SOCI 234 Population and Society
Fall 2019
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:35am-9:55am
Burnside Hall 1B45

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Brauner-Otto
Email: sarah.brauner-otto@mcgill.ca

Office: 728 Leacock Building

Office hours:
Fridays 3-5 pm
And by appointment

Teaching Assistants (TA): Office hours and location will be posted on myCourses
Benyamin Villani benyamin.villani@mail.mcgill.ca
Aradhana Verma aradhana.verma@mail.mcgill.ca

Course description:
This course provides an introduction to the field of social demography in a global perspective. We will focus on the causes and consequences of population change through the major population processes of mortality, fertility, and migration. The course will be a combination of lecture, multi-media presentations, discussions, and in-class activities.

Some basic math skills (adding, subtracting, division, multiplication, exponentiation, etc) and comfort using Excel or a similar type program are necessary to be successful in this course.

myCourses:
We will make use of the course website through myCourses. Readings not in the textbook may be posted there and I will use the email feature for most email communications.

The “Discussion” section of the myCourses page for this class will be available throughout the course. You can post questions here regarding the material, links to interesting and related articles or video clips, or thoughts you may have had on the material. The TAs and I will monitor this page—we will answer any questions but I encourage you to help answer questions your peers pose. Any abuse of the page will result in being reported to the appropriate authority.

Required text:
Referred to as Trovato in course outline below:

We will read most of the book and exams will cover that material (as well as lecture material) so it is crucial that you purchase the book to be successful in this class.

I do not recommend purchasing older editions of the book. The material will be outdated and you may be missing information that was added to the new edition and may be on the exams.

Additional journal articles and other readings are listed in the reference list at the end of the syllabus. It is your responsibility to locate them through the McGill library. If you do not know how to find academic journal articles through the library you can come to office hours or ask a librarian for help. If a reading is not available through the library it will either be posted on myCourses or sent as an email attachment.

You will need a calculator for this class. Most, if not all, the calculations will only require a basic calculator, like the one probably on your phone. You can use this for the homework. You will not need a calculator for the exams.

You will need paper and a writing utensil to take notes in every class. Laptops are not allowed (see policy below).

**Course requirements:** The course requirements are non-negotiable. If you know you cannot meet them, do not take this course.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

1. **Tests (2x25%=50%).** Tests will cover basic concepts and demographic methods taught in the lectures and in the readings. Tests are not specifically cumulative, but to the degree that the concepts in the course build on one another the material presented in the first part of the semester may be included on the second test. Additionally, films presented in one point in the semester may be referred to in test questions later on in the semester. Tests will be a combination of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer. There may be essay questions. The tests may include equations. You will not have to do the math, but you will have to know the correct formula, how to use it, and how to interpret it.

   - Test 1 (Mid-term) will cover all material presented up until the test date (Thursday, October 10). This includes the introductory section on demography as a field, demographic theories, demographic data, population growth, and age and sex structures.
   - Test 2 (non-cumulative final) will cover all material presented after Test 1. This includes sections on fertility, mortality, aging, and migration. This may include topics initially introduced in the first section such as appropriate demographic data for measuring mortality and application of demographic theories to fertility, but it is not explicitly cumulative. This test will be administered during the final exam period.

2. **Homework assignments (5x10%=50%).** There will be five homework assignments posted on myCourses. The assignments will require you to collect demographic data and combine it with the specific measures and equations demographers use to understand population growth, age and sex structures, fertility, mortality, and migration. Each assignment will specify the type of data you must use. Each student must submit their own homework assignment. TAs will be available to help you find the necessary data, if you have already tried to find it.
yourself. Assignments must be typed. You will need to learn how to use the equation editor and/or symbols tools in Word. You will also need to work with Excel for these assignments.

All homework assignments are due at the start of class on the specified day (see course outline below). They must be submitted via myCourses and it is your responsibility to ensure the file is complete and readable. Assignments must be submitted as Word or PDF documents (“pages” documents are NOT acceptable). See the policies regarding late assignments lecture below.

