

Demography
Sociology 736
(SOC 736, 3 credit hours, Section E6T2A, Code 1671)

Class hours: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:20 p.m.

Location: Powdermaker Hall, Room 302 or Room 102

Professor Holly Reed

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m. (or by appointment)

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Course Objectives: Demography focuses on the U.S. population and how it has changed in recent decades, most particularly in the New York metropolitan area. We will also touch on the demography of other countries, for those of you who are interested in international research. The methods and data used by demographers help to inform a lot of social research and market research, so this course is useful for anyone who will be designing and carrying out research.

This course will provide a more in-depth understanding of our social world, including basic demographic processes (fertility, migration, and mortality) and population structures (variations in sex, age, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and family relations). My goal is to provide you with an overview of demographic data, methods, and concepts that will be useful to you in your future studies and jobs. And you will be better able to understand some of the most important demographic issues that we hear about in the media today, including social security, immigration, and public health.

Course Structure: This class will combine lectures with class participation and discussion. Each session, I will lecture on a particular aspect of the field of demography, drawing on the assigned readings for the session to highlight central issues and questions. My goal will be to help you to understand the concepts and methods in the readings. You will be expected to carefully read the assigned pages BEFORE the class session in which they will be discussed. You should bring any questions that you have from the readings to class, so that if they are not answered during my lecture, we can discuss them together during the second half of the class. I will also bring some key questions and issues for discussion and will expect each of you to participate in the class discussion. We can all benefit from class discussions and class participation will count as part of your grade.

Office Hours: My office hours are from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesdays in my office at Powdermaker Hall. No appointment is needed during office hours; first come, first served. If you want an appointment with me outside of my regular office hours, please talk with me before or after class, email me, or call me. I will usually not answer emails that are sent after 4 p.m. until the following day, so please plan ahead if you need to contact me. Email is not the appropriate method of communication for long questions that require detailed answers. Please visit my office hours or make an appointment for a face-to-face meeting or telephone call if you would like to have a detailed discussion.

Required Materials:

Yaukey, David, Douglas L. Anderton, and Jennifer Hickeys Lundquist. 2005.
Demography: The Study of Human Population. 3rd edition. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

Yaukey et al. is on reserve at the Rosenthal Library, however, QC only has the 2nd edition, so the examples and some text are different. I suggest that you buy the book. It is available at the QC bookstore. Used copies are fine as long as it is the 3rd edition.

Other readings, such as journal or magazine articles, will be added to the syllabus as we go along. These readings will either be available on-line (Blackboard, noted as BB on the syllabus) or will be provided by me in class the week before the reading is due.

Assignments and Grading:

You will be evaluated on your performance according to the following assignments:

Assignment	Number	Percentage of Total Grade
Longer essays (max. 10 pages)	2	50%
Short essays (max. 2 pages)	2	15%
Final paper (max. 20 pages)	1	25%
Class participation and attendance		10%

Assignments will be distributed in class; questions for longer essays will be distributed at least 2 weeks in advance of their due date and questions for shorter essays will be distributed at least 1 week in advance of their due date. Assignments may include some tables and graphs as well as written text. The text portion of each longer essay should be no more than 10 pages, and the text portion of each short essay should be no more than 2 pages (typed, double-spaced, about 250 words per page). Assignments are due in class; e-mailed assignments will NOT be accepted.

Written work will be graded on content as well as style, grammar, spelling, and organization. Please use spell-check and edit your work. Assignments that are late will be downgraded one half letter grade for each day that they are late. Note that you are responsible for understanding and complying with all CUNY and Queens College guidelines regarding academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, and any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please use care when citing original sources and use footnotes or parentheses to indicate proper attribution.

Attendance at each class session is expected; please be courteous to your fellow students and to me and arrive for class ON TIME. If you are unable to attend class, please let me know ahead of time if at all possible. If you miss class, you are expected to do the readings and get the notes from another student and to come to office hours to go over any questions you may have. Repeated absences will affect your grade, and more importantly, your understanding of the material. Please do your best to attend class every week.

Important Dates:Short paper #1 **due September 16**Long paper #1 **due October 21**Short paper #2 **due November 4**Long paper #2 **due November 25**Final paper **due December 16****Class Session Schedule****Part I: Thinking Like a Demographer**

September 2	Introduction <i>Readings:</i> Yaukey et al. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-16)
September 9	Demographic Data <i>Readings:</i> Yaukey et al. Chapter 2 (pp. 17-38) PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (Box #4, p. 17)—BB
September 16	Population Growth <i>Readings:</i> Yaukey et al. Chapter 3 (pp. 39-74) PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 15-16)—BB SHORT PAPER #1 DUE
September 23	Age and Sex Structure <i>Readings:</i> Yaukey et al. Chapter 4 (pp. 75-120) PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 17-22)—BB
September 30	QC HOLIDAY--NO CLASS

Part II: Understanding Population Processes

October 7	Mortality: Concepts, Measures, Trends and Levels <i>Readings:</i> Yaukey et al. Chapter 5 (pp. 121-162) PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 8-12)—BB
October 14	NO CLASS (Classes on a Monday schedule)
October 21	Morbidity and Health <i>Readings:</i> Yaukey et al. Chapter 6 (pp. 163-190) PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 61, No. 2 (all)—BB LONG PAPER #1 DUE

- October 28 Fertility Concepts and Measures
Readings: Yaukey et al. Chapter 7 (pp. 199-203; pp. 215-226)
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 4-6)—BB
- November 4 Fertility Trends and Levels
Readings: Yaukey et al. Chapter 7 (pp. 191-199; pp. 203-215; pp. 227-242)
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 6-8; pp. 25-28)—BB
SHORT PAPER #2 DUE
- November 11 Marriage and Households
Readings: Yaukey et al. Chapter 8 (pp. 243-286)
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (p. 18, Box 5)—BB
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 55, No. 4 (all)—BB
- November 18 Migration: Concepts, Measures, Trends, Theory & Policy
Readings: Yaukey et al. Chapter 9 (pp. 287-331)
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 12-15)—BB
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 61, No. 4 (all)—BB

Part III: Understanding Population Structure and Characteristics

- November 25 Urbanization
Readings: Yaukey et al. Chapter 10 (pp. 333-361)
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 23-25)—BB
LONG PAPER #2 DUE
- December 2 Population Diversity: Aging
Readings: PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 60, No. 1 (all)—BB
- December 9 Population Diversity: Race and Ethnicity
Readings: Yaukey et al. Chapter 11 (pp. 363-402)
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 22-23)—BB
- December 16 Population and the Environment; Population Policy
Readings: PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 58, No. 3 (all)—BB
 PRB Population Bulletin Vol. 62, No. 1 (pp. 28-29)—BB
FINAL PAPER DUE