

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor:	Aaron R. King	Term:	Fall 2022
Office:	TUR 1215	Class Meeting Days:	M, W, F
Email:	<a href="mailto:aaronking@ufl.edu">aaronking@ufl.edu</a>	Class Meeting Hours:	9:35 am – 10:25 am
Office Hours:	M,F: 11am-12pm; R: 1pm-3pm or <a href="#">by appointment</a>	Class Location:	FLG 206
		Course Credits:	3 hours

**I. Course Overview**

Population Geography is concerned with the size, composition, and spatial distribution of the human population, and perhaps most importantly, how and why the population changes over time. Whether through birth, death, or migration, changes in human population generate new dilemmas—political, economic, social, medical—for each generation. We will be taking on the history and future of those dilemmas this semester too.

This course is a comprehensive national and global survey of population geography concepts, processes, and patterns in which students will learn to work and draw conclusions with actual population datasets. Early in the semester, the course will progress from introductory geographic and historical world population surveys to learning about population data sources and tools, to population distribution and composition concepts, fertility and mortality, internal and international migration patterns, refugees and displaced persons, and population-related policies.

While we will regularly read and reference peer-reviewed scientific literature and work with data, this course is meant to be accessible to students from a wide range of backgrounds and interests. Students of business, public health, and communications should feel as at home as students from social science and humanities disciplines.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate basic understanding of key population geography concepts, patterns, and processes
- Demonstrate competency with population geographic and demographic datasets and analysis methods
- Identify and apply theoretical social science concepts to explain past and current population trends in national & global contexts
- Synthesize various theoretical frameworks and constructs in order to interpret principal causes and impacts associated with population change
- Discover and articulate how a geographical perspective provides a unique lens for observing population patterns and processes through focus on spaces, places, and environmental connections.
- Analyze and interpret geographic population data using case studies that represent important recent and ongoing population trends

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

Through the course assignments and exams, students will learn to:

- Identify, describe, and explain key terms, themes, and concepts in population geography and demography
- Analyze population geographic data both within the United States and globally
- Communicate analysis and appraise findings in written, verbal, cartographic, and graphical formats

- Converse intelligently and empathetically about national and international population trends and patterns, recognizing the connections between population geography and the socially and culturally diverse character of the United States.
- Critically evaluate how population trends emerge and contribute to diminished opportunities and the construction of social inequities across different population groups, particularly in the United States.
- Assess potential societal impacts of population policies in the context of diverse cultural issues and contexts, recognizing how varying values and belief systems affect these policy decisions, and how population trends are connected to environmental trends.

### III. **Materials and Supplies: Laptop Computer and GeoDa**

This course will be held in Florida Gym Room 206, which is a classroom with no computer terminals. Students must provide their own computer on which to work on assignments and exams during and/or outside of class.

For several assignments in the course, we will be working directly with spatial data. To do this, we will use an application called **GeoDa**. It is free and publicly available [at this website](#), where you can also find documentation and user guides. It is strongly recommended that you download GeoDa onto your personal computer in advance, if possible.

Other required software will be available on students' laptops through UF Apps at <https://info.apps.ufl.edu> or via computers located in computer labs on UF campus.

### IV. **Required Texts and Useful Online Resources**

Required: Newbold, K. Bruce (2017). *Population Geography: Tools and Issues* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

Other assigned academic readings will be available via Canvas.

### V. **Course Format**

The class will meet three times per week in person for lectures, discussion, and group learning activities, and sometimes, to work on assignments. Lecture presentations will be made available to students via Canvas before class begins. This will give students the opportunity to download the presentation to their own laptop and write notes directly into the file during the presentation. Readings will be assigned from the required textbook, additional scholarly papers, and news articles. Students are expected to read and study the materials prior to the class period in which they will be discussed. The class participation component is a large portion of the course grade and will consist of attendance and active engagement in discussions and group learning activities. There will be two exams, a midterm and a final exam; they will both be closed book and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. There will be 6 short, data-driven assignments which will be due every 1-2 weeks, one essay assignment, and a film review class discussion assignment.

### VI. **Assessments and Grading**

#### **Class Participation** **10% of final grade**

Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of both attendance and participation in class discussions and group activities. Students may be excused from absences with appropriate documentation according to the university policy (more information provided in Section VIII below). Group learning activities in varying formats will be used to facilitate peer to peer interaction and will complement the lecture materials.

