UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

GEO 3430: Population Geography
Department of Geography
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Caroline Huguenin	Term:	Summer A 2024
Email:	chuguenin@ufl.edu	Class location:	online
Office Hours:	by appointment over zoom	Course Credits:	3 hours

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 & mortality, internal migration patterns, future population growth, and finally population-related policies. This course is offered in an asynchronous fully online format.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1.   Make sure you have a WIRED Internet connection with approved browser by Canvas. See Recommended Browsers FAQs.
2.   You are not allowed to use ANY personal/public materials shared by students who previously took this course. Anyone caught using unauthorized material will be reported to the Dean of Students and could face disciplinary action.
3.   Make sure you check the announcements in canvas regularly.
4.   Contact UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357) immediately when you encounter difficulties and keep the TICKET NUMBER for future reference and for reporting to the instructor.
5.   Self-discipline is very important to this course. Make sure you follow the suggested Topic Dates. Reading the textbook is the first resource for all course material. DO NOT let queries accumulate until the tests. Much of this material is cumulative; therefore, a lack of understanding of early material will hinder your ability to comprehend material that follows.
6.   Please read the e-Learning FAQs and best test practices.

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.   This course is a social and behavioral sciences (S) subject area course in the UF General Education Program.

Social and behavioral sciences courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures, and processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

These general education objectives will be accomplished through:
- Discussion and explanation of why past and current population trends emerged and continue to emerge.
- Description and explanation of world regions that reflect socially and culturally diverse influences on population trends.
- Critical analysis of historical global and regional data and case studies to understand how population trends emerge and contribute to diminished opportunities and the construction of social inequities across different population groups, particularly in the United States.
- Evaluate and 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.   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.

- o Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through class discussions, group activities, 11 written assignments, and 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*.
    - o Write an essay that critically evaluates the depiction of population trends and patterns based on the content of the course.
    - o 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.
    - o 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.
    - o Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through 3 active learning discussions, 4 lab assignments, 3 quizzes, and an essay.

IV. Course requirements

1. Minimum Technology Requirements

   The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to their degree program. Most computers are capable of meeting the following general requirements. A student's computer configuration should include:

   - Webcam
   - Microphone
   - Broadband connection to the internet and related equipment (cable/DSL modem)
   - Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university)

2. Minimum Technical Skills

   To complete your tasks in this course, you will need a basic understanding of how to operate a computer, and how to use word processing software and excel.

3. Required Texts and Useful Online Resources

   The required text for this course is *Population Geography: Tools and Issues* by K. Bruce Newbold, published in 2017 (3rd Edition). Other assigned academic readings will be available via UF Canvas.

4. 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 websiteLinks to an external site., 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.eduLinks to an external site. or via computers located in computer labs on UF campus.

V. Course Format, Activities, and Basis for Evaluation

The class will meet three times per week for lectures, discussion and group learning activities, and to work on assignments. Lecture presentations will be made available to students via Canvas on 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 and additional scholarly papers. 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 eleven short, data-driven assignments which will be due every 1-2 weeks, and one essay assignment.

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

Active Learning Discussion
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
There will be 4 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
Quizzes will be available at the beginning of each module that has a quiz. 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
Students will select one country or sub-region (start with this list if you need ideas: https://icqi.org/developing-countries-list/Links to an external site.) 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.

Final Exam
The Final exam will account for 20% 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.

Assignments	Percent of Final Grade
Active Learning Discussions	10%
Module Lab Assignments	40%
Country/Region Report Essay	10%
Quizzes	20%
Final	20%

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you encounter any unexpected behavior (error messages, inability to login, etc.,) take a screen shot of the problem [In Windows, (Print Scrn) and on a Mac, (Cmd-Shift-4)] and paste into a program like Word or Paint. Save this file. This is important so that your instructor knows your problem is legitimate, and to assist the UF Computing Help Desk in helping you fix the problem.

- If you encounter problems that prevent you from taking the exam, immediately call the **UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357**. Ask for and keep the ticket number for future reference.

