

Population Economics and Application

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Course Description:

This course focuses on research on population economics. Students will be introduced to a wide range of theoretical and empirical research topics related to population economics and learn to develop the ability to conduct research in this field.

Population economics or demographic economics is a field in economics that applies economic analysis to demography, the study of human populations and society. Topics in population include changes in family arrangements, immigration (and the assimilation of immigrants), fertility choice, evolution of gender norms and its impact on individual outcomes, household bargaining, aging, labor supply, education, as well as how laws and policies affect population.

Method of Instruction:

Lecture/Discussion

Course Website and Communication:

The course website is available through eclass. There will be extensive assigned readings throughout this course. Students are expected to participate in the discussion of papers covered in each topic. The links for the papers and selected articles and lectures notes will be posted on the course website. So please make sure to regularly check the course website.

Requirements:

This course is intended for students interested in learning and conducting demographic research. Knowledge of calculus, econometrics (e.g. standard OLS) and statistics are required. (We will discuss both theoretical and empirical studies on the subject and you will be required to provide critiques of these works.)

In-Class Presentation (in English)

Each student would be assigned a paper on the reading list and present it in class. The presentation should be about 40 minutes long.

Critique (in English)

One written critique of an assigned paper. The critique should be at least 3 pages. You should provide a brief summary of the paper and discuss the results and how the paper contributes to the literature. The critique should assess analytically the research question being addressed, the methods/approaches of the paper and provide suggestions for future research. The goal of this assignment is to develop your ability to analyze recent research and to provide useful feedback as a referee for research papers and also develop a sense of how good research builds on existing knowledge and points to future breakthroughs.

Take-Home Exam

There will be one take-home exam. The exam will test you on your understanding of the key theoretical models and papers covered in class.

Tentative Topics (subject to revision):

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Causal inference in Econometrics**
- 3. Divorce law and women's labor supply**
- 4. Economic impacts of property division at divorce and custody laws**
- 5. Impact of COVID-19 pandemic**
- 6. Assortative matching in marriage**
- 7. Intermarriage and life outcomes of household members**
- 8. Gender roles and ethnic/racial identity**
- 9. Quantity and Quality Demand for Children**
- 10. Son Preference/ Preference for Gender Variety of Children**
- 11. Social assimilation of immigrants**

References:

Rosenzweig, M. R., & Stark, O. (Eds.). (1997). *Handbook of population and family economics*. Gulf Professional Publishing.

Hoffman, S. D., & Averett, S. L. (2021). *Women and the economy: family, work and pay*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Grading:

Percentage	100
Class participation	15
In-class presentation	25
Critique	25
Take-home Exam	35

Your total score (out of 100) will be converted into a letter grade (also your GPA) based on the list below:

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C-	D	E	X
GPA	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.0	0
Score Range	100-90	89-85	84-80	79-77	76-73	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-50	49-1	0

Academic Integrity Statement:

I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. Any student who commits any act of academic dishonesty will automatically fail this course and could be further punished according to the University's regulation.