**SOCI 4750: WORLD POPULATION TRENDS AND  
PROBLEMS, Fall 2024**

Instructor Contact

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Communication: I welcome your questions and concerns, and I will try my best to assist you. 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.  
As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution  
that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact.  
UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full  
Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

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) ability interpret charts and tables related to population characteristics, (3) describe the main demographic events and the processes that shape human population in general, and (4) 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.

**HOW TO SUCCEED**

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 proof-read your work before submitting it as your grades will be partially based on the clarity of your writing. Assignments in this course consist of quizzes, video evaluations, and exams. Students should complete all assignments.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

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

**PREREQUISITES**

There are no required prerequisites for this course. However, in order to be successful in this course you will need to:

* Cite sources and lectures when referencing them for assignments (i.e., video assignments).
* 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.

**COMMUNICATION**

* Instructor: Momna Rani
* Email: [Momna.Rani@UNT.edu](mailto:Momna.Rani@UNT.edu)

There is a general Q & A forum in the Discussion Board area. If you have general questions about the course or assignments, please post there. Either I, the TA (if there is one), or one of your fellow classmates will answer the questions posted. 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. For other concerns about the class, please contact me via email and I will respond within 24 hours, except on weekends, where I will answer the following Monday.

**COURSE GRADING**

The course grading breakdown will consist of four activities that are based on a percentage weighting system.

**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).

**Grade-related Policies**

**Late Work**

I do 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 graded work to you within two weeks of the due date. Please remember that I am also a student at UNT with my own goals and deadlines. When 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 do 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.

**ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**3 Quizzes (15%)**

Each quiz is worth up to 50 points. Quizzes will open on Mondays 8:00 a.m. and students will have until Sunday midnight to complete the quiz. This is a similar window for most activities or assessments for the class, except the final exam because grades are due on Monday. 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. Lectures are not substitutes for readings and vice versa. You have to do both. There are materials covered in the lectures that are not in the book and vice versa. Both are fair game. There will be no quizzes on the weeks we have exams, and in total there are 3 quizzes. Late quizzes will not be accepted and you have a whole week to complete a mere 10 questions on an untimed quiz.

**3 Video evaluations (25%)**

Three short videos will be submitted to canvas and run through Turnitin (minimum of 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.

The first video assignment is worth up to 50 points. This first video assignment is worth less points than the next two so that you can receive feedback and react to it in the next two video assignments which are each worth up to 100 points.

Video assignments should be:

* 12-point font
* Double spaced
* Written in essay format.
* Cite lectures or the readings based on ASA format.

o Include a reference page and include in-text citations.

o 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 may not claim to have turned a video assignment by attaching a word doc or pdf in the comments section, which is also time stamped.
* Late video assignments are not accepted without a valid UNT approved excuse with documentation (see above in Late Work).

Dr. Ronald Kwon is permitting us to use his course design. The pages in the Modules have been created by him to enhance your learning of the Week’s text. In text citations from lectures should look like (Kwon 2024). In text citations from readings would look like (Weeks 2016). Because you are not directly quoting and instead paraphrasing in your writing, there is no page number necessary in the citation. 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, Summer 2024.

**WARNING: AI Content**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity , 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 lecture, 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 Friday 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.

**CLASSROOM GUIDELINES**

**Attendance:** Although this is an online course, we have deadlines. I expect students to review lectures and email questions or components that are confusing to them sufficiently before important due dates. A substantial amount of the midterm and final exams have questions that are based on lecture materials and/or online materials which may not be covered in the readings. This is still fair game for the exams.

**Make up exams and/or incompletes:** I generally do not give make-up exams or give incomplete grades, except under the most extreme emergencies. If you encounter an emergency, you should contact me **before** the test is administered. All absences require validated documentation, and I will check these. Simply stating I was sick is not adequate. Please familiarize yourself with UNT’s policy of attendance (Please review UNT’s policy (<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 (https:// studentaffairs.unt.edu/ dean-of-students/about-us/faq).

Students in this course should follow UNT’s guidelines for academic integrity. This means that you should review the UNT guideline for academic integrity. I will strictly enforce these rules for the quizzes, video assignments, and exams. Failure to abide by these rules will result in zeros on the assignment, with a second violation resulting in a failure of the class.

**ADA Accommodations:** Students with disabilities that may affect their ability to participate fully in the class or to complete all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to my attention promptly so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Students must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. Without this, accommodations will not be granted. For additional information, please visit the ODA website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>.

**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.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

The following dates and times are tentative, and I reserve the right to alter assignment given sufficient notice.

Key: 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 through all the pages in the **Introduction to the Course Module**
* Read Syllabus carefully
* Post any question you have in the Q&A discussion
* Read Ch1 in Weeks book
* Complete **M1** in Canvas about the **Introduction to Demography**

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

* Read Ch2 in Weeks book
* Complete **M2** in Canvas about **Global Population Trends**

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

* Begin reading Ch3 in Weeks book
* Complete **M3.1** in Canvas about **Global Population Trends**

**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**
* Quiz 1 over M1-M3 is due Sunday by midnight

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

* Read Ch4 in Weeks book
* Complete **M4** in Canvasabout **Demographic Data**

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

* Read Ch5 in Weeks book
* Complete **M5** in Canvas about **Health and Mortality**

**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**

**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
* Midterm due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 10/20

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

* Read Ch7 in Weeks book
* Complete **M7** in Canvas about **The Migration Transition**

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

* Read Ch8 in Weeks book
* Complete **M8** in Canvas about **The Age Transition**
* Video Assignment 2 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/3
* Quiz 2 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/3

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

* Read Ch9 in Weeks book
* Complete **M9** in Canvas about **The Urban Transition**

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

* Read Ch10 in Weeks book
* Complete **M10** in Canvas about **The Family and Household Transition**

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

* Read Ch11 in Weeks book
* Complete **M11** in Canvas about **Population and Sustainability**
* Video Assignment 3 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/24
* Quiz 3 due in Canvas before midnight on Sunday 11/24

**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**
* Use study guide found in Files in Canvas to review for Final Exam
* Final Exam opens in Canvas at 8:00 a.m. on Monday 12/9 and is due before Midnight on Friday 12/13