Learning Objectives:

You live in an extraordinary era in human history. In your lifetime, for the first time in over a thousand years, the population of most countries will stop growing or decline; there will be more older people than young children in the richest societies, and there will be more people living in urban areas than in rural ones worldwide. This course will examine the consequences of these changes for governments, international relations, and the global economy.

This course is NOT designed to turn you into a professional demographer. That is a specialty that takes years of study and advanced statistics. Rather, the goal of this course is to enable you to use key demographic concepts and relationships, and understand their implications at both national and global levels. You will come to appreciate that most problems in economic growth, public finance, international relations, conflict and security, ethnic relations, democratic development, voting patterns, and social inequality and justice cannot be understood or solved without attention to underlying demographic issues. You will be able to anticipate and formulate responses to problems arising from demographic change, and be able to discuss the need for, and the effectiveness of, various policies that have been used to shape demographic trends.

Lectures:

The core of the course will be two lectures per week. You will be asked to prepare for each lecture by doing readings in advance, and be expected to participate in a discussion of the issues for that week. Attendance at all lectures is mandatory; if you need to be absent please notify me by email in advance or no later than the end of the day to obtain an exemption. I will grant two exemptions on request per student during the semester. Additional exemptions will require medical or other written requests and individual consideration.

Readings:

There are two required textbooks. They are both available from the bookstore or on-line as inexpensive e-books from Amazon.com. In order to reduce the carbon footprint of this class, I strongly encourage students to do all readings on-line and acquire all materials on-line through e-journal or e-book sources. But of course you are free to purchase hard copies if you wish, although this will generally be more expensive.


Additional Readings that are journal articles will be available from the Mason library e-journals, or will be sent to you in a zip file the first week of the course.

In addition, if you wish to delve further into the academic literature, you will find most relevant articles in the following journals:
*World Development, Population and Development Review, Demography*

**Weekly Reading Assignments**


2. January 27 & 29: Basic Demographic Concepts
   Readings: Goldstone, Kauffman and Toft (GKT) Chapters 1 and 2

3. February 3 & 5: The Demographic Transition – Understanding the Process
   Readings: Montgomery (handout): “The Demographic Transition”

4. February 10 & 12: The Demographic Transition – Major Consequences
   Readings: Dyson, *Population and Development*, Parts 1 and 2

5. February 17 & 19: Aging and International Security
   Readings: GKT, Chapters 4 (by Mark Haas) and 5 (by Jennifer Dabs Sciubba)

6. February 24 & 26: Aging and Economic Growth
   GKT, Chapter 7 (by Rich Cincotta and John Doces)

7. March 2: Youth Bulges and Conflict
   Readings: GKT, Chapters 8 (by Henrik Urdal) and 16 (by Elliott D. Green)
IN CLASS MID-TERM EXAM: March 4

MARCH 11-13 – Spring break, NO CLASS

8. March 16 & 18: Demography and Ethnic Conflict
   Readings: GKT, Chapters 14 (by Monica Duffy Toft) and 17 (By Ragnhild Nordas)

   Readings: Goldstone, Root and Marshall, “Demographic Growth in Dangerous Places”

10. March 30 & April 1: Demography and Democracy
    Readings: Dyson, Population and Development, Parts 3 and 4; GKT, Chapter 7 (by Cincotta and Doces)

11. April 6 & 8: Demography and US Politics
    Readings: GKT, Chapter 10 (by Frey); Joseph Chanie “Why Governments Count People’

12. April 13 & 15: Demography and Immigration

13. April 20 & 22: Demography and Religion
    Readings: GKT, Chapter 13 by Kaufmann and Skirbekk; PEW Future of World Religions http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/religious-projections-2010-2050/

14. April 27 & 29: Demography and Climate
    Readings: GKT Chapter 9 (by Matthew); Population Reference Bureau: Climate Change Impacts.

15. May 4: Review session

FINAL EXAM ON MONDAY MAY 11 at 10:30 AM

GRADING: The mid-term exam will count for 25% of your grade. The final exam will count for 50% of your grade. 25% of your grade will depend on your participation in class discussions.
ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

(1) **The SPP Plagiarism Policy.**

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. ([http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html](http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html))

(2) **Academic Accommodation for a Disability**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.