Grading Scale (%)	
94 – 100	A
89.5 – 94	A-
86.5 – 89.4	B+
83.5 – 86.4	B
79.5 – 83.4	B-
76.5 – 79.4	C+
72.5 – 76.4	C
69.5 – 72.5	C-
66.5 – 69.4	D+
62.5 – 66.4	D
59.5 – 62.4	D-
< 59.5	E

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

Semester Begins:	Mon, May 13th, 2024
First Day of Class:	Mon, May 13th, 2024
Drop/Add Ends:	Tue, May 14th, 2024
No Class, Memorial Day*	Mon, May 27th, 2024
No Class, Juneteenth*	Wed, Jun 19th 2024
Final Exam	**Jun 20th or 21st 2024**
Fall 2019 Grades Visible on https://one.uf.edu/dashboard/	Wed, Jun 26th, 2024

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

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter(s)	Assignments
1	5/13/2024	Introduction and World Population	Intro & Chapter 1	Week 1: Active Learning Discussion 1
2	5/20/2024	Population Data, Distribution and Composition	Chapter 2 & 3	Week2: Lab assignment 1, Lab assignment 2, Quiz
3	5/27/2024	Fertility and Mortality	Chapter 4 & 5	Week 3: Lab assignment, Quiz
4	6/3/2024	Internal Migration and Urbanization	Chapters 6 & 9	Week 4: Active Learning Discussion 2, Lab Assignment, Quiz
5	6/10/2024	International Migration and Population Policies	Chapter 7 & 10	Week 5: Active Learning Discussion 3 /Essay
6	6/17/2024	Dilemmas of Population Growth	Chapter 11	Week 6: Essay and Final Exam

VIII. **Course Policies: Attendance, Make-Ups, and Grades**

Attendance: As this is an asynchronous online class, there is no attendance. Nevertheless, students are responsible for checking Canvas daily for important updates shared as announcements.

Late Work: All assignments submitted after their respective deadlines will be assessed a penalty: ten percentage points if one day late, fifteen 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.

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.

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.

IX. **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 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.

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 week 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.

X. **Netiquette and Communication Courtesy**

Security:
Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.
- Don't share your password with anyone.
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it.
- Always log out when you are finished using the system.

General Guidelines:
When communicating online, you should always:

- Treat the instructor with respect, even via email or in any other online communication.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college-level communication should have correct spelling and grammar.
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you."
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) .
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or be construed as being offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and others).
- Do not send confidential information via email.

Email:
When you send an email to your instructor, teaching assistant, or classmates, you should:
- Use a descriptive subject line.
- Be brief.
- Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them.
- Avoid HTML in favor of plain text.
- Sign your message with your name and return email address.
- Think before you send the email to more than one person. Does everyone really need to see your message?
- Be sure you REALLY want everyone to receive your response when you click, "Reply All."
- Be sure that the message author intended for the information to be passed along before you click the "Forward" button.

Discussion Boards:
When posting on the discussion board in your online class, you should:
- Check to see if anyone already asked your question and received a reply before posting to the discussion board.
- Remember your manners and say please and thank you when asking something of your classmates or instructor.
- Be open-minded.
- If you ask a question and many people respond, summarize all posts for the benefit of the class.
- When posting:
    o Make posts that are on-topic and within the scope of the course material.
    o Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying.
    o Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment.
    o Don't repeat someone else's post without adding something of your own to it.
    o Take your posts seriously. Review and edit your posts before sending.
    o Avoid short, generic replies such as, "I agree." You should include why you agree or add to the previous point.
    o If you refer to something that was said in an earlier post, quote a few key lines so readers do not have to go back and figure out which post you are referring to.
    o Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source.
    o If you reply to a classmate's question, make sure your answer is correct, do not guess.
    o Always be respectful of others' opinions even when they differ from your own.
    o When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way.
    o Do not make personal or insulting remarks.
    o Do not write anything sarcastic or angry, it always backfires.
    o Do not type in ALL CAPS, if you do IT WILL LOOK LIKE YOU ARE YELLING.

Zoom:
When attending a Zoom meeting, you should:
- Do not share your Zoom classroom link or password with others.
- Even though you may be alone at home, your professor and classmates can see you! While attending class in your pajamas is tempting, remember that wearing clothing is not optional. Dress appropriately.
- Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings.
- Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see.
    - When in doubt use a virtual background. If you choose to use one, you should test the background out first to make sure your device can support it.
    - Your background can express your personality but be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.
- Mute is your friend, especially when you are in a location that can be noisy. Do not leave your microphone open if you don't have to.
- If you want to speak, you can raise your hand (click the "raise hand" button at the center bottom of your screen) and wait to be called upon.

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/) 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.

XII. **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 someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit https://counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit https://shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website at gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/ or call 352-273-4450.