

EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT
Due by December 10, 2021 (Friday) at 8pm
Maximum of possible points: 5

This assignment will be graded only if the student attempts to answer all questions and sub-questions listed below

Instructor information

Ernesto F. L. Amaral, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
Office location: Academic Building 415
Phone: (979)845–9706
Email: amaral@tamu.edu
Course website: <http://www.ernestoamaral.com/soci312-21fall.html>

Submission

This assignment should be submitted through Turnitin within Canvas. 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**.

Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to highlight the fact that we should discuss population issues using scientific theoretical framework and data to support our analysis. Students should not rely on preconceptions and perceptions we might have about specific demographic subjects.

Questions

1. Population issues (1.5 points)

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. They argue that there are too many people on Earth and we would all be better off if there were fewer people on the planet. Other researchers indicate that we've overcome these challenges through a reduction in poverty, educational improvements, and the provision of food to large populations.

1.1. Based on course material, are there too many people in the world nowadays? Why? Discuss these different concerns related to population growth, transition, and evolution for current societies.

1.2. Why population composition (e.g., by age, sex, race/ethnicity, marital status, and socioeconomic status) and population changes over time are important topics for demographers?

1.3. Why spatial distribution is an essential topic to understand human populations?

1.4. How theories of demography are important to explain different trends and levels of mortality, fertility, and migration? Give examples.

2. Fertility and mortality (1.5 points)

2.1. Based on the course material and discussions during our lectures, what do you expect will be the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on fertility and mortality trends and levels in the next years?

2.2. You should utilize framework of predicting fertility and proximate determinants of fertility (Bongaarts 1978, 1982) to support your analysis. You can discuss effects of the pandemic on different fertility indicators, such as age-specific fertility rates and total fertility rate.

2.3. You should also discuss possible effects of the pandemic on life expectancy, including contextual and broader socioeconomic and cultural effects, as well as more immediate factors.

3. Migration (2 points)

3.1. Based on the course material, what are the major effects of immigration of low skilled workers on the U.S. labor market?

3.2. Explain whether previous public policies intended to deal with undocumented immigrants in the U.S. were based on scientific studies or general perceptions about immigration.

3.3. How previous public policies affected migration patterns and composition of the population by race/ethnicity and nativity in the United States?

3.4. Do differentials between immigrants and U.S.-born population in terms of educational attainment, labor market skills, health outcomes, crime rates, as well as other socioeconomic and demographic outcomes justify negative perception about immigrants? Why?

Format

The document in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx) should be on US Letter paper size, one-inch margins, Arial font, size 11, 1.5 line spacing, and a **maximum of 2,000 words**.