# Course Title/Number/Section

SOCI 4750: World population trends and problems

## Instructor Information

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My name is Ghazaleh Ebnenasir, and I will be your instructor for the course World Population Trends and Problems. I am a new graduate student in the Sociology Department, and I recently received my master’s degree in Women’s & Gender Studies from the University of North Texas. I also hold a bachelor’s degree in law from the Islamic Azad University of Esfahan in Iran. My academic interests focus on the intersections of politics, gender, and religion, as well as human rights and justice. In my free time, I enjoy listening to podcasts, watching true crime movies, exploring new places, and learning about different cultures.

## Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

SOCI 4750 covers patterns of population growth; trends of fertility and mortality; migration; social and economic consequences of population change. The course format is fully online remote, refers to a 16-week semester, and covers 13 modules. The objective of the course is to introduce students to basic demographic concepts, measures, theories, and the social and economic dimensions of population change. This course will cover core dimensions of population change related to mortality, fertility, and migration. At the end of the course, students should be able to identify (1) demographic concepts, calculate and interpret the basic measures related to mortality, fertility, migration, and residential segregation that is often encountered in the demographic literature, (2) the ability to interpret charts and tables related to population characteristics, (3) to describe the main demographic events and the processes that shape human population in general, and (4) to explain current U.S. and the world population patterns and trends. These goals will be achieved through lectures, readings, and video assignments that are intended to illustrate various aspects of particular issues under consideration. Summer and online courses are very fast paced. Thus, it is important for students to stay up with assignments and complete them on time.  You cannot procrastinate.  To do well in this class, students should ask questions whenever they have one, and do all the assignments on time (quizzes, video evaluations, and exams).  Please proofread your work before submitting it as your grades will be partially based on the clarity of your writing.  Your grades on this course will be based on video assignments, quizzes, and exams.

I calculate grades at the end of the course. If you have a pressing desire to know what your grade is after each assignment, you can easily calculate your grades by weighting the posted grades. For example: if quizzes are worth 15% and you have an average grade of 100% on quizzes, you will get 15 points. If the midterm is worth 30% and you received a 90%, you will get 27 points. If the video assignments are worth 25% and you received a 90%, you will get 22.5 points. Combined this puts you at 64.5 points out of a possible 70 points or a 92.14% going into the final.

## How to Succeed in this Course

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, in order to succeed in this course, it is important for students to stay up to date with assignments and complete them on time according to the schedule in this syllabus. Please do not procrastinate. To do well in this class, students should ask questions whenever they have them and do all the assignments on time. Please proofread your work before submitting it as your grades will be partially based on the clarity of your writing. In writing assignments, it is important to cite sources and lectures when referencing them for assignments and make the necessary commitment to spend a minimum of 10 hours a week doing the assigned readings, reflecting on the material covered, participating in course content, and completing assignments in a timely manner.

I welcome your questions and concerns, and I will try my best to assist you. I encourage you to connect with me and/or my TA for support. Your success is our goal. If you need to contact me, please email me either by using the CANVAS inbox or my UNT email address provided above. I will respond to emails generally within 24 to 48 hours, although email messages received on university holidays and weekends may be delayed until the following business day. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response in two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated. There is also a general Q & A forum in the Discussion Board area. If you have a general question about the course or assignments, please post it there. Either I will answer it, or, one of your classmates will. This way we can all benefit from questions asked, and they can be answered in a venue that the whole class can see. I will answer questions on the discussion board within a 24-hour window, except on weekends, where I will answer on the following Monday.

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to [unt.edu/success Links to an external site.](https://www.unt.edu/success/) and explore [unt.edu/wellness Links to an external site.](https://wellness.unt.edu/). To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to [scrappysays.unt.edu Links to an external site.](http://scrappysays.unt.edu/)

## ADA Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I look forward to getting to know each of you this semester.I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my virtual office hours or let me know by email and we can have a discussion. We are all learning together. Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others.  We will discuss our classroom’s habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT’s student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding ([Code of Student Conduct](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012) ) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>).

## Required/Recommended Materials

Textbook: Weeks, John R. 2016. *Population: An introduction to concepts and issues*. 12th edition. Cengage Learning. (Available at UNT Bookstore).

