

**COURSE SYLLABUS FOR:**

Sociology 431

***Fertility and Mortality***

Spring Quarter 2007

**Course Webpage: [http://courses.washington.edu/setclass/s431\\_07/](http://courses.washington.edu/setclass/s431_07/)**

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**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

Instructor .....	Stewart Tolnay
Meeting Time .....	3:30 - 4:50, Tuesdays and Thursdays
Classroom .....	Savery 209
Office .....	202A Savery
Office Hours .....	To be announced
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Course Webpage .....	<a href="http://courses.washington.edu/setclass/">http://courses.washington.edu/setclass/</a>
Required Book .....	<i>Population Handbook</i> . 5 <sup>th</sup> Edition, downloadable from Population Reference Bureau website at: <a href="http://www.prb.org/pdf/PopHandbook_Eng.pdf">www.prb.org/pdf/PopHandbook_Eng.pdf</a>
Recommended Book .....	<i>Handbook of Population</i> , Edited by Dudley L. Poston and Michael Micklin, New York: Springer, 2006.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course offers an in-depth examination of two key demographic processes: fertility and mortality. It approaches these topics from a “demographic transition” perspective. We begin by considering the long-term, historical trends in fertility and mortality and how they have been explained and interpreted by Demographic Transition Theory. Because the balance of fertility and mortality determines the pace at which populations grow (or shrink) through “natural increase” (or “natural decrease”) we also consider briefly how their shifting levels have contributed to trends in population growth. Our examination of fertility and mortality will be divided into five sub-sections. We first consider basic concepts and measurement techniques that are required to understand variations in fertility or mortality levels and trends. Next, we examine the most common theoretical perspectives that have been used to explain those variations. Third, we survey the evidence regarding historical transitions in mortality and fertility, especially as they occurred in Europe and the United States. Fourth, we shift our attention to ongoing transitions in the less developed countries of the world. Finally, we investigate a variety of issues related to fertility and mortality in *post-transition* societies.

Our approach to the study of fertility and mortality will be primarily a sociological one. However, demographic processes are influenced by a very wide variety of factors, and they have far reaching implications for populations and societies. Therefore, our sociological journey frequently will be supplemented by information and perspectives from other disciplines, for example: anthropology, economics, history, geography, and psychology. The principal objective of this course is to familiarize

students with the core issues and questions that drive social science research on fertility and mortality. A secondary objective is to prepare students for advanced, more specialized, study within both of these areas.

I expect students to bring a wide variety of backgrounds to this class. I will assume that students have completed a general course in population studies or demography, either at the graduate or undergraduate level. However, I will also give short introductions to each section of the course in an effort to refresh memories, or to fill gaps.

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### **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

During many class sessions I will lecture for all, or most, of the time period. However, students are expected to complete the required readings beforehand, and to be prepared to raise questions or contribute to a discussion of the relevant material. Despite the primarily lecture format for the course, I would like to maintain an informal atmosphere in which students feel comfortable asking questions or making comments at any time. There will be a website for the course (see above) which I will use to post announcements, handouts, and other course-related materials.

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### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are required to complete three basic requirements for this course: (1) a class project, (2) a midterm exam, and (3) a final exam.

#### **EXAMINATIONS**

A written midterm and final examination will be required of all students. The midterm examination will cover all material through the completion of the “Fertility Section” of the course. The final examination will concentrate most heavily on material covered during the second half of the course. Both examinations will be written in class.

#### **CLASS PROJECT**

Each student is required to satisfactorily complete a course project. All students may select from the following three types of projects:

1. Research Paper. You may write a research paper that uses appropriate data to address some issue related to fertility or mortality. The research paper should be in the style of a journal article, and follow the style requirements of either the *American Sociological Review* or *Demography*. This option is best suited to graduate students who already have an idea for a research project that is appropriate for this course.
2. Research Proposal. You may write a research proposal that describes a planned project that will analyze data to address some fertility- or mortality-related issue. The proposal should follow the general format requirements of the National Science Foundation, which can be found at the NSF website (<http://www.nsf.gov/>).
3. Literature Review. You may review the literature concerned with a particular fertility- or mortality-related issue. The review should follow the style requirements of either the *American Sociological Review* or *Demography*. It should include the following:
  - an in-depth discussion of the research topic and of previous work in the area,

- identification of the most important questions remaining to be answered,
- suggestions for how those important questions might be approached.
- a complete bibliography listing the journal articles and books you consulted in preparing your literature review.

Undergraduate students may also choose the following option for their term project.

4. Country Profiles. You may prepare an in-depth country profile that describes the current patterns of mortality and fertility, as well as trends during the last few decades, in two different countries. The current levels and recent trends for fertility and mortality within your chosen countries must also be linked to important social, economic, and cultural conditions that exist (or have existed) within the countries. The comparative dimension to this type of project is important, so you should select your focus countries carefully.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with me before deciding upon the type of project they will complete. Completed term projects must be turned in by 5:00 p.m. of the last day of class (June 1<sup>st</sup>).

