

**SOCIOL 261: Population Studies
Spring 2022 Syllabus**

Instructor: Dr. Youngmin Yi (“Dr. Yi”/“Professor Yi”)
Pronouns: she/her
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Class Schedule: Tue/Thu, 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm
Class Location: Machmer E-35
Student Hours: Zoom, Wed 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

What shapes health inequality? How has immigration to the United States changed over time? Is there such a thing as “too many people” on Earth? Demographic tools and perspectives can help us answer these questions and understand patterns and social processes that we observe in the world around us. This course serves as an introduction to demography and population studies. Together, we will:

- Develop a demographic vocabulary and toolkit that allow us to make sense of and use numerical information about people, groups, and populations
- Understand how population processes connect to social, political, and economic differences across groups and contexts and change over time
- Learn to effectively and accurately interpret and communicate demographic information
- Be able to draw our own evidence-based conclusions about population dynamics

There are no formal prerequisites for this course, though you will need to be comfortable with basic algebra for this class (+, -, ÷, ×, $\sqrt{\quad}$, 2 , for example). This course satisfies the General Education Analytic Reasoning (R2) requirement.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT LEARNING IN COMMUNITY (IN A HEALTH CRISIS)

Because of the ongoing health crisis, we must take precautions while striving to learn together. These include measures required by UMass Amherst (i.e., vaccination, consistent masking with KN95 and surgical masks) as well as measures strongly recommended outside of the classroom and off-campus (e.g., consistent masking, discretion regarding social gatherings, regular testing). I am proud of our community for putting safety first, and I also recognize the frustrations and hardship that accompany these responsibilities as well as the broader hardship and stress of the pandemic.

I am committed to these measures, and I am also committed to helping you succeed in this class. Please talk to me and check in with me regularly. If you feel at all unwell, please *do not* come to class and contact me so we can develop a plan to support your wellbeing and success. I commit to being thoughtful and compassionate towards each of you as you navigate the current learning conditions and your own personal circumstances. In turn, I ask that you exercise the same consideration and compassion towards your classmates, Teaching and Grading Assistants, UMass Amherst staff, and your instructors. We are all moving through this differently, but we are moving through this together.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND SCHEDULE

In Spring 2022, this is an in-person class. New content will be introduced through assigned material to be reviewed or completed before class. Class meetings will focus on clarification of key concepts, deep dives on complex issues, and exploration of new tools. You will need a laptop computer in class.

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
	Class (Machmer E-35) 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm ET		Class (Machmer E-35) 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm ET	

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING CRITERIA

The course expectations and activities are designed to help us meet our learning objectives.

Class Engagement (10%)

Class engagement activities help contribute to our sense of class community and inform a collaborative approach to our learning.

(1) Introductory questionnaire

This questionnaire will provide me with some critical and helpful information about you.

(2) Class expectations and guidelines quiz

This is a graded open-book quiz on class policies, expectations, and guidelines that you have two weeks to complete and submit. Over the two-week period for which the quiz is open, you may take it as many times as you need to get a perfect score.

Learning Activities (30%)

Learning activities will help you structure your learning and allow you to assess your grasp of new concepts in a low-stakes way. These activities will be due Thursdays by class time (2:30 pm ET).

(1) Bi-weekly reading guides (6 guides, out of 3 points each)

Reading guides are outlines for taking notes as you complete readings, modules, and participate in class/discussion sections. You are encouraged to update your guides as your understanding of the material improves. By the end of the semester, you will have built your own glossary of statistics and probability. Each reading guide will be graded on a scale of 1-3 based on the degree to which the guide is complete (all definitions attempted) and shows evidence of engagement with the terms (active use of the reading guide as a note-taking device as well as evidence of concerted effort to put the terms in one's own words).

