related to fertility, mortality, and migration.
- Explain links between demographic changes, economic outcomes, and public policy issues.
- Evaluate general demographic trends throughout the world, based on publicly available secondary data.
- Perceive, analyze, and discuss the dynamics of human populations.
- Investigate population issues from the perspective of the social sciences.

Textbooks and resource material

The following textbook is **required** for this course. There are several options to buy or rent (new, used or digital) copies of this book. As a student at Texas A&M you are not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from independent retailers, including online retailers.

Poston, Dudley L.; Bouvier, Leon F. 2017. **Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography**. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2nd edition. (P)

([MSC Bookstore](#))

([Amazon](#))

I will also cover a couple of chapters from the following textbook, but it is **not required** for this course.

Wachter Kenneth W. 2014. **Essential Demographic Methods**. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (W)

([Amazon](#))

Via the course website, I will provide files containing this syllabus, slides, extra readings, exams, databases, external links, and other materials, which will be uploaded throughout the semester.

Grading policies and scale

Grading scale: The course follows the standard rules of the university regarding the letter grading scale (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10>).

Assessment	Percent of final grade	Details	Grading scale	Percent
Exam 1	25%	50 questions, 0.5 points per question	A	90–100%
Exam 2	25%	50 questions, 0.5 points per question	B	80–89%
Exam 3	25%	50 questions, 0.5 points per question	C	70–79%
Final exam	25%	50 questions, 0.5 points per question	D	60–69%
Total	100%		F	0–59%
Teaching evaluation	2.2%	1 class		
Participation	7.8%	39 lectures, 0.2 points per lecture		
Assignment 1	3%			
Assignment 2	2%			
Bonus	15%			

Exams will be given in class and will consist of multiple-choice questions and others. The date and time are available in the calendar of activities of this syllabus. See more information about Student Rules regarding examinations via the following link (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule08>).

The **final exam** will be given in class and will consist of multiple-choice questions and others. The date and time are available in the calendar of activities of this syllabus. This exam will be given during final examinations week in accordance with the schedule published by the Office of the Registrar (<http://registrar.tamu.edu/Courses,-Registration,-Scheduling/Final-Examination-Schedules>).

Exams will not be graded on a curve. Students should bring an 8.5"x11" Scantron testing form (<http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci312-19spring/Scantron.pdf>) and a No. 2 pencil to all exams.

Teaching evaluation: In the **last lecture** of the semester (#42), the professor will give the teaching evaluation form for students to complete. Students who sign the attendance sheet this day will receive 2.2 bonus points toward their final grade.

Participation: During the **39 lectures** (excluding exam days) throughout the semester, students will obtain 0.2 bonus points per class if they ask a question or answer a question posed by the professor during the lecture.

Assignments will test specific chapters throughout the course. They should be submitted through Turnitin within eCampus. Turnitin is an online database system designed to help instructors **detect plagiarism**, track citations, facilitate peer reviews, and provide paperless grading markup in written assignments. Students should develop this assignment **individually**.

Quizzes will occur on random class days. Each quiz will be worth one point each. They will contain a few multiple-choice questions and/or short answer questions. Students will answer the quiz on eCampus during the final minutes of the class. If students do not have a laptop or smartphone in the classroom, they can answer the quiz on a paper sheet. There will be no makeup opportunities for these quizzes, because they are bonus activities. The content of the quiz can cover any topic we discussed throughout the course up to the day of the quiz. You will be allowed to look at your notes and class material to answer the questions.

Study groups: You are not competing with others in this class for a grade. Feel free to form study groups to review course materials.

Attendance policy

This course is organized on the assumption that students will attend and participate in every class. The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. **I will take attendance each class**. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located online at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

Dates on which exams and the final exam will be due are provided in the calendar of this syllabus. Topics and dates of lectures, exams, and the final exam are subject to change. Eventual changes will be clarified during classes and will be posted on the course website. Students who miss class are responsible for searching for information on: changes to the class schedule announced during the lecture periods, changes in exam coverage announced during the lecture periods, any materials distributed during the lecture periods, and all materials presented in the lectures. The course website and fellow students in the class are resources to help you stay current on the schedule and any course changes.