#### **Lab Assignments** **35% of final grade**

There will be 6 assignments which will amount to 35% of the final grade (7% each). The grade will be determined using the best 5 grades out of the 6 assignments, with the lowest grade being dropped. Lab assignments will generally be due 4-7 days after they are assigned. The assignments will typically require students to work with population geography data in the form of maps, graphs, and tables. The assignments will be based upon the sections at the end of each textbook chapter entitled "Methods, Measures, and Tools." Each assignment will require some calculations using data, as well as interpretation and communication of the results in paragraph format. GeoDa will be necessary to complete some lab assignments.

**Country/Region Report Essay 15% of final grade**

Students will select one country or sub-region and write a 1,500-3,000 word paper. The paper should analyze issues related to demographics, migration, population growth, and/or other topics covered in the course and their effects on outcomes related to health, nutrition, life expectancy, economics, education, and areas of interest relevant to your field of study. Select a few key issues to discuss and justify your selection of issues. Finally, propose policy recommendations that address your key issues or assess the suitability of policy recommendations you find in the literature. Be sure to provide sufficient evidence and data – papers need to be properly referenced and cited throughout with academic, peer-reviewed articles. Credible news reports and investigative journalism pieces are acceptable sources as well but must supplement your academic sources.

**Film Review & Discussion 10% of final grade**

The instructor will choose a film to review as a class that relates closely to topics covered in the course. After watching the film, students will submit a brief discussion post (no more than 300 words) in Canvas sharing their reflections, critiques, and analysis. Students will also be required to submit at least one response to a classmate’s post. One class period (Wednesday, Nov. 16) will be dedicated to student discussion of the film’s themes in which each student will be expected to engage classmates in discussion. Additional details and instructions will be provided during the semester.

**Exams 30% of final grade**

The two exams will account for 30% of the final grade, 15% each for the Midterm and Final exams. The exams will be administered in class for all students—not available online—and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exams will be closed book/notes, and the Final will only include topics from the second half of the course.

Assignments and Exams	Percent of Final Grade
Class Participation & Attendance	10%
Assignments	35%
Country/Region Report	15%
Film Review & Discussion	10%
Exam #1: Midterm	15%
Exam #2: Final (not cumulative)	15%

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Point Range (%)	100-93	<93-90	<90-87	<87-83	<83-80	<80-77	<77-73	<73-70	<70-67	<67-63	<63-60	<60
GPA Points	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00

**VII. Important Dates to Remember:** The due dates below are tentative and can be changed at the discretion of the instructor.

First Day of Class	Wed, August 24, 2022
Drop/Add Ends	Tue, August 30
No Class, Labor Day*	Mon, September 5
No Class, Homecoming*	Fri, October 7
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>October TBA</b>
<b>Film Reviews Due</b>	<b>Wed, November 16</b>
Withdraw Deadline	Mon, November 21
<b>Country/Region Report Essay Due</b>	<b>Tue, November 22</b>
No Class, Thanksgiving Break*	Wed-Fri, November 23-25
No Class, Reading Days*	Thurs-Fri, December 8-9
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Thurs, December 15</b>
Fall 2021 Grades Available on <a href="https://one.uf.edu/">https://one.uf.edu/</a>	Wed, December 21