(2) Anchoring question reflections (9 reflections, out of 4 points each)

For each unit, students will start the Thursday class by reflecting on an anchoring question and submitting their reflection. At the end of each unit, students will have an opportunity to revisit these original drafts and reflect on, correct, or otherwise expand upon them to integrate their improved understanding and additional time with the topics covered in the unit. Each response will be graded on a scale of 1-4 based on the degree to which it demonstrates the students' active engagement with the question, attempts to apply demographic concepts and tools, and shows evidence of growth and/or reflexivity between the original and revised versions of the response.

Assignments (40%, 6 assignments)

Assignments are an opportunity for you to apply and extend new skills. Assignments will be posted on Thursdays and due two weeks later by the start of class. You will have the opportunity to fully revise and resubmit one assignment at the end of the semester. Students must submit individual assignments, reflective of their own work. Collaboration is welcome, but keep in mind our commitment to academic integrity. If you worked with others, note their name(s) in the header of your submission; failure to do so is a violation of our commitment to academic integrity.

Final Demographic Investigation (20%)

In lieu of a final exam, students will conduct final demographic investigations to apply skills they have developed in this class. Each student must submit their own final investigation; group submissions are not permitted. Details about this project will be provided in class partway through the semester. The project will be due on Thursday, May 12 at 11:59 pm ET. Late submissions will not be permitted except in extenuating circumstances discussed with Professor Yi well in advance.

Deadlines

Students are expected to keep pace with the Detailed Course Schedule, as all materials/deadlines are posted in advance. Students should make every effort to submit assignments by the noted deadlines. However, life happens. As such, *strict deadlines* will allow students to catch up on work missed due to extenuating circumstances. All items submitted by the strict deadlines will be graded for full credit. Items submitted after the strict deadlines will receive 0 points.

Attendance

There is no formal attendance policy for this class. As adults who have registered for this class, you have committed to the course objectives and are expected to take responsibility for your own learning, which, for some, will entail working with Professor Yi to develop a modified plan.

It is not appropriate to ask your instructors to summarize missed classes or sections for you. Students who keep up with class meetings and make use of opportunities to ask questions will find the class to be most manageable. Students who need to participate fully asynchronously due to extenuating or changing circumstances should contact Professor Yi to discuss these needs.

Grading

This table describes the grading scheme for this class. Your final grade will be a weighted total of your performance over the course of the semester. You can track your cumulative progress in the Moodle Gradebook. The deadline to elect Pass/Fail grading is Friday, March 29; under both letter-based and Pass/Fail grading, students must receive a D or above to pass the course.

Grade	Percent Total	Grade	Percent Total	Grade	Percent Total
A	93% - 100%	C+	77% - 79%	F	59% or below
A -	90% - 92%	C	73% - 76%	INC	Incomplete
B +	87% - 89%	C-	70% - 72%		
B	83% - 86%	D+	67% - 69%		
B-	80% - 82%	D	60% - 66%		

COURSE MATERIALS

We will draw upon a range of different materials and resources for this class.

Moodle: The class Moodle page will serve as our “home base.” All class materials will be posted to this site. Access it by logging in with your NetID and password here: <https://umass.moonami.com/>

Class Meetings: This class is structured around assigned readings, podcasts, and other material that will introduce new topics in small chunks outside of class and in-person class meetings that will focus on expansion, clarification, review, application of new skills, and tips and tricks. To support all of our continued learning while encouraging prioritization of health and quarantining/isolation, whether as a precaution or for active illness and recovery, I will be recording class meetings. These recordings will be made available to students who have arranged for asynchronous/remote participation with Professor Yi.

- **Echo360:** Recordings will be posted here for students with arrangements with Professor Yi. All UMass Amherst students have access to Echo360 using their NetID and password.
- **Zoom:** Professor Yi’s student hours will take place over Zoom. All UMass Amherst students have free access to Zoom through our Moodle site using their NetID and password.

Course Texts: Our readings for class will draw primarily from our textbook. Additional materials that are assigned will be posted on or linked to the class Moodle page. Unless otherwise indicated, materials listed in the syllabus are required for the attainment of our class objectives.

