

PADM 3210: Population Demographics and Urban Planning

Fall 2026

Instructor

Jungin Choe. Ph.D.

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Class Meetings:

- Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:45 PM–2:05 PM
- Chilton Hall 240

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM (by appointment).

- Please email me to schedule a one-on-one meeting. We can meet either in person or virtually via Zoom.

TA: Ziyao Wang (Ziyao.Wang@unt.edu)

Course Description

This course introduces the concepts and methods of population demographics and examines their connections to urban planning issues. The course is organized into two parts.

The first half provides a foundation in demographic concepts and analytical techniques, including population measurement, population growth, population structure, population projections, and migration. These concepts equip students with the tools necessary to understand and analyze demographic change.

The second half focuses on the application of demographic concepts to contemporary urban issues such as residential segregation, urban sprawl, diversity, regional economic development, and globalization. Students examine how demographic trends shape communities and influence planning and policy decisions.

Throughout the course, students are expected to identify a demographic research topic of interest and apply demographic concepts and methods to investigate it. This process helps students develop analytical skills while exploring the relationship between population dynamics and urban planning in a practical research context.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain fundamental concepts and methods in population demographics, including population measurement, growth, structure, projections, and migration.

2. Conduct demographic analyses in spatial contexts using appropriate demographic concepts and analytical methods.
3. Analyze the relationships between demographic change and urban planning issues, including segregation, urban sprawl, diversity, regional economic development, and globalization.
4. Develop a research topic of interest and apply demographic concepts and methods to investigate population-related questions in urban planning.

Course Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course.

Required Course Textbook:

Lundquist, Jennifer Hicke, Douglas L. Anderton, and David Yaukey. *Demography: The Study of Human Population*. 4th ed. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-1478613060.

Recommended Textbook:

Dave H. Kaplan and Steven Holloway. *Urban Geography*. Wiley. 3rd Edition

Course Requirements:

Assignment	Points	Percentage
1. Class Participation	200	20%
2. Population Demographic Analysis Paper	250	25%
3. Mid-term Exam	300	30%
4. ArcGIS StoryMaps Project	250	25%
Total	1,000	100%

1. Class Participation – 200 points (20%)

Active participation is essential in this course. Class participation consists of two components: **attendance** (100 points) and **in-class activities** (100 points). In-person and virtual class meetings are treated equally.

a) Attendance (100 points)

Regular attendance and active participation are expected throughout the semester. Students may earn **up to 4 attendance points for each scheduled class meeting**, with a **maximum of 100 attendance points** for the semester.

Attendance points are based on attendance and participation during the scheduled class period. Because multiple opportunities to earn attendance points are provided throughout the semester, students are expected to attend class regularly.

In the event of an emergency or other extenuating circumstance, students should contact the instructor as soon as possible and **no later than one week after the affected class meeting** if they wish to request consideration for partial credit. **Requests made more than one week after the class meeting will not be considered.**

b) In-Class Activities (100 points)

In-class activities are designed to reinforce course concepts through hands-on exercises, data analysis, discussion, and other class-based learning activities. The course includes **17 graded in-class activities**, each worth **5 points**, and **one Final Project Draft submission worth 15 points**, with **a maximum of 100 points** for this category. Additional activities may be assigned throughout the semester for practice, discussion, feedback, or bonus points.

Unless otherwise indicated, in-class activities must be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 PM on the day following the class meeting. Activities completed during a **Monday class are due by Tuesday at 11:59 PM**, and activities completed during a **Wednesday class are due by Thursday at 11:59 PM**. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

In the event of an emergency or other extenuating circumstance, students should contact the instructor as soon as possible and **no later than one week after the affected class meeting** if they wish to request consideration for partial credit. **Requests made more than one week after the class meeting will not be considered.**

2. Population Demographic Analysis Paper – 250 points (25%)

Students will select two different communities in the United States and develop demographic profiles of each community. The profiles will apply demographic concepts and methods covered in the first half of the course, including population growth, age-sex structure, demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, migration, and population projections.

Students will compare demographic trends between the two communities using both tables and written analysis. Detailed guidelines and grading criteria will be provided in class.

The paper must be submitted by the specified deadline. Late submissions will incur a **10-point deduction per day**.

3. Mid-term Exam – 300 points (30%)

There will be one online, open-book exam covering materials from Week 1 through the last class meeting before the exam.

Although the exam is open-book, students **are not allowed** to discuss the exam or collaborate with other students during the exam. Any form of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with university policy.

4. ArcGIS StoryMaps Project – 250 points (25%)

For the final project, students will create a place-based story using ArcGIS StoryMaps. Students will select an urban planning topic that incorporates demographic concepts and methods and communicate their findings through an interactive StoryMap.

Before submitting the final project, students will present their StoryMap in class and receive feedback from the instructor and their classmates. Detailed project guidelines and grading criteria will be provided in class.

The final project must be submitted by the specified deadline. Late submissions will incur a **10-point deduction per day**.

Grading

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	90–100%	900–1,000
B	80–89%	800–899
C	70–79%	700–799
D	60–69%	600–699
F	Below 60%	0–599

Communication Policy:

If you have any questions about the course, please email the instructor at Jungin.Cho@unt.edu. The instructor typically responds to emails within **48 hours** (excluding weekends and university holidays), and often much sooner. To ensure a timely response, please send emails at least **48 hours before** any assignment deadline or exam.