Students will need to sign an attendance sheet each day with a blue or black ink pen, in order for attendance to be considered valid. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet if you are in class that day.

Make-up policy

If an absence is excused, the instructor will either provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam, or other work that contributes to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. If the instructor has a regularly scheduled make up exam, students are expected to attend, unless they have a university-approved excuse. **The make-up work must be completed in a timeframe not to exceed 30 calendar days from the last day of the initial absence.**

Absence policy

The student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for the absence. The specifics of what constitutes an excused absence are available at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>. The fact that these are university-excused absences does not relieve the student from responsibility for prior notification and documentation. Failure to notify and/or document properly may result in an unexcused absence. Falsification of documentation is a violation of the Honor Code. **Documentation has to be provided in print to the professor during regular class hours, not by email.**

Other absences not listed in the link above may be excused at the discretion of the instructor with prior notification and proper documentation. In cases where prior notification is not feasible (e.g., accident or emergency) the **student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence**, including an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. Accommodations sought for absences due to the observance of a religious holiday can be sought either prior to or after the absence, but not later than two working days after the absence.

Electronic devices and eating in class

During classes, laptops, tablets, and smartphones should not be used for activities that are not directly related to the course.

Examples of **activities unrelated to class** include: checking and answering email, texting, scheduling appointments, viewing videos, and viewing websites with materials unrelated to the course.

Examples of **activities related to class** include: reviewing documents and course materials posted on the web, and examining websites that are visited as part of the lecture. If the policy is not respected, I will ban all devices for non-laptop required sessions.

Eating is not permitted during classes.

University Writing Center (UWC)

The mission of the University Writing Center (UWC) is to help you develop and refine the communication skills vital to success in college and beyond. You can choose to work with a trained UWC peer consultant in person or via web conference or email. Consultants can help with everything from lab reports to application essays and at any stage of your process, from brainstorming to reviewing the final draft. You can also get help with public speaking, presentations, and group projects. The UWC's main location is on the second floor of Evans Library; there's also a walk-in location on the second floor of West Campus Library. To schedule an appointment or view our helpful handouts and videos, visit <http://writingcenter.tamu.edu>. Or call (979)458-1455.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policy statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Office hours

Office hours are intended to assist students who are seeking help understanding course materials (lectures, readings, lab classes, etc.) and to mentor students. Office hours do not substitute for attendance in class. I will not discuss missed classes unless the student missed those classes because of an authorized excuse. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located online at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>. As Student Rules state: (1) it is the student's responsibility to attend class; and (2) if I used office hours to substitute for attendance in class, it would be a disservice to students who wish to use office hours to enhance their academic success.

Academic integrity statement and policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do" (<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>).

Definitions of academic misconduct are available in this link (<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Rules/Honor-System-Rules#Definitions>). "According to the Aggie Honor System Office, Plagiarism is 'The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.' Plagiarism is just one form of academic misconduct; plagiarism and cheating are perhaps the most commonly practiced" (http://library.tamu.edu/services/library_tutorials/academic_integrity/index.html).

Title IX and statement on limits to confidentiality

Texas A&M University and the College of Liberal Arts are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees — including instructors — cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor, I must report (per Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01) the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared:

- Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff, or third parties visiting campus.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In many cases, it will be your decision whether or not you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Service (<https://scs.tamu.edu/>).

Students and faculty can report non-emergency behavior that causes them to be concerned at <http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu>.

If you have been sexually assaulted, you have options for help. Reporting resources will report your assault to the university, non-reporting resources will keep it confidential.

– Reporting Resources

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Student Services @ White Creek
Student Life 3 (Bldg. #72), Room 101
College Station, TX 77843–1257
Phone: (979)845–3111

TAMU POLICE DEPARTMENT

1111 Research Pkwy
College Station, TX 77845
(979)845–2345

*ANY TAMU EMPLOYEE (EXCEPT COUNSELING & BUETEL) ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS.