- **Demography: *The Study of Human Population, 4th edition (Demography)*:** This textbook by Jennifer Hicke Lundquist (of UMass Amherst!), Douglas L. Anderton, and David Yaukey is the main text for this course. Assigned readings from this text are listed as (Demography). This text is available through the UMass Amherst eCampus bookstore (<https://umass.ecampus.com>), as well as online bookshops, such as AbeBooks, BetterWorldBooks, and IndieBound. If you would prefer not to purchase a copy, please refer to the reserve copy at the W.E.B. DuBois Library.

Technology: You will need access to a stable internet connection and a computer to participate fully in this class. *If any of these requirements presents a challenge, please contact me and/or the Office of the Dean of Students as early as possible so we can work together to address these needs.*

Software: All students have free access to Microsoft Office through UMass Amherst. You will need to download and install Microsoft Office, and specifically Word and Excel, to complete and submit all course activities. *If your computer does not allow you to install programs, please contact Professor Yi immediately so she can help you set up an alternative arrangement. Google Chromebook users, this applies to you.*

Calculator: We will be doing some calculations by hand. You might find it useful to have access a calculator for basic algebra. For most calculations, a cell phone or computer calculator will suffice.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

A number of tools and resources will help us build and maintain our learning community:

Discussion Forum: The class Discussion Forum on Moodle is an organized but informal space where students and instructors can post questions, comments, and suggestions. I encourage students to use this resource. Instructors will check this forum regularly to contribute and answer questions.

Student Hours: Student hours are dedicated time *for you* during which you are encouraged to “stop by” to connect and ask questions. After reviewing course materials and notes, student hours should be your first stop for “live” support and questions about this class.

Professor Yi

Wednesdays via Zoom
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm ET

To request an appointment outside of student hours, please email Professor Yi directly using your @umass.edu email address and a message detailing the purpose of the requested appointment, and some dates/times when you would be available to meet.

Weekly Announcements: On Fridays, Professor Yi will send weekly announcements with tips, tricks, and key points. Read these emails carefully – they will include reminders, suggestions for completing class assignments, and, on occasion, corrections and clarification. These messages will also be available in the “Weekly Announcements” forum on Moodle. Professor Yi will send other messages as needed.

Email: Direct emails to Professor Yi should be used only after class resources have been referenced or for personal matters. Professor Yi will generally respond to student emails within 2 business days. Refer to the Learning Guide for guidelines on email communication.

COURSE OUTLINE

The schedule below summarizes the semester's topical outline. Please see the Detailed Course Schedule for lists of required activities, assignments, and due dates, as well as important information about how to prepare for specific class meetings.

- Unit I. Welcome and Introduction** (January 25)
- Unit II. The Population Perspective** (January 27 – February 1)
- Unit III. Population Size and Growth** (February 3 – February 8)
- Unit IV. Describing Populations** (February 10 – February 22)
- Unit V. Mortality** (February 24 – March 1)
- Unit VI. Morbidity and Health** (March 3 – March 10)
- Unit VII. Checking in with the Population Equation** (March 22)
- Unit VIII. Births and Fertility** (March 24 – March 29)
- Unit IX. Unions and Households** (March 31 – April 5)
- Unit X. Demography as Profession** (April 7)
- Unit XI. Checking in with the Population Equation, Again** (April 12)
- Unit XII. Migration** (April 14 – April 19)
- Unit XIII. Urbanization and Segregation** (April 21 – April 26)
- Unit XIV. Contemporary Population Problems: Inequality and Policy** (April 28 – May 3)
- Reading and Finals Period** (May 5 – May 12)

COURSE POLICIES

Land Acknowledgment

The land on which UMass Amherst sits is occupied Nonotuck and Pocumtuck land, close to the lands of the neighboring Abenaki, Mohegan, Mohican, Nipmuc, Poequot, Nipmuc, and Wampanoag nations. This land was occupied by Lord Jeffrey Amherst and the British military in the mid-18th century.

