

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

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i. Course Overview

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 data sets. 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, future population growth, and finally population-related policies. This course is offered in an asynchronous fully online format. Please see Section V on Course Format below for more details.

Prerequisites

Prereq: Sophomore standing or higher.

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

At the end of this course, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes in content, communication, and critical thinking:

- **Content:** *Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the subject area.*
 - Identify, describe, and explain key terms, themes, and concepts in population geography and demography.
 - Download and analyze population geographic data both within the United States and globally.
 - Write an essay that critically evaluates the depiction of population trends and patterns based on the content of the course.
 - 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.
 - Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through 10 assignments, an essay, and a final assessment.

- **Communication:** *Students clearly and effectively communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in written or oral forms appropriate to the subject area.*
 - Write an essay that critically evaluates the depiction of population trends and patterns based on the content of the course.
 - Communicate analysis 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.
 - Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through class discussions, a film review essay.

- **Critical Thinking:** *Students carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the subject area.*
 - Write an essay that critically evaluates the depiction of population trends and patterns based on the content of the course.
 - 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.
 - Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through 3 lab assignments, 3 quizzes, and an essay.

iii. Required Texts

Newbold, K. Bruce (2017). *Population Geography: Tools and Issues* (3rd Edition)

Additional assigned academic readings will be available via Canvas.

iv. Additional Resources

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.

v. Course Format

Location: Online

Course Website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

This course uses a combination of web-based video material/lectures, online student discussion and reflection activities, and assigned readings. In addition to the required textbook readings, you will be responsible for reading articles provided by the instructor. All supplemental readings are available through the Canvas course website. Note that Canvas works best in Google Chrome web browser.

vi. Assessments

Module Lab Assignments 40% of final grade

There will be 3 quizzes and/or lab assignments which will amount to 40% of the final grade (Lab assignments will typically require students to work with population geography data in the form of maps, graphs, and tables. You will have to use Excel extensively, especially for the early labs. The labs will be based upon the sections at the end of each textbook chapter entitled "Methods, Measures, and Tools." Each lab assignment will require some calculations using data and may occasionally call for interpretation and communication of the results in paragraph format.

Quizzes 20% of final grade

Quizzes will be available during the last three days (72 hours) of each module. Once you start, you will be given a 1-hour time period to complete the quiz. Only one attempt will be allowed. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions derived from the readings and lectures for the module. Please note that make-up quizzes will be granted only under serious, documented circumstances. I am willing to work with you, so please reach out as soon as you are able!

Country/Region Report Essay 15% of final grade

Students will select one country or sub-region (start with this list if you need ideas: <https://icqi.org/developing-countries-list/>) and write a 1,000-2,500 word essay. 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

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. Additional details and instructions will be provided during the semester.

Final Exam **15% of final grade**

The Final exam will account for 15% of the final grade. The exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and possibly essay questions, and like the quizzes, must be taken during a specified 48-hour window. The Final will be cumulative, and students will have access to a study guide and the opportunity to participate in a review session.

vii. Grading Scale

The University's grading system will be used for this course (for information about UF's grades and grading policies, please consult <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>). In accordance, a student's overall performance in this course will be graded as follows:

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Point Range (%)	100-94	<94-90	<90-87	<87-84	<84-80	<80-77	<77-74	<74-70	<70-67	<67-64	<64-61	<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

Evaluation and Grading: A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

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

Semester Begins/First Day of Class	June 30, 2025
Drop/Add Ends	July, 1
No Class, Independence Day	July, 4
Film Reviews Due	July, 25
Country/Region Report Essay Due	Aug, 01
Final Day of Classes	Aug, 08
Final Exam	Aug 04,- Aug, 06

viii. Course Policies: Attendance, Make-Ups, and Grades

Attendance: Online learning can present significant challenges, particularly to individuals who are not self-starters or those who do not possess good time-management skills. The online classroom is available 24 hours a day. Unlike traditional instructional settings in which each student gets the same class, the online setting means that every student will participate in the course that they choose to experience. Everyone learns differently, so prescribing a “best” approach is difficult. However, you should note that this course is not self-paced. You are expected to adhere to the course calendar and timeline. That said, sometimes personal circumstances arise that may interfere with the ability to meet a deadline. If such an event does happen, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. Proactive communication that informs the instructor of potential conflicts ahead of time will be met with more receptivity than retrospective requests for extensions without a compelling rationale.

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>.

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.

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 about one week of the due date of each assignment and the midterm exam.

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.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Netiquette: Students are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students in all email messages, threaded discussions, chats, and any other form of communication. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion forums. Review the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#) and the Netiquette page on the Canvas course site for expected student behavior.

Email and Course Communications: 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. Important messages and updates will be delivered using [Canvas Announcements](#). Students should message the instructor via Canvas Inbox (preferred) or email if they have questions about any of the lectures, readings, or assignments. You should expect a response within 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 Help: All lectures, readings (except the required textbook), 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.

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.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

- **Students requiring accommodation**

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

- **University Honesty Policy**

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. For additional information, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>.

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575), or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call [352-392-1575](tel:352-392-1575) for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call [352-392-1161](tel:352-392-1161) for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call [352-392-1111](tel:352-392-1111) (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call [352-733-0111](tel:352-733-0111) or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call [352-273-4450](tel:352-273-4450).

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Teaching Center](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).