

ANG 6930 (Section 8283)/ANT 4930 (Section 8285)

Anthropological Demography

URL: www.clas.ufl.edu/users/ckshih

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to anthropological demography—the qualitative studies of human population processes (i.e. fertility, mortality, nuptiality, and migration) with a holistic approach. Anthropological demography differs from formal demography in that it examines demographic dynamics in the context of a wide range of social, cultural, economic, and ecological variables. In methodology, it features ethnographic approach with a focus on the micro-level of the research problems.

Some basic knowledge and skills in demography are important for researchers in many disciplines of social sciences including, among others, anthropology, economics, sociology, as well as public health. This course is designed for graduate and upper-level undergraduate students in any major or specialty, who would like to acquire demographic literacy and to understand how population processes are intrinsically related to cultural norms and social practices, such as kinship, marriage, household organization, gender system, political economy, ecology, and so forth.

We will introduce basic skills of quantitative demographic analysis as well as theories, methods, and some exemplary cases of anthropological demography. This course does not require any prior background in demography. Required mathematical skills are limited to arithmetic and algebra.

Texts

Basu, Alaka Malwade and Peter Aaby, eds. 1998. *The Methods and Uses of Anthropological Demography*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Howell, Nancy. 2000. *Demography of the Dobe !Kung*, 2nd ed. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

Kertzer, David I. and Tom Fricke, eds. 1997. *Anthropological Demography: Toward a New Synthesis*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Yaukey, David et al. 2007. *Demography: The Study of Human Population*, 3rd ed. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

Terms

Throughout the semester, you are required to finish each reading assignment on schedule, attend classes on time and take an active part in class discussion, take two exams, write two papers, and do in-class exercises on the major demographic topics.

It is essential that you finish the reading assignment BEFORE each class session. This will not only affect your understanding of the lectures, but also decide the results of your exercises and your performance in class discussion.

The mid-term and final examinations will be equally weighted. That is, the mid-term exam will cover course materials from the beginning of the course up to the point of the mid-term and the final examination will cover only the remainder of the course.

Topic descriptions of the two papers will be posted online. Each paper should be 5-7 double-spaced pages for undergraduate students and 12-15 pages for graduate students. With my approval, graduate students may opt to write the papers on topics of their own research interests. Depending on the depth and breadth of the topic, graduate students may also write one substantial term paper in lieu of the two short papers. Those who intend to take this option must discuss their topics and research plans with me early on. The papers must be printed with 12-point font and with 1 inch margin on all sides of letter size paper.

We will do in-class exercises on problems of quantitative analyses. Every student must bring a calculator to the class. The exercises will not be formally graded. But they will prepare you for the examinations.

I will keep track of your attendance. Your class performance is measured by your attendance and participation in class discussion, including sharing your answers to the exercise problems.

Percentage of the elements that contribute to your course grade are distributed as follows:

Exams 40% (20% each);

Papers 40% (20% each);

Class performance 20%.

The above distribution of scores is based on the assumption that students would closely follow all the requirements of this course. Those who are absent for one third of the classes will automatically receive an “E” (fail) as the course grade disregarding performance on the exams and papers.

All the tasks must be finished on schedule. Extensions and make-ups are offered only to exceptional cases with a legitimate reason. The judgment of any reason’s legitimacy is solely based on the Instructor’s understanding and interpretation of the relevant university regulations.

Disability Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Important Dates

Thu., Feb. 10 First paper due.
Thu., Mar. 03 Mid-term exam.
Tue., Mar. 29 Second paper due.
Thu., Apr. 28 Final exam (8:00-10:00 p.m.).

Reading Schedule

Thu., Jan. 06 Course overview.
Reading: This syllabus.

Tue., Jan. 11 Introduction to anthropological demography.
Readings: Kertzer and Fricke 1 (pp. 1-35).
Basu and Aaby Introduction (pp. 1-21).

Thu., Jan. 13 Introduction to population studies.
Readings: Yaukey et al. 1 (pp. 1-16).

Tue., Jan. 18 Overview of the population study of a hunting-gathering people.
Readings: Howell 1-2 (pp. 1-46).

Thu., Jan. 20 Demographic data
Readings: Yaukey et al. 2 (pp. 17-36).

Tue., Jan. 25 Anthropological theory and practice in demography.
Readings: Basu and Aaby 2 (pp. 39-56).
Kertzer and Fricke 10 (pp. 248-277).

Thu., Jan. 27 Population growth.
Readings: Yaukey et al. 3 (pp. 39-68).

Tue., Feb. 01 Population and identity.
Readings: Kertzer and Fricke 6 (pp. 139-174).

Thu., Feb. 03 Age and sex structure
Readings: Yaukey et al. 4 (pp. 75-110).

Tue., Feb. 08 Understanding old-age security and fertility.
Readings: Basu and Aaby 3 (pp. 57-80).

Thu., Feb. 10 Mortality
Readings: Yaukey et al. 5 (pp. 121-153).

Tue., Feb. 15 Anthropological studies of mortality
Readings: Howell 4 (pp. 73-97).
Basu and Aaby 10 (pp. 223-245).

Thu., Feb. 17 Morbidity and health
Readings: Yaukey et al. 6 (163-185).

Tue., Feb. 22 Anthropological study on sickness and death
Readings: Howell 3 (pp. 48-71).
Basu and Aaby 1 (pp. 22-38).

Thu., Feb. 24 Cultural models and demographic behavior.

Readings: Basu and Aaby 11 (pp. 246-267).
Kertzer and Fricke 4 (pp. 96-114).

Tue., Mar. 01 Social norms and demographic behavior.

Readings: Basu and Aaby 4 (pp. 81-106) and 12 (pp. 268-297).

Thu., Mar. 03 Social-cultural aspects and fertility.

Readings: Basu and Aaby 6 (pp. 128-152) and 8 (pp. 177-197).

Spring break.

Tue., Mar. 15 Fertility.

Readings: Yaukey et al. 7 (pp. 191-134).

Thu., Mar. 17 Fertility among the !Kung I.

Readings: Howell 6-7 (pp. 117-151).

Tue., Mar. 22 Fertility among the !Kung II.

Readings: Howell 8-9 (pp. 153-187).

Thu., Mar. 24 Fertility among the !Kung III.

Readings: Howell 10 (pp. 190-211), 13 (pp. 253-275).

Tue., Mar. 29 Demographic studies of marriage and family.

Readings: Yaukey et al. 8 (pp. 243-278).

Thu., Mar. 31 Marriage in anthropological demography.

Readings: Howell 12 (pp. 228-252).
Kertzer and Fricke 7 (pp. 175-200).

Tue., Apr. 05 Kinship and family: where demography joins anthropology I.

Readings: Kertzer and Fricke 2-3 (pp. 36-95).

Thu., Apr. 07 Kinship and family: where demography joins anthropology II.

Readings: Basu and Aaby 5 (pp. 107-127).
Howell 15 (pp. 306-332).

Tue., Apr. 12 Migration.

Readings: Yaukey 9 (pp. 287-325).

Thu., Apr. 14 Anthropological perspectives on migration.

Readings: Basu and Aaby 9 (pp. 198-222).

Tue., Apr. 19 Anthropological and demographic perspectives on gender.

Readings: Kertzer and Fricke 5 (pp. 115-138);
Basu and Aaby 7 (153-176).

End of course.