



Course information

Course website: <http://www.ernestoamaral.com/soci312-20fall.html>

This website provides this syllabus, slides, details about assignments and grades, videos, extra readings, external links, and other materials, which will be uploaded throughout the semester.

Canvas website: <https://canvas.tamu.edu/courses/32246>

I will utilize Canvas to communicate with students, receive quizzes and exams, provide discussions about course content, post grades, and provide other resources.

Zoom link for synchronous class sessions:

<https://tamu.zoom.us/j/686286200?pwd=aXoza2lZTWtldGY5Y1hNR01kMzJiQT09>

Meeting ID: 686 286 200

Passcode: SOCI312

You will need your TAMU NetID and password to join the Zoom session.

Recorded lectures: <http://www.youtube.com/c/ErnestoAmaralPhD>

Face-to-face lectures will be recorded and uploaded to the YouTube channel after the end of each class session.

Face-to-face location: Architecture Building B (ARCB) 101

(<https://aggiemap.tamu.edu/map/d?bldg=0359>)

Face-to-face times: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:15–4:30pm

Instructor information

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

Office hours: <https://tamu.zoom.us/my/amaral>

I will provide office hours by appointment. Students must request appointments by email at least 72 hours in advance. When you enter this Zoom session, you will be placed in a waiting room. I will add you to the chat after I finish talking to the previous student.

Phone: (979)845–9706

Email: amaral@tamu.edu

Course description

The main objective of this course is to introduce concepts 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)
[\(MSC Bookstore\)](#)
[\(Amazon\)](#)

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	20%	50 questions, 0.4 points per question	A	90–100%
Exam 2	20%	50 questions, 0.4 points per question	B	80–89%
Exam 3	20%	50 questions, 0.4 points per question	C	70–79%
Final exam	20%	40 questions, 0.5 points per question	D	60–69%
Quizzes	20%		F	0–59%
Total	100%			
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Extra credit activities	Percent			
Extra quizzes and assignments	10%			
Total	10%			

Exams will be given online on Canvas (**1–8pm**) and will consist of multiple-choice questions and others. The dates are available in the calendar of activities of this syllabus. **There will be no face-to-face classes on exam days.** See more information about Student Rules regarding examinations via the following link (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule08>).

The **Final exam** will be given online on Canvas (**1–8pm**) and will consist of multiple-choice questions and others. The date is 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>).

Quizzes will be available on Canvas (**from 4:30pm of the class day until 12pm of the following day**) and will consist of multiple-choice questions and/or other types of questions. The dates are available in the calendar of activities of this syllabus. Students will answer the quiz online on Canvas after class hours. 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.

Students should read **instructions about online quizzes, exams, and final exam** before starting them on Canvas. This is the online exam guide (http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci312-20fall/Exam_online.pdf).

Exams, final exam, and quizzes will not be graded on a curve.

Study groups: You are not competing with others in this class for a grade. Feel free to form study groups to review course materials. However, quizzes and exams are not group projects. Students should complete all quizzes, exams, and assignments individually. Students should not prepare or compare their answers to these activities with the work of others before submitting for a grade.

Extra credit activities: The instructor will provide extra credit assignments, as well as include extra questions throughout the semester on quizzes.

Student course evaluation

Students should complete the course evaluation on <https://tamu.aefis.net/>. Student course evaluations will open at 8am on November 11th and close at 11:59:59pm on November 30th. Students can see this [step-by-step guide](#) on how to access and respond to the student course evaluations.

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.

Electronic devices

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 and drinking are not allowed in classrooms

Message from the Texas A&M Office of the Provost (August 18, 2020):

For the safety of our campus community, effective immediately, eating and drinking in university teaching classrooms are not allowed.

Eating and drinking should be limited to designated dining areas, one's dorm room, or outside while maintaining physical distancing of 6 feet or greater from others.

Please hydrate well before class. If someone needs to hydrate for health reasons, they can briefly leave the class, hydrate, and return. Good hand hygiene should be used after touching the face covering.

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.

Class participation

You are responsible for your own learning, but your actions affect the entire class. Active participation in class discussion is vital to the shared learning experience. For this to work, everyone must come prepared to class, having done the readings and come prepared to discuss the week's readings in depth. Active participation is premised on respect. Being prepared for class, listening attentively, challenging ideas and not individuals—are all markers of respect in a community of learning. Thus, I expect everyone to attend class and value each other's ideas. **Hate speech will not be tolerated.**

Department of Sociology Diversity and Civility Statement

The Department of Sociology supports Texas A&M University's commitment to diversity and welcomes individuals of all ages, citizenship, abilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences (see <http://diversity.tamu.edu/>). As this is a social science class, discussions are to be research-based and should always be presented in a respectful manner when engaging with fellow students, teaching assistants, and instructors. This applies both inside and outside of the classroom, and includes online spaces. The Student Conduct Code Rule 21 regarding appropriate classroom behavior will also be strictly enforced (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule21/>). If a student is being disruptive or disrespectful (rude, inappropriate, unprofessional, and/or harmful to others) either in the classroom or during class-related communications outside of lecture (online or in-person), the instructor or teaching assistant will address this behavior following the department and university disciplinary guidelines. See (<https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/sociology/home-page/diversity/>) for a more detailed discussion of these principles and the rules of conduct.

