

SOCI 234 Population and Society
Fall 2020
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:05pm-2:25pm (Montreal time, UTC -4)

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Brauner-Otto
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Office: 728 Leacock Building

Virtual office hours:
Fridays 2:30pm-4:30 pm
And by appointment

Teaching Assistants (TA): Virtual office hours and location will be posted on myCourses
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Course description:

This course provides an introduction to the field of social demography in a global perspective. We explore population change via the major population processes of mortality, fertility, and migration. We will examine different sources of demographic data and ways of measuring these processes. We will also apply a critical perspective to the causes and consequences of population change and explore the demographic dynamics of COVID-19.

Some basic math skills (adding, subtracting, division, multiplication, exponentiation, etc) and comfort using Excel or a similar type program are necessary to be successful in this course.

myCourses:

We will make extensive use of the course website through myCourses.

Course structure:

This course will be offered completely online. Lectures will be recorded and posted on myCourses. You should view them before the scheduled class meeting. Class time will be used for virtual, interactive activities on Zoom including Q&A periods, discussion groups, and lab activities. Links will be available on myCourses. You should plan to attend all class periods but we will not meet virtually for the entire scheduled class period every week. Some weeks we will meet for the full times, others we may not meet at all. This will depend on the amount of recorded lecture and assignments for a give topic and/or week. You will generally know by Sunday evening of the week in question how long to expect class sessions to last. For instance, if there are 2 20 min lectures for a week you can generally expect to have 2 1 hour synchronous class periods.

There will be alternative ways of participating for those unable to attend synchronous classes.

Required text:

Trovato, Frank. *Canada's Population in a Global Context: An Introduction to Social Demography*. Oxford: Oxford Press. 2nd Edition.

Referred to as Trovato in course outline below.

We will read most of the book and assignments will cover that material (as well as lecture material) so it is crucial that you purchase the book to be successful in this class.

We can purchase or rent an e-version of the textbook from www.vitalsource.com or www.redshelf.com. Hard copies can be bought from the McGill bookstore, on amazon, or often from previous students in the class. Note, shipping can be costly and slow so plan accordingly. Not having the books is not an excuse for missing assignments.

You may also want to download *Population Handbook* from the Population Reference Bureau to use as an additional reference. This is available at <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2011/prb-population-handbook-2011.aspx>

Additional journal articles and other readings are listed in the reference list at the end of the syllabus. They can be found via the McGill library or online. Hard to find sources will be posted on myCourses as pdfs.

You will need a calculator for this class. Most, if not all, the calculations will only require a basic calculator, like the one probably on your phone or your computer.

Course requirements: The course requirements are non-negotiable. If you know you cannot meet them, do not take this course.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

1. Readings. All students are required to complete all assigned readings. It is expected that you have completed the readings before each class period for which they are assigned.
2. Lectures. Pre-recorded lectures will be posted on myCourses. You are expected to have watched and listened to them before the class period for which they are assigned. Lectures will be short (generally no more than 20 min) but there may be times when you are expected to watch 2 or 3 lectures for 1 class period/topic.
3. Quizzes (4x13%=52%). There will be 4 quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will be a combination of short answer and essay question. Each quiz will be open book, note, internet, etc. You must complete the quiz yourself but you may consult any material you want. I cannot prevent you from working together, but know that we will be checking for signs of academic dishonesty. You cannot ask the professor or a TA for help or for feedback on your responses. You will be required to sign an honor code form as part of each quiz.

You will have 48 hours to complete each quiz. They will be made available and should be submitted on myCourses. Start times and due dates will be shown there. You must submit a word or pdf document. Pages files will not be accepted.

Quizzes will vary somewhat but you can expect roughly 1000 words of text for 2-5 questions per quiz.

4. Group assignments. I will randomly assign everyone to a group of roughly 6 students. You will use these groups for discussions and other in-class activities. There are 3 types of group work for this class. For each assignment a different group member should be the official reporter tasked with writing and submitting the assignment. The class will be structured so that all group work can be completed during the scheduled class time if possible given your constraints.
 - Discussion reports (4x8%=32%). 4 times throughout the semester you will be given a set of discussion questions for the readings. Working in groups, you will go through the questions in the guide and write a report summarizing your group discussion. This is not a summary of the readings, but a summary of the discussion. An example will be posted on myCourses. Due dates will be posted with the discussion questions on myCourses.

Students who are not able to attend virtual group discussions will be able to do so via email and/or online discussion boards.

- Demographic fact sheet (8%). Throughout the semester we will be exploring various measures of demographic processes. As a group you will gather data on 49 items I consider to be essential for any good demographer (or really good human) to know. At the end of the semester you must submit a copy of your demographic fact sheet.
- Other group work (8%). Periodically throughout the semester there will be other small group assignments you will complete. Examples include generating discussion questions or completing problem sets.
- Peer review. All students will need to complete an evaluation of their peers (using a form available on myCourses). The evaluation from your groupmates will be used to generate a weight for your group work. This weight can adjust your group work grade up (if your peers report that you made a larger than average contribution to the group) or down (if your peers report that you made a smaller than average contribution to the group). If you do not complete the form I will assume that you are giving your peers the highest score (10) and you will receive the lowest (0).

To facilitate making groups all students need to complete the “Availability survey” on myCourses. This information will help us create groups that will maximize participation.

All work (group or individual) must be submitted via myCourses and it is your responsibility to ensure the file is complete and readable. Assignments must be submitted as Word, Excel, or PDF documents (“pages” documents are NOT acceptable). See the policies regarding late assignments below.