To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/online-student-experience/) (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

## Activities and Assessments

**Quizzes (15%)**

Quizzes will start the first week of classes. Quizzes will open on Mondays 8:00 a.m. and students will have until Sunday to complete the quiz. This is a similar window for most activities or assessments for the class. The quizzes will be ten questions, multiple choice. While the quizzes are untimed, you will only get one opportunity to complete it, questions will lock after you submit answers, and you must complete it in one sitting. That means that students should have done the readings and reviewed the lectures beforehand, and not during the quiz. There will be no quizzes on the weeks we have exams, and in total there are 3 quizzes. Late quizzes will not be accepted.

**Video evaluations (25%)**

Three short videos will be submitted to canvas and run through Turnitin (350 words). The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on demographic issues that are covered in class. You may not use sources external to the class. The video assignments will open on Mondays 8 am and you have until Sunday midnight to upload your responses. I limit the upload to only 2 times. More detailed rubrics for the video assignments can be found on canvas, but in general. Video assignments should be:

* 12-point font
* Double spaced
* Written in essay format.
* Cite the readings based on ASA format.
	+ Include a reference page and include in-text citations.
	+ You must cite so I know where you are pulling your information.
* Use only lecture or reading sources.
* Be at least 350 words; there is no penalty for going over.
* Be in a doc, docx, or pdf file format.
* Paraphrasing from the lecture or readings and not directly copying/pasting. You should not be direct quoting.
* Students should not attach assignments to the grading comments in Canvas. This is not the proper way to turn in work. If you do this, you will be awarded 0 points for your work.
* Late video assignments are not accepted without a valid UNT approved excuse with documentation.

In text citations from lectures would look like (Kwon 2024). In text citations from readings would look like (Weeks 2016). Because you are not directly quoting and paraphrasing, there is no page number. In the reference page, the Weeks books can be cited as above under textbooks. The reference page would look like the following for lectures:

Kwon, Ronald. 2024. “[Insert lecture name”]. *University of North Texas*. World Population Trends and Problems, Fall 2024.

**AI Content**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [Student Academic Integrity](https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity/index.html) , academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. These assignments require original work from students and cannot be content that is AI generated, from another class assignment, or paid for through a third-party service. You may not use sources external to the course. Due to how AI is becoming more sophisticated:

* You may not use external sources. All the conceptual tools to adequately complete the video assignments are in lectures and the readings.
* You may not use Grammerly even to edit your papers. Grammerly has AI generated tools that are picked up by Turnitin.
* Turnitin generates an AI matching score that is 98% accurate. I will also run your paper through additional AI matching programs. If your paper is flagged, you will meet with me. The assignment will receive a zero. A second offense will lead to a zero in the course.

**Midterm Examination (30%):**

The Midterm will cover topics covered in the assigned readings and video assignments. This means the Midterm will cover M1-M6 in Canvas and Chs 1-6 of the Weeks book. The exam will be composed of 30 multiple-choice questions and will open on Monday at 8am and close on Sunday midnight. Students may use their notes. It is important that students prepare their notes before the exam, and not during the exam. A study guide has been provided in Canvas to facilitate student preparation for the exam. The format of the exam is similar to that of the quizzes. While the exam is untimed, you will only get one opportunity to complete it, questions will lock after you submit answers, and you must complete it in one sitting. Unanswered questions are marked as incorrect. Missing and rescheduling the exams will require extreme circumstances and must be discussed with me before the exam date. A study guide for the Midterm exam can be found under FILES on canvas (Exam materials). It is also in the Module where the exam is found.

**Final Exam (30%)**

The final exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions in a format that resembles the Midterm and quizzes. The exam will be provided online and open during Final Exams time on Monday at 8am and close on Sunday midnight. Just like the Midterm, it is untimed, but you will only get ONE opportunity to complete it, questions will lock after you submit answers, and you must complete it in one sitting. Topics for the exam will predominantly focus on the latter part of the course (M7-M12). Students will be provided a study guide priorly. A study guide for the Final Exam can be found under FILES on canvas (Exam materials). It is also in the Module where the exam is found.

