

# **Geography G320: Population Geography**

Instructor: Brian Johnson  
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Classroom:  
Student Building 140  
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

Office Hours:  
Student Building 304  
1:00 – 2:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Additional office hours by appointment only

## **Course Description and Objectives**

In this class, we will examine what population growth/decline/stagnation trends are occurring, where they are happening, who is being affected, and most importantly, why such transformations are taking place. We will begin the semester with an introduction to demography and the field of population geography. This will be followed by a look at the current state of the world's population.

The class will then move into theory, spending time with the works of Malthus, Marx, Mill, Dumont, and Durkheim. We will discuss the demographic transition with special emphasis on its components of mortality, fertility, migration, aging, household composition, and urbanization. Lastly, we will touch on environmental modification due to population change.

The focus of our study will be worldwide in scope and variable in scale, addressing issues at regional, national, and global extents. Your instructor is admittedly a North American specialist, so lectures will most likely lean toward developed world issues. Students are certainly encouraged to explore developing/undeveloped world trends as a diversity of research will benefit us all.

Like many geography classes, this course will *spatially* apply interdisciplinary research from other fields such as sociology, statistics, political science, and ecology. While basic understanding of social science and its methods is helpful for your success in G320, it is not a requirement. If you have concerns about your theoretical or methodological competence, please speak with your instructor as soon as possible.

## **Textbook Readings**

Required textbooks available at the IU Bookstore/TIS/Amazon.com/etc.:

Newbold, K. B. (2007). *Six Billion Plus: World Population in the Twenty-First Century* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield. ISBN: 9780742539297

Weeks, J. R. (2008). *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth. ISBN: 9780495096375

Readings for a particular day are to be completed before you come to class. In doing this, you will have sufficient background knowledge to fully understand that day's lecture and participate in classroom discussion. In addition, there may be additional journal article readings posted on Ereserves.

## **Grading**

		<b><u>Scale</u></b>	
First Exam Questions	10 points		
Second Exam Questions	10 points	200-194	A+
Third Exam Questions	10 points	193-186	A
		185-180	A-
First Exam	35 points	179-174	B+
Second Exam	35 points	173-166	B
Third Exam	40 points	165-160	B-
		159-154	C+
Paper Executive Summary	10 points	153-146	C
Final Draft Research Paper	40 points	145-140	C-
		139-134	D+
Class Participation	10 points	133-126	D
		125-120	D-
Total	200 points	119-0	F

There is no extra credit. Also, I do not curve the grades. No exceptions. Honest.

## **Exam Questions Assignments**

To better engage the course material and anticipate what will be on the exam, students will be required to turn in sample exam questions. Prior to each of the exams, students will write, type, and turn in a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions for my review.

A successful student will write exam questions which draw from lecture or textbook material. Good questions will also use correct grammar, spelling, and format. Excellent questions will be shared with the class prior to exams to aid in test preparation. More specific question writing instructions will be forthcoming.

## Exams

There will be three exams administered in this course. Exams will have a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. For students to succeed on exams they must know the material as well as how to express their ideas in a coherent manner using formal, academic English. A successful student will write legibly, spell words correctly, and use proper syntax on written responses.

The Third Exam will ONLY be administered at the official “Final Exam” time designated by the registrar listed below. Don’t ask if you can take it early, because the answer will be no.

Attendance on exam dates is mandatory. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero on that exam unless you have had an emergency documented by a dated doctor’s note or accident report attesting to your inability to make it to the exam.

## Research Paper

Each student will write an original research paper on a topic approved by the instructor. An executive summary or abstract of the proposed work will be turned in for approval. The paper should meet the necessary grammatical requirements expected of a social and behavioral science paper, be correctly referenced, and typed.

Finished papers will be approximately 5,000 words long and in a format similar to those used in academic journals. Further information on paper requirements will be forthcoming. In the meantime, for ideas you can view the paper requirements of the journal *Population, Space and Place* at [<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jabout/106562735/ForAuthors.html>].

## Class Participation

Students who want full credit for participation will attend class, actively pay attention, take complete notes, contribute to the discussion, and ask intelligent questions. These model students will also refrain from walking in late/leaving early, talking at inappropriate times, reading the newspaper, cramming for another test, using a mobile phone, and generally annoying their fellow classmates and instructor.

## Late Assignment Policy

Students who want an opportunity to earn full credit for their sample test questions, executive summaries, and papers will turn these materials in on time. Any assignments turned in after the due date will be penalized 10% for each day late. Assignments turned in more than 3 days late will be given a 0. **Students are encouraged to turn in assignments early. Remember, the due date is the last possible day something may be turned in; you can certainly turn your work in early.**

## **Miscellaneous**

Each student must do his/her own quality work to receive credit. Plagiarism or copying will be rewarded with a zero on that entire assignment. Cheating on exams will be rewarded with a zero on that entire exam. Additionally, any academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean of Students Office and dealt with in accordance with university policy on failure of the course and/or expulsion from the university.

I reserve the right to change the syllabus. If changes are necessary, a new syllabus will be issued to the students to reflect these changes.

## Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Tuesday Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday Meeting</b>
Week 1	1/8 Course Introduction	1/10 Weeks: Chapter 1 Introduction to Demography
Week 2	1/15 Weeks: Chapter 2 Global Population Trends	1/17 Newbold: Introduction: The World of Child Six Billion
Week 3	1/22 Weeks: Chapter 3 Demographic Perspectives, Weeks: Chapter 4 Demographic Data	1/24 First Exam Questions Due
Week 4	1/29	1/31 First Exam
Week 5	2/5 Weeks: Chapter 5 The Health and Mortality Transition	2/7 Newbold: Chapter 2 The (Un?)Certainty of Death and Disease
Week 6	2/12 Newbold: Chapter 1 Fertility and State Policy, Weeks: Chapter 6 The Fertility Transition	2/14 Weeks: Chapter 7 The Migration Transition
Week 7	2/19 Newbold: Chapter 4 Immigration: Closing or Opening the Door?	2/21 Weeks: Ch. 8 The Age Transition
Week 8	2/26 Second Exam Questions Due	2/28
Week 9	3/4 Second Exam	3/6 Paper Executive Summary Due
Spring Break	3/11 No class	3/13 No class
Week 10	3/18 Weeks: Chapter 10 The Family and Household Transition	3/20
Week 11	3/25 Weeks: Chapter 9 The Urban Transition	3/27 Rough Draft Research Paper Due
Week 12	4/1 Weeks: Chapter 11 Population and The Environment	4/3 Newbold: Chapter 6 Population, Economic Growth, Resources, and the Environment
Week 13	4/8 Newbold: Chapter 7 The Potential for Conflict, Weeks: Chapter 12 Coping With Demographic Change	4/10 Final Draft Research Paper Due
Week 14	4/15 No class- Association of American Geographers Conference	4/17 No class- Association of American Geographers Conference
Week 15	4/22 Third Exam Questions Due	4/24
Week 16	4/29 Final Exam 7:15-9:15 p.m.	