

SOCI 4750: WORLD POPULATION TRENDS AND PROBLEMS, SPRING 2026

BASIC INFORMATION

Instructor: Ronald Kwon

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Office: 288D Sycamore

Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm-3:30pm or by appointment (please email me that you are planning to attend office hours)

Meeting Classroom: HKRY 252

Meeting Time: 3:30-4:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the course is to provide students with an understanding of basic demographic concepts and measures and the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of population change. This course introduces students to the various demographic measures of the different aspects of human population such as fertility, migration, mortality, etc. Specifically, at the end of the course, students will learn about (1) demographic concepts and basic measures related to mortality, fertility, migration, and residential segregation that is often encountered in demographic literature, (2) interpret charts and tables related to population characteristics, (3) describe the main demographic events and the processes that shaped human population in general, and (4) explain current U.S. and the world population patterns and trends.

We will briefly examine the importance of demography and how it relates to other sciences. Then we will discuss population trends and their influences. We will also examine the demographic processes (fertility, mortality, and migration) and look at each of these processes that impact society. We will further examine the changing family structures and its impact on society as well as aging related issues. We will conclude with debates over population and sustainability. These goals will be achieved through reading assignments and video assignments that are intended to illustrate various aspects of particular issues under consideration.

- (1) illustrate the importance of demography
- (2) examine the interrelationships between demography and other sciences
- (3) connect the demographic variables and their impact on human population
- (4) explain demographic events
- (5) calculate and interpret basic measures in demography literature
- (6) construct and interpret charts and tables related to population characteristics
- (7) explain current US and world population patterns and trends.

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 complete assignments ON TIME (quizzes, video evaluations, and exams). Please **PROOF-READ** your work before submitting it as your grades will be partially based on the clarity of your writing. Your grades in this course will be based on video assignments, quizzes, and exams. I will 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 20% and you have an average grade of 100% on quizzes, you will get 20 points.

if the midterm is worth 30% and you received a 90%, you will get 27 points.

if the video assignments are worth 20% and you received a 90%, you will get 18 points.

Combined this puts you at 65 points out of a possible 70 points or a 92.85% going into the final.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Textbook: Weeks, J. R. (2016). *Population: An introduction to concepts and issues*. 12th edition. Cengage Learning. (Available at UNT Bookstore). Unfortunately, I have had personal copies taken, so a copy will be available at Willis Library on Reserve for two hours.

Other required readings will be made available on Canvas. They are available under the “Readings” folder that is located under files. The readings are designed to preview, overlap, as well as reinforce lectures. The amount of reading is manageable and necessary to perform well in the class.

COURSE GRADING BASIS NON-HONORS STUDENTS

In class participation, pop quizzes, and/or attendance (20%)

Students are expected to finish the readings before the start of class. I expect students to attend lectures, participate in in-class assignments, and use topics from reading materials to engage in class discussions. These are given to students on random lectures and there are no quiz exceptions without a valid medical excuse. Simply stating, I was sick is not valid and requires documentation (<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/policy.unt.edu/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf>).

Video evaluations & SWOT Analysis (20%)

Four short videos will be shown in class. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on particular issues that are being covered. You are required to submit a one-page **typed-written (font size =12)** double-spaced reaction paper of the video. There is a word minimum word requirement (300 words). This word minimum is a suggestion and will require you as a writer to be efficient and concise to address all the prompts. Most students go over the minimum and you will not be penalized. However, a longer paper does not mean you actually addressed the points. The paper will be submitted via canvas by that closing Friday @ midnight. The upload will open on Tuesday after class at 5:00 pm. You will submit your responses online as a doc, docx, or pdf file. More instructions are provided on Canvas nearer to the due date. Missing the video assignments will require extreme circumstances and must be discussed with me before the due date. Asking for an extension after the due date is not an option.