**Activities**

* Three video assignments (25% of total grade)

**Assessments**

* Three quizzes (15% of total grade)
* Midterm (30% of total grade)
* Final (30% of total grade)

**Grading**

* 90-100% A (Outstanding work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria)
* 80-89% B (Good work. The student performs above the minimum criteria)
* 70-79% C (College-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment)
* 60-69% D (Below college-level work. The student fails to meet the criteria)
* Below 60% F (Sub-par work. The student is missing large parts of the criteria, goes off on tangents that are unrelated to the rubric).
* I expect student to follow UNT’s [Academic Integrity Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>).

**Grade-related Policies**

**Late Work**

I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039) and provides the documentation within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

**Turnaround Times**

I aim to return the graded work to you within one-two weeks of the due date. If this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

**Grade Disputes**

If you come with a grade dispute, you will need to be prepared. I expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. We can schedule a meeting, and you should come with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within 7 days of receiving your grade, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

**Final Grades**

I will do my best to be straightforward and fair. I get numerous student requests at the end of the course and to be fair to students that did assignments on time, reviewed lectures, read, and engaged with materials, I do not consider make-up assignments, extra credit, or a grade bump when final grades are posted. I calculate grades at the end of the course and not during. If you have a pressing desire to know what your grade is after each assignment, you can easily calculate your grades by weighting the posted grades. For example: if quizzes are worth 15% and you have an average grade of 100% on quizzes, you will get 15 points. If the midterm is worth 30% and you received a 90%, you will get 27 points. If the video assignments are worth 25% and you received a 90%, you will get 22.5 points. Combined this puts you at 64.5 points out of a possible 70 points or a 92.14% going into the final.

## Course Policies & Technology Requirements

**Attendance**

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful and in an online environment this means that students have reviewed the correct modules and Weeks textbook readings at least by Saturday in order to be fully prepared for the assessments that can include a quiz, video assignment, or exam that typically have a deadline by Sunday midnight. Although this course is fully online, there are mandatory deadlines the completion of assessments. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>).  If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

**Make Up Exams and/or Incompletes**

If you encounter an emergency, you should contact me before the test is administered. I do require documentation of emergencies and absences that fall under [UNT’s policy of attendance](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf) , as well as what is considered adequate documentation by the Dean’s office [adequate documentation](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/about-us/faq) . In the context of incompletes, the sociology department requires that students complete at minimum half of all assignments before an incomplete is considered. Incompletes are then assessed and given at the discretion of the instructor.

**Academic Integrity & Student Grievances**

Please review the UNT guideline for [academic integrity](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012) . I will strictly enforce these rules for the research paper and exams. In the context of student grievances, there will be a 10 day period to reach an informal mediation outcome that does not conflict with established policies outlined by the instructor in the syllabus. The formal process for student grievances outlined by UNT is available through the [Division of Student Affairs (formal process)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-016)

**Classroom Documents**

Many of the classes key materials can be found under files. For example, the syllabus will also be contained under FILES>SYLLABUS. Materials for exam reviews will be under FILES>EXAM MATERIALS.

**Extra Credit**

There are no additional extra credit opportunities in this class. The assignments are split up between different assignment types and give students to opportunity to succeed on different types of assignments in the course. That is, no one assignment will determine the grade of a student and lower than expected grades are often the results of doing poorly on multiple assignments.

**Technology Requirements**

In order to successfully complete the contents of the course, it is imperative that students have access to the following:

* Microsoft Office Suite that includes Word.
* Web browser

## Course Requirements/Schedule

* The following dates and times are subject to change, and I reserve the right to alter assignments given sufficient notice to students.
* Modules are connoted below as M1-M12 and correspond with the chapters in the required Weeks text.

**WEEK 1 (8/18-8/24): Welcome to the Course & Weeks Chapter 1**

* Read the syllabus carefully
* Post any questions you have in the Q&A discussion
* Read Ch1 in Weeks book
* Complete **M1** in Canvas about the **Introduction to Demography**
	+ The content covers what demography is, its importance, ways to think about global population growth, and some major theories in demography in broad strokes.

