## UF | UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**GEO 3430: Population Geography**

Department of Geography

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida

# COURSE SYLLABUS

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|---|---|---|---|
| Instructor: | Debjani Das | Term: | Spring 2023 |
| Office: | TUR 1215 (Grad lab) | Location: | Online/UF Online |
| Email: | debjanidas@ufl.edu | Credit Hours: | 3 |
| Office Hours: | Mon 2Pm-4Pm or by appointment | Gen Ed: | Yes |

**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.

**II. 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

**III. 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.

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

Additional assigned academic readings will be available via Canvas.

**V.    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.

**VI.    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.

**VII.    Assessments**
**Active Learning Discussions        15% of final grade**
Active Learning Discussions provide an opportunity for students to discuss course topics amongst one another and to demonstrate critical thinking and acquired knowledge. Discussions will be prompted by specific questions provided by the instructor on the discussion board and in the "Assignments" section of the module overview page. That said, it can also be a space for free expression of questions, ideas, and other reactions to the learning materials.

The discussion will require both an initial post responding to the discussion prompt and a response to a classmate's post. Students should be proactive and respond to the discussion prompt early to provide time for their classmates to contribute to the discussion before the deadline. Liking posts and multiple responses (i.e. conversations!) are encouraged.

**Module Lab Assignments        35% of final grade**
There will be 6 quizzes and/or lab assignments which will amount to 40% of the final grade (8% 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 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                15% 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

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

**Exams                              10% of final grade**
The Final exam will account for 10% 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 72-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.

| Assignments and Exams | Percent of Final Grade |
|---|---|
| Active Learning Discussions | 15% |
| Module Lab Assignments | 35% |
| Country/Region Report Essay | 15% |
| Film Review & Discussion | 10% |
| Lecture Quizzes | 15% |
| Final Exam | 10% |

**VIII. 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 |

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

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| Semester Begins/First Day of Class | Mon, January 9 2023 |
| Drop/Add Ends | Fri, January 13 |
| No Class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* | Mon, January 16 |
| No Class, Spring Break* | March 11-18 |
| **Film Reviews Due** | **Tue, March 28** |
| Withdraw Deadline | Fri, April 14 |
| **Country/Region Report Essay Due** | **Tue, Apr 11** |
| Final Day of Classes | Wed, April 26 |
| No Class, Reading Days* | April 27-28 |
| **Final Exam** | **April 30- May 2** |
| Spring 2022 Grades Posted on https://one.uf.edu/ | Wed, May 10 |

**X.** **Course Schedule (subject to change)**

Due date times are 11:59pm unless otherwise specified.

| Module | Theme | Due Date |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| 1 | Introduction to World Population | Jan 17 |
| 2 | Population Data | Jan 24 |
| 3 | Population Distribution & Composition | Feb 6 |
| 4 | Fertility | Feb 17 |
| 6 | Mortality | Feb 24 |
| 7 | Internal Migration | Mar 6 |
| 8 | Cities & Urbanization | Mar 20 |
| 9 | International Migration | Mar 30 |
| 10 | Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons | Apr 7 |
| 11 | Population Policies | Apr 17 |
| 12 | Dilemmas of Population Growth | Apr 24 |

Further details on the schedule of readings, assignments, and activities can be found on the Canvas course site.

**XI.** **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.

## XII.   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.

## XIII.   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/) 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.

XIV.  **Campus Resources for Students:**

*Academic Resources*

*E-learning technical support,* 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email to 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

*Health and Wellness Resources*

*U Matter, We Care*: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact 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

*Sexual Harassment,* Information on UF policies, awareness, reporting, and counseling at 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/