

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code / Title : HS2022 Population and Society

Pre-requisites : HS1001 Person and Society

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

This course will offer a comprehensive overview of the main topics in social demography. The course will cover aspects related to population size and distribution, mortality and lifespan, marriage and fertility, families, migration, and age transition. We will study each of these aspects of population from a sociological and comparative perspectives.

In the first part, we will study changes in population size over time and place. Topics covered in this part include an overview of the demographic transition theories, age composition of the population and concerns about population explosion and implosion. In second part of the course, we will look at fertility and marital changes and reasons for these changes. In third part, we will learn about the population movements with a focus on migration. In the final part, we will learn about issues related to age transition, and the links between population and the environment.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain how population composition and size change over time
2. Describe the different theories of population change
3. Analyze the reasons for fertility and marital differential over time and across different groups
4. Discuss the impact of ageing population on societies
5. Evaluate the theories related to migration and urbanization
6. Recommend population policies to target specific population issues

Course Content

Understanding population growth, distribution and composition

- Identify the key aspects and components of population growth over time
- Discuss the trends in population distribution across regions of the world
- Summarize feature of age and sex distribution of the population
- Compare population growth and distribution in various countries

Explaining population change

- Explain the views of the Malthus and Marx on population.

- Identify and explain the two assumptions that underpin Malthus' theory.
- Summarize the relationship between population growth and economic growth.
- List the ways through which population growth is controlled in Malthus' theory.
- Explain the link between welfare for the poor and population growth in Malthus' theory.
- Evaluate the usefulness of Malthusian and Marxian theory in understanding population growth.
- Examine the implication of Malthusian and Marxian perspective on social policy.

Demographic Transition Theory

- Explain the first demographic transition theory (FDT)
- Identify the different stages of FDT
- Explain the various transitions that comprise demographic transition

Demographic methods: Data sources, concepts and measures

- Examine demographic data
- Identify various source of demographic data and your advantages and disadvantages
- Explain rates, proportions and probabilities
- Construct Lexis diagram
- Understand and evaluate the calculation of various fertility rates
- Summarize the key differences between period and cohort measures

Mortality and life span

- Explain what is meant by Health and Mortality Transition
- Describe the changes in epidemiological transition over the last three centuries
- Evaluate the causes of epidemiological/ mortality transition
- Explain the changes in longevity and rectangularization
- Analyze the mortality differentials by sex, social class and race

Marriage and fertility changes

- Understand the current geographic variability in the fertility transition
- Explain the preconditions for decline in fertility
- Understand the different ways fertility can be controlled Critically examine and compare different theories of fertility change
- Understand the current trends in very low fertility
- Explain the reasons and forces driving very low fertility in many countries
- Synthesis the current fertility situation in Singapore and the policies promoting marriage and fertility
- Analyze the situation of near-replacement fertility in the Netherlands

International migration

- Explain what is meant by the migration
- Describe the current global patterns of migration
- Explain and compare the following theories of international migration
- Economic theory: macro, micro and new economics
- Segmented labour market
- World systems
- Network institutional and cumulative causation
- Evaluate the above theories/explanations of international migration

Urbanization

- Observe the trends in urbanization
- Discuss the role of demographic transition in the process of urbanization
- Explain the different types of cities: pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial cities
- Understand what is meant by cultural turn in understanding cities and apply it to understanding city life

Ageing

- Report current ageing trends, profile and prospects
- Differentiate different measures of population ageing
- Explain how populations age including the role of fertility and mortality
- Discuss social policies for the well-being of the elderly

Course Assessment

CA1	Research paper	: 20%
CA2	Class/tutorial presentations	: 10%
CA3	Online discussions	: 10%
CA4	Lecture quizzes	: 10%
Final Examination		: 50%
Total		-----
		100%