Economics 466: Economics of Population  
Course Outline and Reading List  
Fall 2007

Instructors:  
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Class Meeting Time and Place:  
Monday 2:30-4:00, 1512 CC Little (lectures); Wednesday 2:30-4:00, 1570 CC Little (computer lab)  

See UM CTools web site for office hours and announcements (https://ctools.umich.edu).

Course Description:  
This course uses an economic perspective to analyze the dramatic changes in fertility, mortality, marriage, and household structure in recent decades in both industrialized and developing countries. The course includes a computer lab component built around statistical analysis of household survey data. Students will use the statistical package Stata to analyze demographic and economic change in the United States and other countries, applying recent innovations in the application of microeconomic theory and econometrics to the analysis of demographic behavior, labor markets, poverty, and inequality. Topics include: economics of fertility and marriage; economic and demographic analysis of population growth; intergenerational transmission of income inequality; impact of changing age structure on social security systems. Coursework includes: computer-based problem sets and writing exercises; a paper based on computer analysis of household survey data; written midterm and final examinations.

Prerequisites: Economics 401. Students are expected to have a basic familiarity with intermediate microeconomics. Given the emphasis on statistical analysis in the course, Economics 404 or 405 are strongly recommended. Familiarity with computer statistical packages will be useful but is not required.

Course Material:  
There is no text book or course pack. All readings are available electronically through the CTools web site for the course.

Course web sites:  
UM CTools: https://ctools.umich.edu  
Web-based course on statistical analysis of survey data: http://www.psc.isr.umich.edu/saproject/

Grading: Required work for the course consists of the following:  
- A 20 page term paper (counts for 30% of grade)  
- Two mid-term exams (each exam counts for 30% of grade)  
- Problem sets throughout the course (10% combined) We encourage collaboration on problem sets, but each student must write up a separate problem set for submission.

Upper Division Writing Requirement: Writing requirements are the same for all students in the class. First draft of term paper is due Monday, November 12. The final version of the paper is due at the end of the regularly scheduled exam time for the class, Tuesday December 18 at 3:30. The grade on the first draft will count for 30% of the final paper grade.

Important Dates:  
Wednesday October 10: Term paper proposal due  
Wednesday October 24: First mid-term exam  
Monday November 12: First draft of term paper due  
Monday December 10: Second mid-term exam (last class meeting)  
Tuesday December 18: Final term paper due at 3:30 p.m. (end of scheduled final exam time)
Outline of Lectures and Reading List
(* indicates required readings, other readings optional)

Lecture 1 – September 5
Overview of Demographic Rates and Population Dynamics

Lecture 2 – September 10
Historical Patterns of Demographic and Economic Change

Lecture 3 – September 17
Trends in Fertility and Women’s Work in the U.S. and Developed Countries
Dora Costa, “From Mill Town to Board Room,” Claudia Goldin, …

Lecture 4 – September 24
The Economics of Fertility: Quantity-Quality

Lecture 5 – October 1
The Economics of Fertility: Opportunity Cost of Time

Lecture 6 – October 8
Economics of Contraception and Abortion
Phillip Levine, Sex and Consequences, 2004, Chapter 3 and 4, pp. 39-76.
*Phillip Levine, Sex and Consequences, 2004, Chapter 5, pp. 77-106.
October 15 – Fall STUDY Break – No Lecture

Lecture 7 – October 22
Fertility, Investments in Children, and Intergenerational Mobility

Lecture 8 – October 29
Education, Earnings, and Inequality
Claudia Goldin, *Understanding the Gender Gap*

Lecture 9 – November 5
Measurement of Poverty and Inequality

Lecture 10 – November 12
Economics of HIV/AIDS

Lecture 11 – November 19
Economics of Marriage

Lecture 12 – November 26
Economic Links Between Generations

Lecture 13 – December 3
The Demography and Economics of Age Structure