
Course information

Online course: <https://tamu.zoom.us/j/240195363>

Between March 24 and April 21, all lectures will only be provided online through the link above.

Course website: <http://www.ernestoamaral.com/soci622-20spring.html>

Meeting location: Academic Building 307 (<http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?bldg=0462>)

Meeting time: Tuesday, 9:00am–12:00pm

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, 1:30–3:30pm (<https://tamu.zoom.us/my/amaral>); and by appointment.
Appointment requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance.

Phone: (979)845–9706

Email: amaral@tamu.edu

Course description

This course provides a survey of methods, theories, and problems of contemporary demographic phenomena. The main objective 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. (Ed.). 2019. **Handbook of Population**. Cham: Springer. (HP)
([Free Ebook at Texas A&M University](#))

I will also cover a couple of chapters from the following textbooks, but they are **not required** for this course.

Poston, Dudley L.; Bouvier, Leon F. 2017. **Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography**. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2nd edition. (PS)
([MSC Bookstore](#))
([Amazon](#))

Wachter, Kenneth W. 2014. **Essential Demographic Methods**. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (W)
([MSC Bookstore](#))
([Amazon](#))
([Free Ebook at Texas A&M University](#))

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

Assignments and grading policies

Assessments: The course grade will be determined based on class presentations, assignments, and papers. See more information about Student Rules regarding examinations via the following link (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule08>).

Class presentations: Throughout the semester, students should select two articles, within the topics discussed in the course, to present in class after the regular lecture. Students have to select these papers from two different topics discussed in the course. The professor will guide the students to choose papers that are of their interest and that would complement the main readings for each class. Students can use slides, but they are welcome to discuss their readings only using their notes.

Paper outline, paper draft, final paper: Students should select a topic related to this class and develop a paper throughout the semester. I will provide feedback for the outline, which will help the student work on their paper draft. Finally, students should work on the final paper for this class. This paper can consist of only a literature review, focusing on substantive topics discussed in class. Students can also analyze secondary aggregated data or microdata or their own data in the paper if they wish to have a more empirical focus. This work can be part of a chapter of the student's thesis or dissertation or a paper that students might want to submit for publication in an academic journal.

Communication and submission: I will utilize eCampus (<http://ecampus.tamu.edu/>) to communicate with students, receive assignments, and provide other resources. More specifically, assignments will 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" (<http://its.tamu.edu/Systems-Software/TurnItIn>). Students will have until 8:00am of the due dates to turn in assignments through eCampus (<http://ecampus.tamu.edu/>). Due dates are listed in the calendar of activities of this syllabus.

Grading scale: The course follows the standard rules of the university regarding the letter grading scale (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10>). Assessments will not be graded on a curve.

Assessment	Percent of final grade
Class presentation 1	5%
Class presentation 2	5%
Paper outline	15%
Paper draft	30%
Final paper	45%
Total	100%

Grading scale	Percent
A	90–100%
B	80–89%
C	70–79%
D	60–69%
F	0–59%

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, assignments are not group projects. All assignments should reflect only your own work. Students should not prepare assignments or compare their documents with the work of others before submitting for a grade.

Paper outline, paper draft, final paper

As a guidance for your final paper, you should aim to have a document at the end of the semester with the following sections: (1) introduction; (2) background; (3) data and methods; (4) results; (5) final considerations; and (6) references. You should place possible tables and figures at the end of the document (after the list of references). Each table and each figure should appear in a separated table. This format makes it is easier to count the number of words you have written. See examples of how to place tables and figures at the end of the document, as well as of how to cite them throughout the document on this link (<http://www.ernestoamaral.com/drafts.html>).

Paper outline

For the paper outline, you should provide an overall structure of the paper. You can organize the document in bullet points and/or in short paragraphs. You should provide an overall idea of topics of literature that you will review, as well as possible data and methods that you will utilize. The portion related to the background (literature review) would benefit if you list subtopics that will be reviewed. You can list some references that you have already collected.

Paper draft

For the paper draft, you should focus on highlighting the overall research question and objective of your study, as well as providing a more detailed **literature review**. You can explain the data you will utilize, but you do not have to provide any data analysis at this point. You should aim to write around 4 to 6 pages (2,000 to 3,000 words) in total, not counting references and tables.

Final paper

For the final paper, you should expand the literature review, explain in more detail your **methodology**, and provide a **data analysis and results section**. You should also provide a more **cohesive introduction and final considerations** to connect your whole analysis. You should aim to write around 10 to 12 pages (5,000 to 6,000 words) in total, not counting references and tables.

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 assignments will be due are provided in the calendar of this syllabus. Topics and dates of lectures and assignments 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 assignment 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 work that contributes to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. **The make-up work must be completed in a timeframe not to exceed five working 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

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>).

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 (Author.chapter, pages)	Assignments due dates
JANUARY			
01	01/14 (Tuesday)	Introduction to demography (PS.1, 3–16) Age and sex (PS.10, 266–311) (HP.1, 19–49) World population change over time (PS.12, 332–347) Population change in the United States (PS.13, 348–364)	
02	01/21 (Tuesday)	Theories of demography (PS.2, 17–34) The sources of demographic information (PS.3, 35–58)	
03	01/28 (Tuesday)	Exponential growth (W.1, 5–29) Periods and cohorts (W.2, 30–47)	
FEBRUARY			
04	02/04 (Tuesday)	Family demography (PS.5, 95–110) (HP.3, 79–106) Demography of gender (HP.4, 107–142)	Paper outline
05	02/11 (Tuesday)	Demography of sexuality (PS.5, 110–122) (HP.10, 279–288) Contraception and birth control (PS.6, 123–162)	
06	02/18 (Tuesday)	Demography of aging (HP.5, 143–162) Demography of race and ethnicity (PS.11, 312–331) (HP.6, 163–208)	
07	02/25 (Tuesday)	Demography of childhood (HP.7, 209–232) Demography of adoption (HP.8, 233–262)	
MARCH			
08	03/03 (Tuesday)	Fertility (PS.4, 59–94) (HP.12, 319–342) Fertility regulation (HP.30, 793–818)	
—	03/09–13 (Mon.–Fri.)	Spring Break, no class	
09	03/17 (Tuesday)	Texas A&M University classes cancelled	
10	03/24 (Tuesday)	Infant mortality (PS.7, 163–214) (HP.13, 343–354) Adult mortality (HP.14, 355–382)	Paper draft
11	03/31 (Tuesday)	Internal migration (PS.8, 215–235) (HP.15, 383–420)	

Lecture	Date	Topic (Author.chapter, pages)	Assignments due dates
APRIL			
12	04/07 (Tuesday)	International migration (PS.9, 236–265) (HP.16, 421–456)	
13	04/14 (Tuesday)	Labor force (HP.9, 263–278) Demography of inequality (HP.11, 289–318) Demography of social stratification (HP.17, 457–482) Economic demography (HP.24, 643–668)	
14	04/21 (Tuesday)	Demography of population health (HP.32, 839–858) Demography of obesity (HP.33, 859–874)	
—	04/28 (Tuesday)	No class	Final paper
Extra reading		Population distribution and suburbanization (PS.14, 365–385) (HP.2, 51–78) Social demography, space and place (HP.18, 483–498) Urban and spatial demography (HP.21, 555–598) Rural demography (HP.22, 599–618)	
Extra reading		Historical demography (HP.25, 669–696) Political demography (HP.29, 775–792)	
Extra reading		Small-area and business demography (HP.31, 819–838) Population policy (PS.15, 386–415) (HP.34, 875–900)	