**WEEK 2 (8/25-8/31): Weeks Chapter 2**

* Read Ch2 in Weeks book
* Complete **M2** in Canvas about **Global Population Trends**
	+ The content covers why global population growth has become so rapid in recent years

**WEEK 3 (9/1-9/7): Weeks Chapter 3, Pt 1**

* Begin reading Ch3 in Weeks book to neo-Malthusians
* Complete **M3.1** in Canvas about **Demographic Perspectives**
	+ The content covers the creation of major demographic theories

**WEEK 4 (9/8-9/14): Weeks Chapter 3, Pt 2**

* Finish reading Ch3 in Weeks book
* Complete **M3.2** in Canvas about **Global Population Trends**
* Complete **Quiz 1** on Canvas that covers content from **M1-M3 modules** and from Weeks Ch 1-3 is due by Sunday midnight

**WEEK 5 (9/15-9/21): Weeks Chapter 4**

* Read Ch4 in Weeks book
* Complete **M4** in Canvasabout **Demographic Data**
	+ The content covers the major sources of demographic data in the US and around the world.

**WEEK 6 (9/22-9/28): Weeks Chapter 5**

* Read Ch5 in Weeks book
* Complete **M5** in Canvas about **Health and Mortality**
	+ The content covers what the health and mortality transition is and its drivers.

**WEEK 7 (9/29-10/5): Weeks Chapter 6, Pt 1**

* Begin reading Ch6 in Weeks book
* Complete **M6.1** in Canvas about **Fertility Transition**
	+ The content covers what the fertility transition is and its drivers.

**WEEK 8 (10/6-10/12): Weeks Chapter 6, Pt 2**

* Finish reading Ch6 in Weeks book
* Complete **M6.2** in Canvas about **Fertility Transition**

**WEEK 9 (10/13-10/19): Midterm Week**

* Video Assignment 1 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 10/20
* Use study guide found in Files in Canvas to review for Midterm exam
* Complete the Midterm due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 10/20 that covers modules M1-M6 and Weeks Ch 1-6.

**WEEK 10 (10/20-10/26): Weeks Chapter 7**

* Read Ch7 in Weeks book
* Complete **M7** in Canvas about **The Migration Transition**
	+ The content covers why people migrate and why when migration starts it is difficult to stop.

**WEEK 11 (10/27-11/2): Weeks Chapter 8**

* Read Ch8 in Weeks book
* Complete **M8** in Canvas about **The Age Transition**
	+ The content covers what the age transition is and where it is happening globally.
* Complete Video Assignment 2 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/3
* Complete Quiz 2 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/3 which covers Weeks Ch 7-8 and modules **M7-M8**.

**WEEK 12 (11/3-11/9): Weeks Chapter 9**

* Read Ch9 in Weeks book
* Complete **M9** in Canvas about **The Urban Transition**
	+ The content covers what the urban transition is, residential segregation, and how the urban transition differs in high income and low income regions of the world.

**WEEK 13 (11/10-11/16): Weeks Chapter 10**

* Read Ch10 in Weeks book
* Complete **M10** in Canvas about **The Family and Household Transition**
	+ The content covers what the family and household transition is, how it affects income inequality, and where it is happening globally.

**WEEK 14: (11/17-11/23) Weeks Chapter 11**

* Read Ch11 in Weeks book
* Complete **M11** in Canvas about **Population and Sustainability**
	+ The content covers how environmental degradation is measured, where it is happening globally, and its consequences on biodiversity.
* Complete Video Assignment 3 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/24
* Complete Quiz 3 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/24 that will cover Weeks Ch 9-11 and modules M9-M11.

**WEEK 15: (11/24-11/30) Fall Break – No Classes**

**WEEK 16: (12/1-12/7) Weeks Chapter 12**

* Read Ch12 in Weeks book
* Complete **M12** in Canvas about **What Lies Ahead**
	+ The content covers how global diffusion happens, the technologies that might shape demography as we know it, and demographic changes on the horizon.
* Use study guide found in Files in Canvas to review for Final Exam
* Complete the Final Exam which opens in Canvas at 8:00 a.m. on Monday 12/9 and is due before Midnight on Sunday 12/15 and covers Weeks Ch 6-12 and M6-M12

These dates are tentative and may be subject to change with advance notice to students with sufficient time. Campus closures may also affect the schedule, and the calendar may be subject to change. The campus closure policy can be found at (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006>).