### COURSE GRADING

Final grades for the course will be based on each student's performance on the three graded course requirements. These three components of the final grade will be weighted as follows:

Class Project.....	40%
Midterm Exam.....	30%
Final Exam.....	30%

### TOPIC OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Below is the planned itinerary for the course, along with the readings required within each of the course's subsections. My intention is to complete Sections I and II before the midterm examination and Sections III and IV after the midterm and before the end of the quarter. Of course, we may need to modify this itinerary as the quarter progresses. In some cases it will be more efficient to read the items in a different order than is presented below. When that is true I will let you know.

#### **I. OVERVIEW: THEORY OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION**

Notestein, Frank W. 1945. "Population – The Long View." Pp. 36-57 in *Food for the World*, T.W. Schultz (ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Davis, Kingsley. 1945. "The World Demographic Transition." *The Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science* 237:1-11.

Teitelbaum, Michael. 1975. "Relevance of Demographic Transition Theory for Developing Countries." *Science* 188:420-425.

## **II. HUMAN FERTILITY**

### **A. Basic concepts, issues, and measurement**

Morgan, S. Philip and Kellie J. Hagewen. 2005. "Fertility." Pp. 229-249 in *Handbook of Population* Dudley Poston and Michael Micklin (eds.), New York: Springer.

Davis, Kingsley and Judith Blake. 1956. "Social Structure and Fertility: An Analytic Framework." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 4(April):211-35.

Bongaarts, John. 1978. "A Framework for Analyzing the Proximate Determinants of Fertility," *Population and Development Review* 4: 105-132.

*Population Handbook*. Chapters 3 and 4.

### **B. Theoretical approaches to the study of fertility and fertility change**

Alter, George. 1992. "Theories of Fertility Decline: A Non-Specialist's Guide to the Current Debate." Pp. 13-27 in *The European Experience of Declining Fertility, 1850-1970: The Quiet Revolution* John R. Gillis, Louise A. Tilly, and David Levine (eds.) Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

Easterlin, Richard. 1975. "An Economic Framework for Fertility Analysis." *Studies in Family Planning* 6:54-63.

Cleland, John and Christopher Wilson. 1987. "Demand Theories of Fertility Transition: An Iconoclastic View." *Population Studies* 41:5-30.

Caldwell, John. 1976. "Toward a Restatement of Demographic Transition Theory." *Population and Development Review* 2(3):321-366.

Caldwell, John 2005. "On Net Intergenerational Wealth Flows: An Update." *Population and Development Review* 31(4):721-740.

Hirschman, Charles. 1994. "Why Fertility Changes?" *Annual Review of Sociology* 20:203-233.

Mason, Karen O. 1997. "Explaining Fertility Transitions." *Demography* 34:443-54.

### **C. Fertility in transition: Europe and the U.S.**

Guest, Avery M. 1981. "Social Structure and U.S. Inter-State Fertility Differentials in 1900." *Demography* 18:465-486.

Hacker, J. David. 2003. "Rethinking the 'Early' Decline of Marital Fertility in the United States." *Demography* 40(4):605-620.

Tolnay, Stewart E. 1996. "Structural Change and Fertility Change in the South, 1910 to 1940." *Social Science Quarterly* 77(3):559-576.

van de Walle, Etienne and John Knodel. 1980. "Europe's Fertility Transition: New Evidence and Lessons for Today's Developing World." *Population Bulletin* 34(6).

Guinnane, T., B. Okun, and J. Trussell. 1994. "What Do We Know about the Timing of Fertility Transitions in Europe?" *Demography* 31(1):1-20.

**D. Fertility in transition: contemporary less developed world.**

Caldwell, John C. and Pat Caldwell. 1990. "High Fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Scientific American* 262(5):118-125.

Knodel, John, Napaporn Havanon, and Anthony Pramualratana. 1984. "Fertility Transition in Thailand: A Qualitative Analysis." *Population and Development Review* 10:297-328.

Lavelly, William and Ronald Freedman. 1990. "The Origins of the Chinese Fertility Decline." *Demography* 27(3):357-367.

Hirschman, Charles and Philip Guest. 1990. "Multilevel Models of Fertility Determination in Four Southeast Asian Countries: 1970 and 1980." *Demography* 27(3):369-394.

Raftery, Adrian E., Steven M. Lewis, and Akbar Aghajanian. 1995. "Demand or Ideation? Evidence from the Iranian Marital Fertility Decline." *Demography* 32:159-182. (Grad. Only)

Mauldin, W.P. and J.A. Ross. 1991. "Family Planning Programs: Efforts and Results." *Studies in Family Planning*, 22:350-67.