– Non-reporting Resources

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER (SARC)

Free 24/7 Crisis Hotline, Counseling, accompaniments to hospital.
24/7 Crisis Hotline: (979)731–1000
<http://www.sarcbv.org>

TAMU COUNSELING SERVICES

757 West Campus Blvd.
College Station, TX 77843–1263
Phone: (979)845–4427

BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE

(24/7 Sexual Assault exams)
700 Scott and White Dr.
College Station, TX 77845
(979)207–0100

Calendar of activities, course topics, and exams (tentative)

The tentative calendar of activities below includes dates, course topics, readings, and exam dates for this course. Changes will be indicated during classes and will be posted on the course website.

Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading Author.chapter	Exam content
JANUARY				
01	01/14 (Monday)	Syllabus & An introduction to demography	Syllabus & P.1	
02	01/16 (Wednesday)	An introduction to demography	P.1	
03	01/18 (Friday)	World population change over time	P.12	
—	01/21 (Monday)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no class	—	
04	01/23 (Wednesday)	World population change over time	P.12	
05	01/25 (Friday)	Population change in the United States	P.13	
06	01/28 (Monday)	Population change in the United States	P.13	
07	01/30 (Wednesday)	Theories of demography	P.2	
FEBRUARY				
08	02/01 (Friday)	Theories of demography	P.2	
09	02/04 (Monday)	Theories of demography	P.2	
10	02/06 (Wednesday)	Theories of demography	P.2	
11	02/08 (Friday)	Theories of demography	P.2	
12	02/11 (Monday)	The sources of demographic information	P.3	
13	02/13 (Wednesday)	The sources of demographic information	P.3	
14	02/15 (Friday)	Exam 1		Material from lectures 1–13
15	02/18 (Monday)	Overview of demographic methods	W.1–2	
16	02/20 (Wednesday)	Overview of demographic methods	W.1–2	
17	02/22 (Friday)	Fertility	P.4	
18	02/25 (Monday)	Fertility	P.4	
19	02/27 (Wednesday)	Fertility	P.4	

Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading Author.chapter	Exam content
MARCH				
20	03/01 (Friday)	Fertility	P.4	Assignment 1: lectures 1–11
21	03/04 (Monday)	The family and sexuality	P.5	
22	03/06 (Wednesday)	The family and sexuality	P.5	
23	03/08 (Friday)	The family and sexuality	P.5	
—	03/11–15 (Mon., Wed., Fri.)	Spring Break, no classes	—	
24	03/18 (Monday)	Contraception and birth control	P.6	
25	03/20 (Wednesday)	Contraception and birth control	P.6	
26	03/22 (Friday)	Exam 2		Material from lectures 15–25
27	03/25 (Monday)	Mortality	P.7	
28	03/27 (Wednesday)	Mortality	P.7	
29	03/29 (Friday)	Mortality	P.7	
APRIL				
30	04/01 (Monday)	Internal migration	P.8	
31	04/03 (Wednesday)	Internal migration	P.8	
32	04/05 (Friday)	International migration	P.9	
33	04/08 (Monday)	International migration	P.9	
34	04/10 (Wednesday)	International migration	P.9	
35	04/12 (Friday)	Population policy & The Earth in the 21st and 22nd centuries	P.15, 16	Assignment 2: chapters 15–16
36	04/15 (Monday)	Exam 3		Material from lectures 27–35
37	04/17 (Wednesday)	Age and sex composition	P.10	
—	04/19 (Friday)	Easter, reading day, no class	—	
38	04/22 (Monday)	Age and sex composition	P.10	
39	04/24 (Wednesday)	Race and ethnicity	P.11	
40	04/26 (Friday)	Race and ethnicity	P.11	
41	04/29 (Monday)	Population distribution	P.14	
42	04/30 (Tuesday)	Population distribution (redefined day)	P.14	Teaching evaluation
MAY				
43	05/03 (Friday)	Final exam, 8–10am		Material from 37–42 lectures