For Honors students, you will also have to complete an additional assignment that includes a SWOT demographic analysis of a country of their choice. The additional SWOT analysis is only

for Honors students. The SWOT analysis meets the Honors College mandate to “challenge the intellect and advances academic achievement. Honors College classes will encourage [students] to think critically, assess issues, make and defend arguments, and synthesize ideas...through supplementary requirements designed to provide more sophisticated engagement with the course material and may take many forms including readings, research, papers, projects, fieldwork, performances, or presentations.” SWOT analyses are typically used to assess a company’s product, plans, or business strategies in the marketplace but can be used as an effective tool to apply to countries and their demographic profiles. Using SWOT, students are encouraged to assess both the strengths and weaknesses of demographic profiles of the country of their choice. For example, students should consider their country’s age structure, migration patterns, or fertility patterns. Does the country experience population ageing? Is this a substantial threat of demographic ageing on economic sustainability? Explain why. More instructions are provided on Canvas nearer to the due date that will be submitted during finals week. **Missing the SWOT analysis will require extreme circumstances and must be discussed with me before the due date. Asking for an extension after the due date is not an option.**

Exam 1 (30%):

Exam 1 will cover topics covered in lecture, the assigned readings, and class-assigned videos and audio. The test will be composed of 35 multiple-choice questions. A study guide will be provided to facilitate student preparation for the exam. **Missing and rescheduling the exams will require extreme circumstances and must be discussed with me before the exam date.**

Exam 2 (30%)

Exam 2 will consist of 35 multiple-choice questions in a format that resembles exam 1 and quizzes. Topics for the exam will predominantly focus on the latter part of the course. Students will be provided with a study guide priorly to prepare for the exam. **Missing and rescheduling the exams will require extreme circumstances and must be discussed with me before the exam date.**

COURSE BREAKDOWN

The grading breakdown is as follows below:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

I will do my best to be straightforward and fair. Please feel free to approach me if you encounter any difficulties. **However, final grades are final and are NOT OPEN FOR DEBATE. Please do not ask for make-up assignments, additional extra credit, or a grade bump up once final grades are posted. Missing assignments should be taken care of before they are due.**

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

There is an opportunity for a 3% extra credit boost to your final grade by participating in the NEXUS Conference Poster presentation. For example, if you ended the class with an 87% percent, you would then be bumped up to 90% if you received all the points in the grading rubric. For this assignment, you are required to design and present an academic poster at the NEXUS Conference on April 2nd at UNT that explores a specific aspect of cybercrime as it relates to our

class. Your poster should provide a well-researched, visually engaging overview of your chosen topic, integrating sociological perspectives and theories as relevant. The Abstract Submission Deadline is **March 1, 2026**. The [Link](#) to Register for the conference. For more information contact Dr. Potts (Helen.Potts@unt.edu) or visit the [Department of Sociology – NEXUS page](#). More details about the conference, registration, rubric, and outline are provided on canvas.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

Attendance: I cannot overemphasize the importance of regular class attendance. A substantial amount of exam questions is based on lecture materials, which may not be covered in the readings. This is still fair game for the exam. Moreover, class is (by far) the optimal time to ask questions to clarify. Please arrive to class on time. It is incredibly disruptive for other students and the instructor.

Electronic use: Please keep electronic use during the class period confined to class materials. It is distracting for me as well as other students when it is not. I will ask students to leave the classroom if I see that they are using their electronic classes for non-class reasons. All students are expected to take their own notes and students are not permitted to record lectures in any format. Students with ODA exemptions are required to complete the audio agreement form (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/faculty/faculty-guide/forms.html>).

Please turn off all cell phones or put them on silent. In the event of a distraction, I have the authority to change a student's seat or request a student to exit the classroom. One-day suspensions will be reported to appropriate departmental and collegiate personnel.

Make up exams and/or incompletes: I generally do not give make-up exams or give incomplete grades, except under the most extreme emergencies. In order to process an incomplete, you must have at least completed half of the assignments for the course. No exemptions will be made to this rule. If you encounter an emergency, you should contact me **before** the test is administered.

