

I should use the LaVeist Ch 7 article on disparities in health race theories for this class. It's the one I used on 1-12-15 in 435.

SOC 221: INTRODUCTION TO POPULATION ISSUES

Fall 2014

Mon, Wed, Fri 2:30 – 3:50

Location: Fraser 102

See the CANVAS for more course information, readings, assignments, and announcements.

Instructor: Elizabeth Mogford, PhD, MPH
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Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to population studies. The study of populations, or demography, is an extremely broad field covering such diverse issues as fertility, mortality, global health, food security, population pressures, gender inequality, and the environment. Because this is an introductory survey course we will get to touch on each of these topics and more, taking each subject one at a time but paying constant attention to the ways in which the issues are interrelated. Consistent with the breadth of the subject area, we will look at evidence compiled not only by sociologists, but also by anthropologists, biologists, and public health experts. An additional objective of the class is to consider what you, as a global citizen, want to be your role in improving population well-being.

Readings:

Like the subject matter itself, the readings for the course are quite diverse and come from a variety of sources. All readings will be available on the canvas under each weekly module. **The readings are required**, so be sure that you know how to access Canvas.

A note about printing the readings:

The use of electronic articles not only saves you money, but allows you to demonstrate your commitment to limiting environmental degradation. **I strongly encourage you to do so by reading the required articles online rather than printing them!!!**

Course Work:

Your final grade for this course will be based on three components:

1. Exams = 75 points

This course features three exams, each worth 25% of your final grade. The exams will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. All material from lectures, class discussions, films, and required readings are fair game for the exams. The exams are non-cumulative, dealing with material covered since the previous exam.

2. Free-writes, discussion questions, class participation, Haiku contest = 12 points

In this class you will have many opportunities to participate through free-write exercises, discussion questions, group work, and other activities. 12% of your final grade will be based on your participation in these activities. Class participation will often consist of you writing about your thoughts on a recent population development or your reaction to a film, newspaper story, or policy argument presented in class or in the required reading. The activities are intended to spur your thinking about the issues we discuss in class and,

hopefully, generate some conversation on the issues. Details of the Haiku contest will be announced – it is due at the end of the quarter.

Participation activities will be graded on a scale from 0-2, based on your active and thoughtful participation, as follows: 0 (not present), 1 (present, average work), or 2 (present, exceptional work). Specific dates of the activities **will not** be announced in advance (so please **do not** ask me). **There are no make-ups for in-class participation activities. PLEASE DO NOT ASK.**

3. Action letter = 13 points

In this assignment, worth 13% of your grade, you will write a position statement to a key decision-maker on a subject pertaining to a population related issue of your choice. These short opinion pieces will reflect your personal position on a particular issue and will be addressed and actually mailed to a key decision-maker or to a journal, magazine, or newspaper. In the past, students have had their statements published or aired on the radio. We will spend considerable time on this project, including conducting a peer-review of each other's letters. A more detailed description of the project will be discussed in class and posted on canvas.

Grading scale:

Final grades for the course will be based on the following criterion for the percentage of these total points accumulated by the student. Grade: 75 (exams) + 12 (participation) + 13 (action letter)= 100 points.

Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	93 - 100	B	83 - 86	C	73 - 76	D	63 - 66
A-	90 - 92	B-	80 - 82	C-	70 - 72	D-	60 - 62
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	D+	67 - 69	F	0 - 59

Make-up exams:

Exams: Make-up exams will be given only to students with a serious and legitimate medical problem or a death in the immediate family. You must notify me via email at least by 5 pm the night before the exam if you are going to miss the exam. This should be no problem unless you are physically incapacitated, in which case a letter from a physician or other health professional will suffice. You should also note that the make-up exam is likely to be appreciably harder than the original, so I advise you not to miss any exams.

Attendance:

Attendance is something I value. Your chances of doing well in this class without regular attendance are slim. Each exam will draw heavily from material discussed in class, some of which may not be reiterated in assigned readings. While I provide lecture slides on canvas, they do not include the comments discussed "between the lines." In addition, 12% of your grade is based on participation in free-writes and discussions.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to do their own work in this class. Any students caught cheating on an exam or an assignment will receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment and a permanent record of the transgression will be filed with the university's Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Registrar. If you have questions about this process or about what constitutes academic

dishonesty, I encourage you to visit the web page of the Office of Student Life at <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~osl/js/jsacdish.html>.

Population Issues Class Outline

*Note: **this schedule is subject to change**. Refer to the canvas for announcements, readings and updated class information. You are responsible for being in class and checking canvas to learn about updates to readings or the course schedule. Exam dates, however, are fixed.*

- Day 1 9/24 Intro
9/26 Population Growth
- W2 9/29 Fertility and Population Policies
10/1 Women's Status and Reproductive Health
10/3 *A Walk To Beautiful*
- W3 10/6 Mortality and the Demographic Transition Theory
10/8 Population Composition and *The World in a Balance*
10/10 Population Health 101
- W4 10/13 **Exam 1**
10/15 *Unnatural Causes - In Sickness and in Wealth*
10/17 *The Biology of Discrimination - Unnatural Causes: When the Bough Breaks*
- W5 10/20 Adolescent reproductive health – *Let's Talk About Sex*
10/22 Adolescent reproductive health - Guest speaker Tracy Dahlstedt-Rienstra
10/24 Intro to Global Health
- W6 10/27 Guest Speaker: Charlie Ashbaugh – introduction to Institute for Village Studies
10/29 Communicable diseases part 1
10/31 Communicable diseases part 2
- W7 11/3 **Exam 2**
11/5 Food security
11/7 *De Nadie*
- W8 11/10 Migration & immigration
11/12 Migration & immigration
11/14 Guest Speaker: Stephen Bezruchka
- W9 11/17 Guest Speaker: Adrienne Ramm, International Rescue Committee
11/19 Population and the environment
11/21 Guest speaker: Chad Schulze, EPA Pesticide and Toxics Regulation
- W10 11/24 Intro to environmental justice (*Exporting Harm*) <http://myfootprint.org/>
11/26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
11/28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- W11 12/1 Media literacy and advocacy, guest speaker Adam Burtle

12/3 Position statement reader reviews

12/5 Course review and haiku contest, turn in position statements

Finals week: **EXAM 3**, *Wed Dec 10, 3:30 – 5:30*