Academic integrity statement and policy

As members of a community of learning, it is imperative that all students be aware of and abide by the rules of academic integrity. They state that students and faculty will refuse to participate in or tolerate plagiarism, cheating or falsification of information. Knowledge is built upon the work of others—that work must be recognized appropriately. If you use an idea, paraphrased sentences or words of another person(s) you must cite them. When in doubt, cite the work. It is preferable to over-cite than to take credit for someone else's work. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

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).

Definitions of academic misconduct are available in this link (<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Rules/Honor-System-Rules#Definitions>). Suspected cases will be sent to the Aggie Honor System Office where an investigation will proceed. The consequences of academic dishonesty range from grade sanctions to expulsion from the University. This is a very serious matter.

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

Campus safety measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**
- **Face Coverings**—[Face coverings](#) (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) **must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms**, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the [Face Covering policy](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) available on the [Provost website](#).
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- **To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the [Student Conduct office](#) for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.**

Personal illness and quarantine

Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and **must not attend face-to-face course activities**. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence (see [Student Rule 7, Section 7.2.2](#)). To receive an excused absence, students must comply with the documentation and notification guidelines outlined in Student Rule 7. While Student Rule 7, Section 7.3.2.1, indicates a medical confirmation note from the student's medical provider is preferred, for Fall 2020 only, students may use the **Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class form** (http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci312-20fall/Absence_form.pdf) in lieu of a medical confirmation. Students must submit the Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class within two business days after the last date of absence.

Absence policy

University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located online (see [Student Rule 7, Section 7.2.2](#)). The student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for the absence. 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 by email to the professor.

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.

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 not take attendance each class.**

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.

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.**

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>.

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
AUGUST				
01	08/20 (Thursday)	Syllabus & An introduction to demography	Syllabus & P.1	
02	08/25 (Tuesday)	An introduction to demography	P.1	
03	08/27 (Thursday)	Age and sex composition	P.10	Quiz 1 (1 point)
SEPTEMBER				
04	09/01 (Tuesday)	Age and sex composition	P.10	Quiz 2 (1 point)
05	09/03 (Thursday)	World population change over time	P.12	Quiz 3 (1 point)
06	09/08 (Tuesday)	World population change over time	P.12	Quiz 4 (1 point)
07	09/10 (Thursday)	Population change in the United States	P.13	Quiz 5 (1 point)
08	09/15 (Tuesday)	Exam 1 (20 points)		Material from lectures 1–7
09	09/17 (Thursday)	Theories of demography	P.2	
10	09/22 (Tuesday)	Theories of demography	P.2	Quiz 6 (1 point)
11	09/24 (Thursday)	The sources of demographic information	P.3	Quiz 7 (1 point)
12	09/29 (Tuesday)	Fertility	P.4	Quiz 8 (1 point)
OCTOBER				
13	10/01 (Thursday)	Fertility	P.4	Quiz 9 (1 point)
14	10/06 (Tuesday)	Mortality	P.7	Quiz 10 (1 point)
15	10/08 (Thursday)	Mortality	P.7	Quiz 11 (1 point)
16	10/13 (Tuesday)	Exam 2 (20 points)		Material from lectures 9–15
17	10/15 (Thursday)	Internal migration	P.8	Extra Credit 1 (1 point)
18	10/20 (Tuesday)	Internal migration	P.8	Quiz 12 (1 point)
19	10/22 (Thursday)	International migration	P.9	Quiz 13 (1 point)
20	10/27 (Tuesday)	International migration	P.9	Quiz 14 (1 point)
21	10/29 (Thursday)	International migration	P.9	Quiz 15 (1 point)

Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading Author.chapter	Exam content
NOVEMBER				
22	11/03 (Tuesday)	Race and ethnicity	P.11	Quiz 16 (1 point)
23	11/05 (Thursday)	Exam 3 (20 points)		Material from lectures 17–22
24	11/10 (Tuesday)	Race and ethnicity	P.11	Extra Credit 2 (1 point)
25	11/12 (Thursday)	The family and sexuality	P.5	Quiz 17 (1 point) & Extra Credit 3 (1 point)
26	11/17 (Tuesday)	The family and sexuality	P.5	Quiz 18 (1 point) & Extra Credit 4 (3 points)
27	11/19 (Thursday)	Contraception and birth control	P.6	Quiz 19 (1 point) & Extra Credit 5 (3 points)
28	11/24 (Tuesday)	Contraception and birth control	P.6	Quiz 20 (1 point) & Extra Credit 6 (1 point)
DECEMBER				
29	12/02 (Wednesday)	Final exam (20 points)		Material from lectures 24–28
Extra reading	—	Population distribution	P.14	
Extra reading	—	Population policy	P.15	
Extra reading	—	The Earth in the 21st and 22nd centuries	P.16	