**VIII. Weekly Topic Schedule, Assignments, and Exams (Schedule is provisional and subject to change)**

Date	Day	Class Topics & Assignments	Read Before Class
Aug 24	W	Course Introduction	None
Aug 26	F	Population Geography: An Introduction	Newbold 2017, pp 1-13
Aug 29	M	World Population: Historical Trends & Demographic Transition Theory	Newbold 2017, pp 15-25
Aug 31	W	World Population: Historical Snapshots	Milner 2019, pp 13721-13723 Langer 1972, pp 93-99
Sep 2	F	World Population: Future Considerations & Data Applications	Newbold 2017, pp 25-39
Sep 5	M	<b>Labor Day; No Class</b>	
Sep 7	W	Population Data: Types & Sources;	Newbold 2017, pp 41-48
Sep 9	F	Population Data: Working with Data; <i>Assignment #1 due</i>	Newbold 2017, pp 48-55
Sep 12	M	Population Data: US Census & American Community Survey	Newbold 2017, pp 55-58
Sep 14	W	Pop. Distribution & Composition: Density, Gender, & Age;	Newbold 2017, pp 59-66
Sep 16	F	Pop. Distribution & Composition: Population Pyramids	Newbold 2017, pp 66-76
Sep 19	M	Pop. Distribution & Composition: Sex and Dependency Ratios <i>Assignment #2 due</i>	Newbold 2017, pp 76-79
Sep 21	W	Fertility: Definitions & Patterns;	Newbold 2017, pp 81-93
Sep 23	F	Fertility: Determinants of Fertility	Newbold 2017, pp 93-101
Sep 26	M	Fertility: Measures and Policy Responses <i>Assignment #3 due</i>	Newbold 2017, pp 101-102
Sep 28	W	Unions & Households: Second Demographic Transition	Lesthaeghe 2014
Sep 30	F	Mortality: Measurement and Definitions	Newbold 2017, pp 103-116
Oct 3	M	Mortality: Transitions & Segment Differences	Newbold 2017, pp 116-130
Oct 5	W	Mortality: Diseases & Morbidity <i>Assignment #4 due</i>	Newbold 2017, pp 131-132
Oct 7	F	<b>Fall Break &amp; Homecoming; No Class</b>	
Oct 10	M	<b>*** Exam Review***</b>	
Oct 12	W	<b>***Midterm Exam***</b>	
Oct 14	F	Internal Migration: Why Do People Migrate?	Newbold 2017, pp 133-145
Oct 17	M	Internal Migration: Migration Within the USA	Newbold 2017, pp 145-153
Oct 19	W	Internal Migration: Measuring Migration; <i>Assignment #5 due</i>	Newbold 2017, pp 154-155
Oct 21	F	Cities: Defining Urban, or Why Do Cities Exist?	Newbold 2017, pp 213-221
Oct 24	M	Cities: Planning for Future Growth	Newbold 2017, pp 221-231
Oct 26	W	International Migration: Theories & Impacts	Newbold 2017, pp 157-170
Oct 28	F	International Migration: Undocumented Immigration	Newbold 2017, pp 170-185
Oct 31	M	International Migration: Counting Immigrants & Emigrants <b>***Country/Region Report Topic Due***</b>	Newbold 2017, pp 185-187
Nov 2	W	Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons: Definitions	Newbold 2017, pp 189-198
Nov 4	F	Refugees & IDPs: Current & Future Crises	Newbold 2017, pp 198-211
Nov 7	M	Refugees & IDPs: Case Studies	Newbold 2017, pp 211-212
Nov 9	W	Refugees & IDPs: Guest Speaker Ross Cotton (USCIS)	None
Nov 11	F	<b>Veterans Day; No Class</b>	
Nov 14	M	<b>***Film Reviews Due*** Class Film Discussion</b>	
Nov 16	W	Population Policies: Immigration Policy	Newbold 2017, pp 233-242
Nov 18	F	Population Policies: Mortality & Health Policy	Newbold 2017, pp 242-253
Nov 21	M	Population Policies: International Influences	TBA
Nov 23	W	<b>Thanksgiving Break; No Class</b>	

Nov 25	F	<b>Thanksgiving Break; No Class</b>	
Nov 28	M	Population Growth: Resource Scarcity	Newbold 2017, pp 255-267
Nov 30	W	Population Growth: Conflict & Geography's Contribution	Newbold 2017, pp 267-282
Dec 2	F	Country/Region Report Check-In	None
Dec 5	M	<b>***Country/Region Reports Due*** No Class</b>	
Dec 7	W	Course Review and Final Exam Prep	Review final material
Dec 8-9	M	<b>Reading Days; No Class or Assignments Due</b>	
Dec 15	R	<i>Scheduled Final Exam Time: 7:30am-9:30am</i>	

## IX. Course Policies: Attendance, Make-Ups, and Grades

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend every class period. Absences can be excused with proper documentation according to university policy. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy, childbirth, or childcare issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where necessary.

