
School of Geography and Earth Sciences
McMaster University

GEOGRAPHY 3HP3 – POPULATION GROWTH AND AGING

January to April, 2016

Course Outline¹

Course Description and Objectives

This course examines the components of global population growth and change over time through a geographical perspective. Population growth is a key contributor to a number of global issues related to human development and environmental sustainability, and this class will familiarize students with the theories, tools, and issues of population studies. Particular emphasis is on:

- The dynamics of global population growth and change
- Contemporary population issues at the local, regional, and global scales such as
 - Fertility and Mortality
 - Migration and displacement
 - Aging and ‘youthification’
 - Urbanization
 - Policies and implications

The course will develop and reinforce these core competencies through exercises that utilize tools and methods for studying population change. By the end of the term, students will have obtained a greater understanding of how population trends affect, or are likely to affect a number of social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

Administration

Instructor

Dr. Chris Higgins

Office Location: BSB 342-A

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 22542

Email: higgicd@mcmaster.ca

Teaching Assistant

Chelsi McNeill-Jewer

Email: mcneic3@mcmaster.ca

¹ The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term to note any changes.

Lectures

Time and Day: Wednesday and Friday, 15:30-16:20
Location: DSB AB102

Required Textbook

The required text for the course is:

K. Bruce Newbold, *Population Geography: Tools and Issues*, 2nd Edition.

Available at the McMaster Bookstore or online. You are expected to consult the text for additional insights and examples associated with the lecture material. The schedule of readings is included in the Course Schedule section. To make the most of your experience, you should read this material prior to attending lecture.

Avenue to Learn

A website has been developed for this course using Avenue to Learn — a powerful course management tool. All registered students are automatically enrolled in the website, which can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.avenue.mcmaster.ca>

The steps for logging into the website are as follows. In the LOG INTO Avenue to Learn box, click on the 'McMaster e- Learning' link. A new box will appear that will prompt you for your MAC ID and PASSWORD. Finally, click on the SUBMIT button. You should now be in your Avenue to Learn home page. All courses you are enrolled in that make use of Avenue to Learn will appear on this page. To enter a specific course, click on the course name.

Course Evaluation

Type of Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Assignment 1: In-Class Issue Brief and Participation	5%	Ongoing
Assignment 2: Population Data Analysis	10%	February 12
Assignment 3: Population Geography and Urban GIS	10%	March 11
Assignment 4: Individual Country Analysis and Report	20%	April 1
Mid-term exam	20%	February 26 (In Class)
Final Exam	35%	Exam Period (April 12-29)

Assignments

Assignments for this class will consist of exercises designed to familiarize students with the tools and methods of population geography. This includes short written assignments, population pyramids, trend analysis, and basic geographic exercises utilizing GIS. In all cases we will explore

contemporary population issues in the local and regional community. A more detailed description of each exercise will be provided in class and on Avenue to Learn.

Mid-Term and Final Exam

Exams will consist of multiple choice and short- and medium-length written answers that cover key components from the class as well as content from class presentations. The final exam is cumulative and a brief review of class concepts will be held in the concluding lecture.

Class Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
<i>Part 1: Introduction</i>			
1	Jan 6-8	Introduction & World Population	Newbold Intro & Ch. 1
<i>Part 2: Global Population Trends</i>			
2	Jan 15	World Population (class cancelled on Jan 13)	Newbold Ch. 1
3	Jan 20-22	Population Data	Newbold Ch. 2
4	Jan 27-29	Population Distribution and Composition	Newbold Ch. 3
<i>Part 3: Population Dynamics</i>			
5	Feb 3-5	Fertility	Newbold Ch. 4
6	Feb 10-12	Mortality	Newbold Ch. 5
<i>Reading Week (Feb 16-20)</i>			
7	Feb 23-26	Review and Midterm	
<i>Part 4: Population Mobility</i>			
8	Mar 2-4	Internal Migration	Newbold Ch. 6
9	Mar 9-11	Migration Flows	Newbold Ch. 7
10	Mar 16-18	Refugees and Displacement	Newbold Ch. 8
<i>Part 5: Urbanization and Population Growth</i>			
11	Mar 23	Urbanization	Newbold Ch. 9
12	Mar 30-Apr 1	Greying Populations and Policies	TBA & Newbold Ch. 10
13	Apr 6-8	Population Growth and Conclusion	Newbold Ch. 11 and Conclusion