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 – see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

- *«Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue).»*

Conferences: There are no conferences for this class

Grading:

Quizzes (4x13%)	52%	A	85-100%
Group work		A-	80-84%
Discussion reports (4x8%)	32%	B+	75-79%
Demographic fact sheet	8%	B	70-74%
Other group work	8%	B-	65-69%
<hr/>			
Total	100%	C+	60-64%
		C	55-59%
		D	50-54%
		F	0-49%

Submitting assignments:

All homework assignments have a set due date on myCourses. All submissions are time stamped by myCourses.

Late assignment policy:

Grades will be reduced by 20% for each 24 hour period the assignment is late. For example, consider an assignment due on Thursday, October 24th at 8:35am. Assignments turned in between 8:36am on Thursday and 8:35am on Friday, October 25th will be reduced by 20% so a perfect assignment would only receive an 80%. Assignments turned in between 8:36am on October 25th and 8:35am on October 26th would be reduced by 40% so a perfect assignment would only receive a 60%. Assignments will receive no credit if they are turned in after the 4th 24 hour period (in this example that means an assignment turned in after 8:35am on October 28th would receive no credit).

Email:

- To communicate with you I will use the email tool on myCourses or your McGill email address. It is your responsibility to check this email account (or have it forwarded to an account you use more regularly). It is also your responsibility to ensure that I receive any messages from you. I recommend sending messages through myCourses or via your McGill email to ensure your messages to me from a non-McGill account are not mistaken as SPAM.
- Email is a written document and should be treated as a permanent record of communication. Each email should be addressed specifically (e.g. Dear Dr. Brauner-Otto,) and include your

name as a closing. I will not respond to emails that do not have these components, are not written in complete sentences (e.g., no texting shortcuts), or if the answer to your question is in the syllabus. If you have read the syllabus but don't understand something make that clear in your email.

- I typically respond to emails within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me after 24 hours you may email me again to make sure I received your message.

Academic misconduct. *“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)*

- *«L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).»*

Academic misconduct of any sort will not be tolerated. If I find evidence of any academic misconduct for any activity in this class I will report the offense to the Office of the Dean of Students and they will determine the appropriate sanction.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to deceptive acts such as the following: cheating, fabrication (lying), falsification, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity, or violation of departmental or college rules.

Submitting work that you have not completed as if it is your own is academic misconduct.

Policy Concerning the Rights of Students with Disabilities. If you need any accommodation please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (<http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/> 398-6009). You may also contact me directly. I will make every effort to accommodate you.

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Course Outline
(subject to change)

week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Wed	2-Sep	Introduction to Demography	
	Mon	7-Sep	Labour Day (NO CLASS)	
2	Wed	9-Sep	Demographic Trends	Trovato, Chs 1 and 3
	Mon	14-Sep	Population growth measures and theories	
	Tues	15-Sep	Add/Drop deadline	
3	Wed	16-Sep	Population growth: is it a problem?	Lam 2011, 2013, 2017 Becker 2013 Malakoff 2011 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/29/population-climate-change-and-inequality?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Tweet
4	Mon	21-Sep	Demographic Data--the census	Trovato, Ch 2
	Wed	23-Sep	Demographic Data--other sources	
5	Mon	28-Sep	Age and Sex Structures, and other population subgroups	Trovato, Ch 4
	Wed	30-Sep		
6	Mon	5-Oct	Demographic Transition Theory	Coale 1973
	Wed	7-Oct	Developmental Idealism	Thornton 2001
7	Mon	12-Oct	Thanksgiving (NO CLASS)	
	Wed	14-Oct	Fertility measures and theories	Trovato, Ch 6
	Mon	19-Oct	Causes of fertility decline (education and access to health services)	Axinn and Barber 2001 Kaiser 2011
8	Wed	21-Oct	Low fertility. Is it a problem?	Rindfuss and Brauner-Otto 2008 Morgan 2003 Stone and Wilcox 2020 Adshade 2020 Cohen 2013a and b

Course Outline Continued
(subject to change)

week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading
9	Mon	26-Oct	Fertility and COVID-19	Lindberg et al. 2020 Aassve et al. 2020 https://www.prb.org/how-the-coronavirus-is-affecting-major-life-decisions/
	Wed	28-Oct	Mortality measures and theories	Trovato, Ch 7
10	Mon	2-Nov	Causes of mortality decline	Barrett et al. 1998 Caselli, Meslé, and Vallin 2002
	Wed	4-Nov	Inequalities in health and mortality	Wilk et al 2017 Chen et al 2016
11	Mon	9-Nov	Mortality and COVID-19	Khalil et al. 2020 Verdery et al. 2020
	Wed	11-Nov	Migration measures and theories	Massey 1990
12	Mon	16-Nov	State of the field: migration, internal and international	Trovato, Chs 8 and 9
	Wed	18-Nov		Cooke and Penney 2019
13	Mon	23-Nov	Migration and COVID-19	Foley and Piper 2020
	Wed	25-Nov	Demographic Winter	
14	Mon	30-Nov	intro to other topics: policy, marriage, urbanization, environment, aging	TBA
	Wed	2-Dec		
15	Thur	3-Dec	bringing it all together	

Reference List

Some entries are available on myCourses or hyperlinked to the article and some are not. If they are not then you must search for them through the library website or on the internet.

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- Lindberg, Laura D., Alicia VandeVusse, Jennifer Mueller, and Marielle Kirstein. 2020. "Early Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Findings from the 2020 Guttmacher Survey of Reproductive Health Experiences." *Guttmacher Institute*.
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