Course Objectives: This is a course in population economics and demography. Topics include: world population growth and the elements of formal demography; the causes of population growth (analysis of the demographic transition); consequences of population growth (Malthusian theory, Malthusian versus modern economic growth, population aging, interaction of population and environment); and population and migration policies. The course will put a strong emphasis on public policy issues surrounding population and demography.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Understand world, regional and sub-regional population trends and future projections.
2. Learn the theories of the economics of demography and population.
3. Discuss issues related to population such as population aging and international migration.
4. Explore public policy responses to population and demographic issues.

Required Book:


Recommended Books:


WebCT: There is a class web site available through the University WebCT (Blackboard Learning System). To access the class page through WebCT, go to https://webct.unr.edu/webct/ and login using your UNR NetID for the username and your NetID password for the password. You should be able to see this course in the course list after you login. I’ll put course related material (Powerpoint slides, assignments, announcements, interesting articles, etc.) on the web site so you should check this site regularly.

Reading Assignments: These will be provided to students on the class web site (WebCT) or as handouts during class.

Background and Reference Texts:


Grading: The course grade is based on two homework assignments (10% each), a policy essay (30%), class participation (10%), and a take-home final exam (40%). Attendance to all class sessions is mandatory.

Late Assignments and Missed Exams: Students are expected to complete the assignments by the announced due dates. Failure to do so will result in zero credit for that assignment. There will be no make-up exams without prior approval except under extremely unusual circumstances.

Policy Essay: The objective here is to provide students with a basic research experience on the public policy aspect of population and demographic changes in a world region, country or a sub-region within a country. More information on the policy essay will be provided during the course. The writing of such an essay normally includes the following four steps:

Brainstorming: Come up with three policy ideas that interest you the most. You can discuss these with me during my office hours. You will then choose one of these ideas as a research project for this semester.

Proposal: Write a one-page proposal explaining your policy question. You should explain why you chose that specific question and why it is of policy interest.

Outline: Combine your proposal from the previous stage with a detailed outline that includes a preliminary list of references.
Presentation: Present your essay to the class for comments. The draft should be distributed in class one week before the presentation.

Special Class Sessions: I plan to bring guest speaker(s) to complement our regular class sessions. One scheduled so far is Jeff Hardcastle who is the State Demographer for Nevada.

Class Courtesy: Late arrival should be an exception. When necessary sit on entering side; do not disturb class. Early departure should be an exception – only in an emergency or with prior consultation. Early preparation for departure – please don’t. Talking – with everyone or with no one.

Students with Disability: If you have a disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Integrity: Honesty and personal integrity are key facets of the University of Nevada community. The issue of academic integrity is taken very seriously at the University and College of Business Administration. Since the majority of students take pride in total academic integrity, it is hoped that you, as a student, will take action to influence the practice of integrity in academic community. I understand that students feel pressure to perform well in their classes, and I will do everything that I can to ensure that you have the resources necessary to succeed. However, cheating on exams and course assignments will not be tolerated, and students who fail to comply with the University’s honor code (www.unr.edu/stsv/acdispol.html, www.unr.edu/stsv/nsop/dishones.htm) will be subject to the maximum university penalties. Please visit the university website if you are unfamiliar with the actions which constitute academic dishonesty.
Course Outline:

1. Introduction to Population and Demography

Week 1 – Week 4 (January 22 – February 12)

- Introduction to Demography: Weeks Chapter 1
- Global Population Trends: Weeks Chapter 2; Livi-Bacci Chapter 2; IMF Chapter 3
- Demographic Perspectives: Weeks Chapter 3
- Demographic Data: Weeks Chapter 4

2. Causes of Population Growth

Week 4 – Week 8 (February 14 – March 11)

- Fertility Transition: Weeks Chapter 6
- Health and Mortality Transition: Weeks Chapter 5
- Migration Transition: Weeks Chapter 7

3. Consequences of Population Growth

Week 8 – Week 12 (March 13 – April 8)
March 25, 27, Spring Break – No Classes

- Age Transition: Weeks Chapter 8
- Population Aging: Weeks Chapter 8; IMF Chapter 3
- Malthusian Theory: Malthus Chapters 1-3
- Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Higher or Lower Growth: Livi-Bacci Chapter 3

4. Population, Demography and Public Policy

Week 12 – Week 16 (April 10 – May 6)

- Population and the Environment: Weeks Chapter 11
- Population and Government: Weeks Chapter 12, Myers Chapter 7-12
- Population and Migration Policies: Weeks Chapter 12
- Future Changes: Weeks Chapter 12
Additional Readings:

1. **Introduction to Population and Demography**


2. **Causes of Population Growth**


3. **Consequences of Population Growth**


   Myers, Dowell (Chapter 1).


4. **Population, Demography and Public Policy**