Course Guidelines and Regulations

1. Contacting the instructor – I plan to adhere to regular office hours as indicated in this outline, and you are encouraged to use this time to review material, clarify points or pursue issues. If for some reason you are unable to come during my set office hours, e-mail me for an appointment. I am present in the office most days and will respond to e-mail as quickly as I can during the regular day. I do not check/respond to e-mail during the evening/weekends. Please use my higgicd@mcmaster.ca email and include the class code 3HP3 in the subject line (for Gmail filtering).

2. Contacting the TAs – TAs will hold office hours in this course in addition to their lab times. Should you need to contact your TA, please use email or Avenue. In the event that a snow day or a power outage falls on the day of your lab, your TA will be available via email for that week to assist you. Please email for an appointment. The duration of the email assistance will be from the snow day until the day before your next scheduled lab. For example, if a snow day was on a Wednesday, your TA will make every effort to assist you via email or appointment from the Thursday until the following Tuesday. When the following Wednesday comes, you are expected to be in the lab.
3. Course preparation – Be advised that in general you will be required to dedicate at least 3 hours of preparation/study per hour of class time. More preparation will help you to make out the most of the course, and will undoubtedly lead to a higher grade. If for any reason you are having trouble with the course come and see me or any of the teaching assistants as soon as possible. Problems that are identified early can often be rectified.
4. How the term should be viewed – An academic term at McMaster University is 63 days in length. It is reasonable to expect students to work throughout the duration of the term. Deliverables can be scheduled at any time during the term; students should consult the Course Schedule for specific dates and times of all deliverables.
5. Handing in the assignments – Assignments are collectively worth 40% of the final grade. The assignments should be handed in to me at the start of lecture on the dates indicated in the Class Schedule. Any late assignments should be submitted to the drop box which is on the 2nd floor of General Sciences Building. This box is just outside the School of Geography and Earth Sciences Main Office. Access to the drop boxes is only available 8:00AM – 4:30PM weekdays.
6. Late assignments – Late Assignments (all assignments received beyond the class time) are penalized at the rate of one letter grade for each day they are overdue, including weekends. This means that the first day it is late the penalty will be 20%, and then 10% each subsequent day.
7. Recording of Materials – Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures and the corresponding slides – cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.
8. Mark appeals – The teaching assistant and I will make every effort to provide you with a grade that best reflects the quality of your work, and re-marking will be conducted at discretion. If you wish to have your work (assignments, examinations, etc.) re-marked, you will be asked to explain in writing, within at most 15 days after the work is initially returned, the reasons why it should be re-reviewed and the mark changed by the

instructor. The first person to contact for clarification is the person who marked the work. Please note that re-marking may result in a higher or a lower grade. For problems with addition, your TA will make the adjustment for you with a written request.

9. Missed work or requesting extensions – In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work” as it concerns the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF), available at <http://mcmaster.ca/msaf/>.

Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015. When using the MSAF, report your absence to the instructor at higgicd@mcmaster.ca. Absences lasting more than three days must be reported to the Associate Dean’s Office (KTH 129 for Social Science students and BSB 129 for Science students) and appropriate documentation must be provided. For medical absences, the University reserves the right to require students to obtain medical documentation from the Campus Health Centre.

Please note that this form is simply a request for relief, the nature of the relief is left to the instructor’s discretion. Once the form is filled out, the student must contact the instructor (higgicd@mcmaster.ca) as soon as possible in order to make necessary arrangements for making up work. Generally, the accommodation will be to grant an extension which matches the length of the absence, at the discretion of the course coordinator.

10. Students with special needs – if you have (or suspect you may have) a learning disability that may require accommodations, you are advised to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS, located in Student Centre UB107, Tel. 905-525-9140 ext. 24711). Accommodations are arranged exclusively through SAS (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>).
11. Academic dishonesty – All students are reminded of the seriousness of academic dishonesty. You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity> The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
 - a. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.

- b. Improper collaboration in group work.
 - c. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
12. Avenue to Learn – In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the Course Administrators.
13. The University reserves the right to change any aspect of this course outline.