COURSE CONTENT

Course Coordinator : Dommaraju Premchand

Course Code / Title : HS2022 Population and Society

Pre-requisites : HS1001 Person and Society

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

The purpose of the course is to provide a comprehensive overview of the main topics in social demography. You will learn about the following topics: 1) understanding population change using demographic transition theories and policy concerns about population explosion and implosion. 2) Examining fertility and marital changes and reasons for these changes. 3) Learn about the population movements with a focus on migration and urbanization. 4) Learn about issues related to ageing. In this course you will be gradually introduced to many terms and concepts of demographic events like fertility, mortality and migration. The course will approach the topics from a historical, comparative and policy perspectives. The course is for students in their 2nd or 3rd year. The course introduces you to theories, concepts and issues that serve as a foundation for understanding contemporary population issues and changes.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain how population composition and size change over time
2. Describe the different theories of population change
3. Analyze the reasons for fertility and marital differential over time and across different groups
4. Discuss the impact of ageing population on societies
5. Evaluate the theories related to migration and urbanization
6. Recommend population policies to target specific population issues

Course Content

Understanding population growth, distribution and composition

- Identify the key aspects and components of population growth over time
- Discuss the trends in population distribution across regions of the world
- Summarize feature of age and sex distribution of the population
- Compare population growth and distribution in various countries
Explaining population change

- Explain the views of the Malthus and Marx on population.
- Identify and explain the two assumptions that underpin Malthus’ theory.
- Summarize the relationship between population growth and economic growth.
- List the ways through which population growth is controlled in Malthus’ theory.
- Explain the link between welfare for the poor and population growth in Malthus’ theory.
- Evaluate the usefulness of Malthusian and Marxian theory in understanding population growth.
- Examine the implication of Malthusian and Marxian perspective on social policy.

Demographic Transition Theory

- Explain the first demographic transition theory (FDT)
- Identify the different stages of FDT
- Explain the various transitions that comprise demographic transition

Demographic methods: Data sources, concepts and measures

- Examine demographic data
- Identify various source of demographic data and your advantages and disadvantages
- Explain rates, proportions and probabilities
- Construct Lexis diagram
- Understand and evaluate the calculation of various fertility rates
- Summarize the key differences between period and cohort measures

Mortality and life span

- Explain what is meant by Health and Mortality Transition
- Describe the changes in epidemiological transition over the last three centuries
- Evaluate the causes of epidemiological/ mortality transition
- Explain the changes in longevity and rectangularization
- Analyze the mortality differentials by sex, social class and race

Marriage and fertility changes

- Understand the current geographic variability in the fertility transition
- Explain the preconditions for decline in fertility
- Understand the different ways fertility can be controlled Critically examine and compare different theories of fertility change
- Understand the current trends in very low fertility
- Explain the reasons and forces driving very low fertility in many countries
- Synthesis the current fertility situation in Singapore and the policies promoting marriage and fertility
- Analyze the situation of near-replacement fertility in the Netherlands
International migration

- Explain what is meant by the migration
- Describe the current global patterns of migration
- Explain and compare the following theories of international migration
  - Economic theory: macro, micro and new economics
  - Segmented labour market
  - World systems
  - Network institutional and cumulative causation
- Evaluate the above theories/explanations of international migration

Urbanization

- Observe the trends in urbanization
- Discuss the role of demographic transition in the process of urbanization
- Explain the different types of cities: pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial cities
- Understand what is meant by cultural turn in understanding cities and apply it to understanding city life

Ageing

- Report current ageing trends, profile and prospects
- Differentiate different measure of population ageing
- Explain how populations ages including the role fertility and mortality
- Discuss social policies for the well-being of the elderly

Course Assessment

CA1 : 10%
CA2 : 10%
CA3 : 10%
CA4 : 20%
Final Examination : 50%
Total : 100%

Reading and References

Noted in the Planned Weekly Schedule section below
### Course Instructor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premchand Dommaraju</td>
<td>HSS 05-39</td>
<td>6592 1520</td>
<td><a href="mailto:premchand@ntu.edu.sg">premchand@ntu.edu.sg</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Planned Weekly Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture 1: Introduction</th>
<th>Introduction to the course</th>
<th>Introduction to population and demography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This week is introduction and there are no compulsory readings. You may consult the following reading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1a. Poston and Bouvier, 2010. ”We are all population actors”: An introduction to demography. [From Population and Society book].</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video: Ted Talk--Hans Rosling: Global population growth, box by box. [<a href="https://youtu.be/fTznEiZRkLg">https://youtu.be/fTznEiZRkLg</a>]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture 2</th>
<th>Understanding population growth, distribution and composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture reading</td>
<td>2a. Poston and Bouvier, 2010. World population change over time. [From Population and Society book, Chapter 9: <strong>Read only from pages 276 to the end of chapter</strong>.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1e. Visit Population Reference Bureau (<a href="http://www.prb.org">www.prb.org</a>) and Singapore Department of Statistics (<a href="http://www.singstat.gov.sg">www.singstat.gov.sg</a>) websites and explore population information available there.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture 3</th>
<th>Explaining population change: Theories and perspectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial readings</td>
<td>3b. The Economist. 2008. Malthus, the false prophet and The Malthus Blues [Commentary]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture 4</th>
<th>Explaining population change: Theories and perspectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marx and Demographic Transition Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Reading/Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 5</td>
<td><strong>How Do We Describe Populations? Introduction to Basic Concepts &amp; Data Sources</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lecture reading  

Tutorial readings  
No readings. We will be working on problems based on the lecture readings during the tutorial  

Lecture 6 | **Why Do Populations Change?**  
Part 1: Mortality and life span |  

Lecture reading  
6a. Weeks. 2012 Chapter 5. The health and mortality transition [Skip the section on measuring mortality that has formulae, pages 176-185].  

Tutorial readings  

Lecture 7 | **Why Do Populations Change?**  
Part 2: Marriage and fertility |  

Lecture reading  
7a. Weeks, 2012. The Fertility Transition [skip section on How do we measure changes in fertility, from page 235 to 240]  

Tutorial readings  

Lecture 8 | **Why Do Populations Change?**  
Part 2 contd.: Marriage and fertility |  

Lecture reading  

Tutorial readings  

Lecture 9 | **Why Do Populations Change?**  
Part 3: International migration |
| --- | --- |
9d. Explore: http://www.global-migration.info/ |
| Lecture 10 | E-learning lecture  
**Why Do Populations Change?**  
**Part 3: Urbanization** |
10c. The Economist. 2016. Urbanisation Megalophobia: China’s biggest cities are afraid of growing bigger. They should not be. |
| Lecture 11 and 12 | Ageing |