Classroom decorum: A great deal of this course involves class discussion. Please respect the “rules of good discussion”. In particular, please consider the following: a) be good listeners to your fellow students (a democratic and open classroom necessitates a respectful environment); b) try to focus your discussion on course material; c) discussion is usually more stimulating when many people are involved, thus I ask for your help in trying to get everyone to contribute.

Respect the UNT guidelines for academic integrity: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003> This includes using ChatGPT to write assignments, using assignments from another class, copying off the internet with proper citation, and using a third party to write your assignments for you. I appreciate the majority of students are honest. To the few students who do not hold such ideals, I want to stress that cheating and plagiarism or using AI related tools to write your assignments will not be tolerated in any form. I expect each student to complete their own work. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the assignment in question. All assignments are run through Turnitin which includes a comprehensive analysis of student work that provides a similarity score to AI generated content, plagiarism from other sources, papers that have already been turned into etc. Students whose work is flagged will be assigned failing scores and I will meet with you regarding it. A second offense will result in a failure of the course.

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. For additional information, please visit the ODA website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/index.html>.

Lectures and other classroom documents: Many of the classes key materials can be found under files. Lectures will be posted after class. They will be organized by week headings and contain under FILES>LECTURES. The syllabus will also be contained under FILES>SYLLABUS. The rubric for the video responses will be under FILES>VIDEO RESPONSES, but will be posted after the class. Materials for exam reviews will be under FILES>EXAM MATERIALS.

CALENDAR:

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO DEMOGRAPHY

January 13 Please review syllabus carefully

January 15 Chap 1, Weeks

WEEK 2: GLOBAL POPULATION TRENDS

January 20 Chap 2, Weeks

January 22

WEEK 3: DEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES

January 27 Chap 3, Weeks

****VIDEO 1 RESPONSE DUE FRIDAY @ MIDNIGHT**

January 29

WEEK 4: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

February 3 Chap. 4, Weeks

February 5

WEEK 5: HEALTH AND MORTALITY TRANSITION

February 10 Chap. 5, Weeks.
Online: PRB Pp.16-20.

February 12

WEEK 6: EXAM 1 REVIEW AND EXAM 1

February 17 Exam 1 review

February 19 Exam 1 (Please bring scantron)

WEEK 7: THE FERTILITY TRANSITION

February 24 Chap 6, Weeks

****VIDEO 2 RESPONSE DUE BY FRIDAY @ MIDNIGHT**

February 26 Online: PRB Pp.9-13.

WEEK 8: THE MIGRATION TRANSITION

March 3 Chap 7, Weeks.

March 5 Online: PRB Pp.24-25.

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10: AGE STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS

March 17 Chap 8, Weeks.

March 19 Online: PRB Pp.4-8.

WEEK 11: THE URBAN TRANSITION

March 24 Chap. 9, Weeks.

March 26

WEEK 12: THE FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD TRANSITION

March 31 Chap. 10, Weeks.

April 2 Online: PRB Pp.23

WEEK 13: POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

April 7 Chap 11, Weeks.

****VIDEO 3 RESPONSE DUE BY FRIDAY @ MIDNIGHT**

April 9

WEEK 14: WHAT LIES BEYOND

April 14 Chap 12, Weeks

April 16

WEEK 15: EXAM 2 REVIEW AND EXAM2

April 21 -Exam 2 Review

April 23 -Exam 2 (Please bring scantron)

WEEK 16: FINAL VIDEO ASSIGNMENT

April 28 -No class, work on final video assignment

April 30 -No class, work on final video assignment

****VIDEO 4 RESPONSE DUE BY FRIDAY @ MIDNIGHT MAY 1**

May 4

**- **SWOT ANALYSIS RESPONSE DUE BY MONDAY @
MIDNIGHT FOR HONORS STUDENTS.**

****These are tentative dates and I reserve the right to alter assignment given sufficient notice.**