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 – see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

Conferences:
There are no conferences for this class

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HW (5x10%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 85-100%
A- 80-84%
B+ 75-79%
B 70-74%
B- 65-69%
C+ 60-64%
C 55-59%
D 50-54%
F 0-49%

Make-up policy:
The mid-term cannot be made up. The mid-term is scheduled for the regular class time and you are therefore expected to be there. If you know you will miss the mid-term do not take this course. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1., General University Information and Regulations at www.mcgill.ca.

Submitting assignments:
All homework assignments are due at the start of the lecture. myCourses will time stamp all submissions.

Late assignment policy:
Assignments are due at the start of the lecture (8:35am) on the day they are due. Grades will be reduced by 20% for each 24 hour period the assignment is late. For example, the fertility homework is due on Thursday, October 24th at 8:35am. Assignments turned in between 8:36am on Thursday and 8:35am on Friday, October 25th will be reduced by 20% so a perfect assignment would only receive an 80%. Assignments turned in between 8:36am on October 25th and 8:35am on October 26th would be reduced by 40% so a perfect assignment would only receive a 60%. Assignments will receive no credit if they
are turned in after the 4th 24 hour period (in this example that means an assignment turned in after 8:35am on October 28th would receive no credit).

**Email:**
- To communicate with you I will most likely use the email tool on myCourses. It is your responsibility to check this email account (or have it forwarded to an account you use more regularly). It is also your responsibility to ensure that I receive any messages from you. I recommend sending messages through myCourses to ensure your messages to me from a non-McGill account are not mistaken as SPAM.
- Email is a written document and should be treated as a permanent record of communication. Each email should be addressed specifically (e.g. Dear Dr. Brauner-Otto,) and include your name as a closing. I will not respond to emails that do not have these components, are not written in complete sentences (e.g., no texting shortcuts), or if the answer to your question is in the syllabus. If you have read the syllabus but don’t understand something make that clear in your email.
- I typically respond to emails within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me after 24 hours you may email me again to make sure I received your message.

**Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices.**
This is a technology free class.

Research consistently demonstrates that students learn better and retain more information when they take notes by hand and that classmates are as distracted from their peers’ use of laptops etc. as the user.

This means the use of laptops, cell phones, tablets, and similar electronic devices is NOT allowed in class. Use includes taking notes, texting, checking Facebook, and other similar activities. The wearing of headphones is not permitted. If a cell phone “goes off” (e.g. rings, buzzes, beeps, vibrates) in any manner the student may be asked to leave the class immediately. Any student who uses a phone or similar devise in class may be asked to leave class immediately. Re-admittance into the class at a later date is at the professor’s discretion. Students who repeatedly use unapproved electronic devices will be asked to withdraw from the course.

There are three exceptions to this rule:
1. If specifically told (by me or a TA via the syllabus, myCourses, or email) that a laptop or similar device may be helpful for a class activity.
2. Using your phone’s calculator for calculations during class.
3. Using a laptop or similar device while seated in the first 2 rows of the center section of the classroom. Note, if this becomes problematic at any point throughout the semester individuals may lose their privilege of using a laptop even if seated in this section.

**Tardiness.**
Tardiness, arriving late to class, will not be tolerated. Students who are more than 10 minutes late to class will not be allowed to attend that day. Students repeatedly arriving late to class will be asked to withdraw from the course. If the time of this class is too difficult for you to accommodate then you need to find another class.

**Leaving early.**
Leaving class early will not be tolerated. If you have other commitments that prevent you from being in class the entire time then you need to find another class. Students repeatedly leaving early will be asked
to withdraw from the course. This includes packing up your materials before the lecture is finished.

**Academic misconduct.** “McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).” (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

> «L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).»

Academic misconduct of any sort will not be tolerated. If I find evidence of any academic misconduct for any activity in this class I will report the offense to the Office of the Dean of Students and they will determine the appropriate sanction.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to deceptive acts such as the following: cheating, fabrication (lying), falsification, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity, or violation of departmental or college rules. Signing in for another student on an attendance sheet is considered academic misconduct.