**Late Work:** All assignments submitted after their respective deadlines will be assessed a penalty: 10 percentage points if one day late, 15 percentage points for 2-3 days late, and 30 percentage points for 4-7 days late. Assignments will not be accepted if overdue by more than seven days. *However, please email me if you foresee a problem or are struggling with an assignment. I am always willing to find a way to accommodate for legitimate issues. I may not be able to do so after an assignment is due.*

**Examination Policies and Reading Days:** Course policies are consistent with University policies on during-term exams, final exams, reading days, and make-up exams. Students must notify the instructor as soon as possible in case of absence during an exam and provide documentation as to the reason for the absence. If deemed an excused absence, the student will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the missed exam. More details can be found at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/examination-policies-reading-days/>.

**Grade Dissemination:** You can access your scores at any time using the Grade function in Canvas. The instructor will post grades within 14 days of the due date of each assignment.

**Grading Policies for Assigning Grade Points:** Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

**Grades of "Incomplete":** The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. An incomplete grade may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor as an interim grade for a course in which you have completed a major portion of the course with a passing grade, been unable to complete course requirements before the end of the term because of extenuating circumstances and obtained agreement from the instructor and arranged for resolution of the incomplete grade. Instructors are not required to assign incomplete grades.

## X. Course Policies: Technology and Media

**Email:** Each of you has a UF email address. It is vital that you maintain an active UF email account and that you **check it often**. This tentative syllabus is **subject to change**, and any changes will be transmitted to you via your UF email account and Canvas (see below). Students should use Canvas inbox (preferred) or email the instructor if they have questions about any of the lectures, readings, assignments, or exams. You should expect a response within about 24 hours during weekdays. On holidays or weekends, expect a response on the next business day. The instructor will reasonably expect similar time frames for responses to emails sent to students.

**Canvas:** Course materials such as lectures, readings, the syllabus, and assignment instructions will be available through Canvas (<https://elearning.ufl.edu>). You will also find all due dates and grades on Canvas. Students must activate their UF GatorLink account in order to use Canvas. If you need help learning how to perform various tasks related to this course or other courses that utilize Canvas, please consult the above webpage. You may also contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-HELP(4357) or [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

**Online Course Evaluation:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**Recordings and Notes:** It is not permitted to sell notes or recordings from this class without written consent of the instructor. Nor are students permitted to disseminate recordings of the instructor lecturing or post copies of assignments or exams on the internet.

## XI. Course Policies: Student Expectations

### **Disabilities Statement:**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Academic Conduct Policy:** As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

**Title IX:** For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking, there are resources available. To learn more or to report an incident, go to: <https://titleix.ufl.edu>. Also, please be advised that your instructor is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination.

**We are an Inclusive Classroom:** University is an opportunity to learn from one another, no matter our background, ethnicity, nationality, disability status, sexuality, gender and gender identity, religion, political disposition, and socioeconomic background. I am particularly cognizant that many of you may feel out of place at such a large and prestigious place as UF—I was once a timid first generation student myself. Make no mistake, you are here because you deserve to be, and you have the potential to do great things. In this classroom, my goal is to provide a learning environment that is inclusive to all. If you are struggling or experiencing challenges to your learning, please do not hesitate to discuss with me.

**On The Pandemic:** I am aware of how difficult a time this is for all of us and am sympathetic to the reality that we each face these challenges in different ways. Please do not hesitate to discuss with me any issues or concerns you are dealing with as a result. My goal is to lead us in creating a positive learning experience and looking after one another.

## **XII. Campus Resources for Students:**

### ***Academic Resources***

*E-learning technical support*, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu).  
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

*Career Resource Center*, Reitz Union, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu>

*Library Support*, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

*Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.  
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

*Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.  
<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

*Student Complaints*, [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf)

### ***Health and Wellness Resources***

*U Matter, We Care*: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

*Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*, Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161. More information on resources to help students with sexual violence issues at [www.umatter.ufl.edu/sexual\\_violence](http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/sexual_violence)

*Sexual Harassment*, Information on UF policies, awareness, reporting, and counseling at [www.hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/policies-2/sexual-harassment/](http://www.hr.ufl.edu/manager-resources/policies-2/sexual-harassment/)

*Counseling and Wellness Center*, <http://counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 352-392-1575;

*University Police Department*, 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>