Master Syllabus Department of Geography

GEOG 423: Population Geography

Course Description

Comprehensive examination and critical analysis of population geography. (3 credits)

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to examine and discuss key issues that affect population patterns and change at different geographic scales, such as fertility decline, infectious diseases, international migration, refugee movement and internal displacement, ethnic and racial categorization, world hunger, and the drivers and consequences of climate change. This course will provide students with a theoretical framework that will enable a better understanding of local, national, regional, and global population dynamics.

Course Rationale

Population geography is the study of the distribution and change of human populations- including, but not limited to, growth, fertility, mortality, sex-ratios, and migration. By drawing on rich quantitative data sources such as censuses and sample surveys, as well as qualitative sources via academic publications, this course provides a unique window into the driving factors behind geodemographic shifts.

Course Content and Format

Students will be presented material in a lecture-style format that will include multimedia presentations and case study discussions. The following shows an example of a potential outline of topics for this course, with time allotment for each topic at the discretion of the instructor:

- World Population Patterns
- History of Population Change
- Economic and Cultural Factors behind Geo-Demographic Dynamics
- Malthusian Logic
- Demographic Transition Theory
- Consumption Pattern Developments and Sustainability
- Racial and Ethnic Classification
- Socioeconomic Indicators of Development and Well-Being

Textbook Suggestion

No assigned textbook for this course. However, students will read 3-5 academic publications per week for a majority of the semester schedule.

Methods for Evaluating Student Performance:

Forms of evaluation include examinations, in-class activities, writing assignments, student-led weekly discussions, and a final project/map.

Evaluation of the Course

Student evaluation of the course using university (and departmental) course evaluation forms.