**E. Fertility in post-transition settings**

Morgan, S. Philip. 1996. "Characteristic Features of Modern American Fertility." *Population and Development Review* 22(suppl.):19-63.

Morgan, S. Philip and R. B. King. 2001. "Why Have Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Biological Predisposition, Social Coercion, Rational Choice." *European Journal of Population* 17:3-20.

Morgan, S. Philip. 2003. "Is Low Fertility a Twenty-First Century Demographic Crisis?" *Demography* 40(4):589-603.

Tomas Frejka and Gérard Calot. 2001. "Cohort Reproductive Patterns in Low Fertility Countries." *Population and Development Review* 27(1):103-132.

Bongaarts, John. 2002. "The End of the Fertility Transition in the Developed World." *Population and Development Review* 28(3):419-443.

**III. HUMAN MORTALITY**

**A. Basic concepts, issues, and measurement**

Rogers, Richard G., Robert A. Hummer, and Patrick M. Krueger. 2005. "Adult Mortality." Pp. 283-309 in *Handbook of Population* Dudley Poston and Michael Micklin (eds.), New York: Springer.

Frisbie, W. Parker. 2005. "Infant Mortality." Pp. 251-282 in *Handbook of Population* Dudley Poston and Michael Micklin (eds.), New York: Springer.

*Population Handbook*. Chapters 5 and 6

**B. Theoretical approaches to the study of mortality and mortality change**

Kitagawa, Evelyn. 1977. "On Mortality." *Demography* 14(4):381-389.

Menken, Jane. 1987. "Proximate Determinants of Fertility and Mortality: A Review of Recent Findings." *Sociological Forum* 2:697-717.

Preston, Samuel H. 1977. "Mortality Trends." *Annual Review of Sociology* 3:163-178

Omran, Abdel. 1977. "Epidemiological Transition in the U.S." *Population Bulletin* 32(2).

**C. Morality in transition: Europe and the U.S.**

McKeown, Thomas, R. G. Brown, and R. G. Record. 1972. "An Interpretation of the Modern Rise of Population in Europe." *Population Studies* 26:345-382.

Razzell, P.E. 1974. "An Interpretation of the Modern Rise of Population in Europe: A Critique." *Population Studies* 28:5-17.

Condran, Gretchen A. and Rose A. Cheney. 1982. "Mortality Trends in Philadelphia: Age-and Cause-Specific Death Rates 1870-1930." *Demography* 19:97-123.

Johansson, S. R. and C. Mosk. 1987. "Exposure, Resistance and Life Expectancy: Disease and Death During the Economic Development of Japan, 1900-1960." *Population Studies* 41:207-235.

Easterlin, Richard. 1996. "The Nature and Causes of the Mortality Revolution." Pp. 69-82 in *Growth Triumphant: The Twenty-First Century in Historical Perspective* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

**D. Morality in transition: contemporary less developed world**

J. G. Cleland and J. K. van Genneken. 1988. "Maternal Education and Child Survival in Developing Countries: the Search for Pathways of Influence." *Social Science and Medicine* 27(12):1357-68.

Caldwell, John. 1986. "Routes to Low Mortality in Poor Countries." *Population and Development Review* 12:171-220.

Preston, Samuel H. 1980. "Causes and Consequences of Mortality Declines in Less Developed Countries." Pp. 289-360 in Richard A. Easterlin (ed.) *Population and Economic Change in Developing Countries*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bongaarts, John. 1996. Global Trends in AIDS Mortality. *Population and Development Review* 22:21-45.

Vallin, J. 1992. "Theories of Mortality Decline and the African Situation." Pp. 405-36 in *Mortality and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa*, edited by E. van de Walle, G. Pison and M. Sala-Diakanda. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**E. Mortality in post-transition settings**

Rogers, Richard. 1992. "Living and Dying in the USA: Sociodemographic Determinants of Death Among Blacks and Whites." *Demography* 29(2):287-303.

Waldron, Ingrid. 1985. "What Do We Know About Causes of Sex Differences in Mortality? A Review of the Literature." *Population Bulletin of the United Nations* 18:59-76.

Pampel, Fred C. 2002. "Cigarette Use and the Narrowing Sex Differential in Mortality." *Population and Development Review* 28(1):77-104.

Feinstein, J.S. 1993. "The Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Health: A Review of the Literature." *The Milbank Quarterly* 71(2):279-322.

Rogers, Richard, Robert Hummer, Charles Nam, and Kimberley Peters. 1996. "Demographic, Socioeconomic, and Behavioral Factors Affecting Ethnic Mortality by Cause." *Social Forces* 74(4):1419-1438.

Avery M. Guest, Gunnar Almgren, and Jon M. Hussey. 1998. "The Ecology of Race and Socioeconomic Distress: Infant and Working-Age Mortality in Chicago." *Demography* 35:23-34.

Bongaarts, John. 2006. "How Long Will We Live?" *Population and Development Review* 32:605-628.