**Policy Concerning the Rights of Students with Disabilities.** If you need any accommodation please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/ 398-6009). You may also contact me directly. I will make every effort to accommodate you.

**Important Dates:**

- Tuesday, September 17: Add/drop deadline
- Thursday, September 26: Population growth homework (HW 1) due
- Thursday, October 3: Age and sex structure homework (HW 2) due
- Thursday, October 10: Mid-term exam
- Tuesday, October 29: Fertility homework (HW 3) due
- Thursday, November 7: Mortality homework (HW 4) due
- Tuesday, November 19: Migration homework (HW5) due

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### Course Outline (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>HW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>03-Sep</td>
<td>Introduction to Demography</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>05-Sep</td>
<td>Demographic Trends (population growth, critiquing the demographic transition)</td>
<td>Trovato, Chs 1 and 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10-Sep</td>
<td>Population growth measures and theories</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>12-Sep</td>
<td>Future: where are we going? Where should we be going?</td>
<td>Lam 2011</td>
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<td>Becker 2013</td>
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<td>Lam 2013</td>
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<td>Lam 2017</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>17-Sep</td>
<td>Demographic Data</td>
<td>Trovato, Ch 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>Lab: using online sources (Canadian website, Eurostat, Excel, etc)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>24-Sep</td>
<td>Guest lecture: Data in Quebec</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>Age and Sex Structures</td>
<td>Trovato, Ch 4</td>
<td>HW 1 pop growth due</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>01-Oct</td>
<td>Demographic Transition Theory</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>03-Oct</td>
<td>Developmental Idealism</td>
<td>Thornton 2001</td>
<td>HW 2 age structures due</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>08-Oct</td>
<td>review session</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>MID-TERM</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>15-Oct</td>
<td>Lab refresher: accessing data, using Excel</td>
<td>Trovato, Ch 6</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>Fertility measures and theories</td>
<td>Axinn and Barber 2001</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>Transition to lower fertility</td>
<td>Rindfuss and Brauner-Otto 2008</td>
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<td>Morgan 2003</td>
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<td>Cohen 2013</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>29-Oct</td>
<td>Mortality measures and theories</td>
<td>Trovato, Ch 7</td>
<td>HW 3 fertility due</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>31-Oct</td>
<td>Mortality declines</td>
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<td>Cutler and Miller 2005</td>
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<td>Salomon and Murray 2002</td>
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<td>Barrett et al. 1998</td>
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<td>Caselli, Meslé, and Vallin 2002</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>05-Nov</td>
<td>Aging</td>
<td>Brauner-Otto 2009</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>07-Nov</td>
<td>Migration measures and theories</td>
<td>Massey 1990</td>
<td>HW 4 mortality due</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>12-Nov</td>
<td>Migration measures and theories</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>14-Nov</td>
<td>Demographic Winter</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>19-Nov</td>
<td>Patterns and trends: internal and international migration</td>
<td>Trovato, Chs 8 and 9</td>
<td>HW 5 migration due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>21-Nov</td>
<td>policy and demography today—in the news</td>
<td>Trovato, Ch 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>26-Nov</td>
<td>bringing it all together</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>28-Nov</td>
<td>review session</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reference List

Some entries are available on myCourses or hyperlinked to the article and some are not. If they are not then you must search for them through the library website.


Cohen, Philip. N. 2013. “The Declining Birthrate Doesn’t Spell Disaster: A demographer explains how we will adjust to the coming changes in our population.” Time, August 1. [http://ideas.time.com/2013/08/01/the-declining-birthrate-doesnt-spell-disaster/]


Lam, David. 2017. “The world’s next 4 billion people will differ from the previous 4 billion.” N-IUSSP. July 24, 2017. [http://www.niussp.org/article/the-worlds-next-4-billion-people-will-differ-from-the-previous-4-billion/]


