

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Sociology 370 Social Demography

Fall 2006
Call #3394

Professor

Dr. H. D. Horton
Arts & Sciences 320
442-4907

[Email:hdh@albany.edu](mailto:hdh@albany.edu)

website:www.albany.edu/~hdh

Office Hours

MT 4-5:30
or by appointment

Class Meetings

M 5:45-8:35
SS 256

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an in-depth introduction to the field of demography and population studies. Specifically, the course emphasizes the impact of population processes and events on human societies. Sociology, along with other social science disciplines, will be employed to facilitate the understanding of how social and demographic factors interact to create societal problems throughout the world.

Texts: Weeks, John R. An Introduction to Population. 9th ed. 2005.
Frey, William H. Investigating Change in American Society 2nd ed. 2004.

Course Requirements: Assigned readings and class attendance: The assigned readings for this course are all required. For the most part, these readings are easily understood. Consequently, the instructor will spend little time repeating or summarizing what you are required to read. These materials will be discussed in class, and you are encouraged to raise questions for purposes of clarification and elaboration. Because much additional material will be provided in class, and because this material as well as assigned readings will be covered on exams, regular class attendance (90%) is necessary for a high level of performance and high grade. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed lecture notes, changes in course assignments, etc.

Group Discussion: Periodically, the class will be divided into groups for the purpose of discussing and/or addressing questions provided by the Professor. Students are graded upon their participation in the groups. All group discussion and assignments will be posted on WebCt.

Respect as the Cornerstone of the Classroom Experience

In my class it is paramount that *respect* is the center of the classroom subculture. That means simply that I as the professor will respect you and likewise demand the same. Equally as important, you as students are required to respect each other. What does that mean? How is that operationalized? How does that Alook@ in the classroom? Simply put: it means that every person is given the common courtesy of having her/his views listened to. Every person has the right to freely voice their opinions as long as they are not infringing upon the rights and dignity

of others. This philosophy is summed up in the following original saying: *AEvery **person** must be respected, every **voice** must be heard.* Only when there is an environment that nurtures free and uninhibited thought can true learning take place. I firmly believe that as the professor, I learn as much from my students as they learn from me. It is for this reason that I often ask for *Aquestions, comments and testimonials.*@

Grading: Your final grade will be based upon two components:

1. Examinations: All exams will be in-class and objective in nature. Make-up exams are given only under these circumstances: (1) written certification from a physician is presented indicating that the student was too ill to take the exam; (2) a written certification of a death in the family is presented; (3) written certification from a coach is presented stating that attendance was necessary at a previously scheduled intercollegiate event; (4) when written certification is available for some other extra-ordinary event that makes attendance at the exam impossible. All make-ups will be given at 5 p.m. on the last day of finals.

2. Group Participation: The class will be divided into groups for the purpose of discussion of issues and problems assigned by the professor. Much of the group discussion will focus on the book, *Investigating Change in American Society*. All out of class group meetings will take place on-line via *WebCT*. Student web postings must be submitted **one week prior to the exam date.**

Extra Credit: Students will have an opportunity to earn an additional 5 percentage points by answering the “*Think Tank*” questions at the end of the chapters in the Frey text that are associated with each exam. Each set of questions per chapter will be evaluated on a scale of 0-5. The average of the scores from each chapter will represent the number of extra credit points that the student has earned. All extra credit must be submitted on-line via *WebCT* **one week prior to the exam date.** Given that this is not required, late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Grading Scale:

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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 90+: A | 88-89: A- | |
| 86-87: B+ | 80-85: B | 78-79: B- |
| 76-77: C+ | 70-75: C | 68-69: C- |
| 66-67: D+ | 60-65: D | 59-: F |

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Introduction to Demography
Weeks, Chapters 1-4
Frey, Overview (Pp.2-16; 199-215), Chapter 8

Exam #1 September 25, 2006

II. Mortality
Weeks, Chapters 5, 9
Frey Chapter 10

IV Fertility and Family Demography
Weeks, Chapters 6, 10
Frey, Chapters 5, 7, 9

Exam #2 October 23, 2006

V. Migration and Immigration
Weeks, Chapter 7
Frey, Chapter 3

VI Population Structure and Characteristics
Weeks, Chapters 8, 11
Frey, Chapters 1, 2

Exam #3 November 20, 2006

VII Population and Contemporary Issues
Weeks, 12, 13
Frey, Chapters 4, 6

FINAL EXAM December 18, 2006