Assignment Policy:

Assignment due dates are listed in the course syllabus and posted on Canvas. Students should check Canvas regularly for detailed instructions and any updates. All assignments, including in-class activities, the Population Demographic Analysis Paper, and the ArcGIS StoryMaps Project, must be submitted through Canvas unless otherwise indicated.

Academic Integrity:

The University of North Texas values academic integrity and upholds the core values of trust and honesty. All students are expected to understand their responsibilities and the academic consequences of misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty, as outlined in UNT Policy **06.003, Student Academic Integrity**. For more information, please visit: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>.

Course Schedules:

Week 1	
8/17 (M)	Course Introduction In-class 1-1. Research Interests (Due 8/18, 5 points)
8/19 (W)	Demographic concepts and theories Reading: Demography p.1-6

	In-class 1-2. Profiles for two counties (Due 8/20, 5 points)
Week 2	
8/24 (M)	Demographic change and calculations - Reading: Demography p.6-18 - In-class 2-1. Demographic profiles in a table (Due 8/25, 5 points)
8/26 (W)	Demographic Data - Reading: Demography p.19-31 - In-class 2-2. Census Survey (Due 8/27, 5 points)
Week 3	
8/31 (M)	Demographic Data and Sample Surveys - Reading: Demography p.32-44 - In-class 3-1. Creating a survey (Due 9/1, 5 points)
9/2 (W)	Lab session 1: Creating tables and charts in Excel In-class 3-2. Tables and Charts (Due 9/8, 5 points)
Week 4	
9/7 (M)	Labor Day (No Class)
9/9 (W)	Library Tour (Meet in our classroom at 12:45 PM)
Week 5	
9/14 (M)	Population Growth Reading: Demography p.47-86
9/16 (W)	Population Structures - Reading: Demography p.93-107 - In-class 5-2. Dependency Ratio (Due 9/17, 5 points)
Week 6	
9/21 (M)	Population Pyramids - Reading: Demography p.93-107 - In-class 6-1. Population Pyramids (Due 9/22, 5 points)
9/23 (W)	Lab session 2: Population Projections In-class 6-2. Population Projection (Due 9/24, 5 points)
Week 7	
9/28 (M)	Migration theories and data - Reading: Demography p. 334-360 - In-class 7-1. Push and Pull Factors of Migration (Due 9/29, 5 points)
9/30 (W)	Lab session 3: Population Projections 2 In-class 7-2. Population projections (Due 10/1, 5 points)
Week 8	
10/5 (M)	Urbanization - Reading: Demography p.375-398 - In-class 8-1. Population Growth (Due 10/6, 5 points)
10/7 (W)	Population Diversity - Reading: Demography p.405-424 - In-class 8-2. Population Pyramids 2 (Due 10/8, 5 points)

Week 9	
10/12 (M)	Mid-term Exam (On-line)
10/14 (W)	Lab session 4: Population demographic analysis paper Population Demographics Analysis Paper Submission (Due 10/30, 100 points)
Week 10	
10/19 (M)	Lab session 5: Introduction to ArcGIS StoryMaps In-class 10-1. ArcGIS StoryMaps (Due 10/20, 5 points)
10/21 (W)	Urban Segregation - Reference: Urban Geography p.233-268 - In-class 10-2. ArcGIS StoryMaps Outline (Due 10/22, 5 points)
Week 11	
10/26 (M)	Lab session 6: ArcGIS StoryMap Work Session In-class 11-1. ArcGIS StoryMap Draft Submission (Due 10/30, 15 points)
10/28 (W)	Housing and Sprawl In-class 11-2. Affordable Housing (Due 10/29, 5 points)
Week 12	
11/2 (M)	Globalization and Cities - Reference: Urban Geography p.86-97 - In-class 12-1. Cities and Technologies (Due 11/3, 5 points)
11/4 (W)	Globalization and Technology Reference: Urban Geography p.97-113
Week 13	
11/9 (M)	Final Project Presentation 1
11/11 (W)	Final Project Presentation 2
Week 14	
11/16 (M)	Final Project Presentation 3
11/18 (W)	Final Project Presentation 4
Week 15	
11/23 (M)	Thanksgiving break (No class)
11/25 (W)	Thanksgiving break (No class)
Week 16	
11/30 (M)	Final Project Feedback, Course Evaluation, and Q&A
12/2 (W)	Key Concepts Review and Course Wrap-Up

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity

In this course, you are encouraged to use Generative AI (GenAI) tools such as ChatGPT to support

your learning and develop skills for a GenAI-oriented workforce. This use will help us stay technically proficient and ethically grounded. However, **GenAI should complement, not replace, your critical thinking or our course materials.** If something seems unclear, please seek clarification. In line with the UNT Honor Code, all work you submit must be your own. Using GenAI tools without attribution or relying on them to complete assignments violates academic integrity and will be addressed according to university policy.

Syllabus Change Policy

Changes to the syllabus may be necessary at times. Communication of any changes will be made via an Announcement, and revisions will appear in the syllabus and in the LMS.

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is UNT's student evaluation system. It allows students to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of their course experiences. SPOT will be available **at the end of the semester.**

Comply with UNT policies

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether

the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.