Commitment to Inclusion

The university recognizes and values the wide range of voices and perspectives in all spheres of the academic enterprise. The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to policies that promote inclusiveness, social justice, and respect for all, regardless of race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, political belief or affiliation, marital status, veteran status, immigration status, gender identity and expression, genetic information, or any other characteristic or status protected by state or federal laws.

We commit to maintaining an environment that supports our and others' participation and pursuit of the class objectives. There will be no tolerance of behavior that marginalizes or harasses others in this class or persons outside our class community.

Commitment to Academic Integrity

We commit to honest representation of our work. Students acknowledge that all assignments may be subject to submission to Turnitin for textual similarity review for the detection of plagiarism.

Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent (http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty).

Student Services, Special Circumstances, and Needs

Support and reasonable accommodations are available to students to support their participation. These may include temporary and permanent disabilities, illness, immigration laws, mental health, learning needs, and other considerations. Please contact Professor Yi to discuss any such concerns and needs.

University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS), you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify Professor Yi as soon as possible after registering with DS (by the end of Week 2 of the semester) so that we may make appropriate arrangements in a timely manner. For more information, consult the Disability Services website at <http://www.umass.edu/disability>.

Sharing Policy

Transfer, duplication, and sharing of course material outside of our class beyond that which is publicly available on Professor Yi's website is expressly prohibited unless unequivocal written consent has been obtained from the instructors and students involved. This includes, but is not restricted to, screenshots, audio/video recordings, Zoom chats, lecture transcripts, assignments, and class documents. Violation of this policy is a violation of the privacy, rights, and safety of our class and will be treated as such.

Support in Response to Harassment, Assault, and Violence in the UMass Amherst Community

As a faculty member, I am required to report any sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking of which I become aware to the Title IX Coordinator in the Dean of Students Office. This includes any experiences or concerns that you disclose to me. Students can contact the Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity or the Dean of Students Office directly to make a report, file a complaint, or learn about available resources and accommodations. If you would like support or further guidance in doing so, please know that I am here to support you in that process. Students can find additional

information on the University's IX website at <http://www.umass.edu/titleix>, the Sexual and Relationship Violence Resource Guide at <https://bit.ly/2Xw3Zcp>, and the Survivors' Bill of Rights at <https://www.umass.edu/titleix/survivors-bill-of-rights>.

ADDITIONAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

Here are some links to other UMass Amherst resources available to support your learning and wellbeing.

Anonymous Witness Form

<https://www.umass.edu/umpd/anonymous-witness-form>

Assistive Technologies Center

<http://www.oit.umass.edu/atc>

Bias Reporting (Non-Emergency)

<https://www.umass.edu/diversity/reporting-options>

*For emergencies, please call 911 or (413) 545-3111

Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (Crisis: 877-831-7421)

<https://www.umass.edu/counseling/>

Center for Multicultural Advancement & Student Success

<https://www.umass.edu/multiculturalaffairs>

COVID-19 Dashboard, Policies, and Resources

<https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/>

Disability Services

<https://www.umass.edu/disability/>

English as a Second Language

<https://www.umass.edu/esl/>

International Programs Office

<https://www.umass.edu/ipo/>

Learning Resource Center

<https://www.umass.edu/lrc/>

Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity (413-545-3464)

<https://www.umass.edu/eod/>

Ombuds Office

<https://www.umass.edu/ombuds>

Sexual Assault Services (Hotline: 413-545-0800 or 888-337-0800)

<https://bit.ly/2XWGdXe>

University Health Services (413-577-5000, Triage Advice Nurse 413-577-5229)
<https://www.umass.edu/uhs>

Veteran Services Office
<https://www.umass.edu/veterans/>

Writing Center
<https://www.umass.edu/writingcenter>