

# SOCI 3090, Population and Society, Fall 2018

**BE PROFESSIONAL. BE HONEST. BE POLITE. BE KIND. BE OUTSTANDING!**

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Class meets MW 9:30-10:45  
in IC112

**The Final Exam is Monday, December 3, at 10:15am**

## Overview and Objectives

SOCI 3090 is an introduction to the theoretical foundations, concepts, methods, data, and applications of Population Studies, which is also known as Demography. This class is open to students who have completed at least 45 college level hours including MATH 1001, 1111, 1113, or 1501. **Be aware that this is a junior level class and will not fulfill any requirements for the associate's degree at Gordon State College.**

Students are expected to pursue the following objectives:

- Become an informed consumer of demographic information.
- Understand the basic perspectives regarding and measurements of the demographic processes of fertility, mortality, and migration and their effect on population size, composition, and distribution.
- Acquire experience in accessing, analyzing, interpreting, and communicating demographic data
- Appreciate the relationship between population dynamics and social, cultural, and economic change.
- Relate demographic concepts to other areas of study

**Be warned!** Demography is a data based discipline featuring extensive use of quantitative reasoning. ***It is all about numbers***, in some ways even more than a typical math class. While you need no specific mathematical proficiency beyond one of the introductory college math classes, be aware that you'll be required to learn and use formulas for basic demographic measures and you'll be completing assignments involving extensive quantitative data. While I'll do all I can to help you overcome any math anxiety you may bring to the class with you, I cannot change the basic quantitative nature of the discipline!

Additionally, all my classes share the objective of helping you learn to conduct yourselves in a scholarly and professional manner, as described in "Dr. Burstein's Rules," which are considered to be a part of this syllabus.

This is an upper level Sociology Class. Following are my expectations of all students in all upper level classes:

- **I expect you to assimilate - to take in and understand - a body of information.**
- **I expect you to synthesize – to combine into a coherent whole – the information you have assimilated.**
- **I expect you to communicate – in writing, speaking, and conversing – your synthesis.**
- **I expect you to integrate – to bring other areas of your curriculum to the party – to create a disciplined, unified intellectual perspective beyond the scope of any one college class, informing your scholarship, your career, and your world view.**

*Your success in my class depends largely on the extent to which you meet these expectations.*

## Advisory

Demography necessarily involves data on topics which may be controversial such as birth control, abortion, health care, immigration, etc. For example, on page 219 of the text, you will read that "Abortion is probably the

single most often used form of birth control in the world, and abortions have played a major role on fertility declines around the world.” **Our interest in a demography class is in actual data and empirical facts. If you are unwilling objectively to review such data while respecting the viewpoints of your colleagues, then you should not enroll in this class.**

## Communication

Your Gordon College email account and Remiond.com, a mass texting service for which you'll sign up by the first day of class, are our “official” means of communication outside of class. You can also opt to receive Remind.com messages by email. You will be penalized one CAP point for each day after the first day of class that you are not signed up for Remind. I will also post readings, assignments, and other resources on Brightspace D2L.

## Office Hours and Getting Help

My office is in Russell 309. During the Fall, 2018, semester, I will maintain the following office hours:

### Through Sept. 21

Monday	11:15-12:00
Tuesday:	11:15-1:30
Wednesday	11:15:12:00
Thursday	11:15:1:30
Friday	9:30-11:30

Please note that I will be leaving campus every day at 2pm through Sept. 21.

### Beginning Sept. 24

Monday:	11:30-12:00; 2:00-3:15
Tuesday	11:15-12:30; 1:15-4:15
Wednesday	11:15:12:00; 2:00-3:15

Priority will be given to students who sign up for an appointment with me at <https://bit.ly/2wBWTYQ> . If, due to class or work conflicts, you are unable to meet with me during scheduled hours, then please make an appointment using either email or phone. If you don't need help, you are still encouraged to come by sometime early in the semester just to introduce yourself.

## Text and Related Material

The required text is John Weeks, *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, 12th edition. For each chapter we cover, I will tell you the specific sections you are required to study. I will assign additional readings which I'll make available on Brightspace D2L. **Yes, you have to do the readings!** The tests and final exam will include assigned material which we don't necessarily discuss in class. My suggestion is that you “peruse” the assigned readings before we discuss them in class and then review them in more detail after our discussion to “fill in the blanks” that we don't discuss in class.

## Technology

We will use Microsoft Excel during the course of the semester. All Gordon State College students have free licenses for Microsoft Office 365, which includes Excel. If you do not have access to Excel at home, then please allot sufficient time in the campus computer facilities to complete your assignments. If you have not yet learned to use Excel, I'll provide you with an appropriate introduction. You should bring a calculator to every class; since we'll rely on Excel for our more complex computational tasks, a simple calculator will do.

## Collaborative Teams

As in all my classes, the classroom will be organized in teams. Teams will be color coded, and as you come in to each class, you will draw, at random, a color coded chip to determine which team you'll work with. That way, you'll get to know lots of different people. There may be instances, however, where a specific activity is continued from one class to the next, in which case you won't switch teams in the continuation class. You will **not** be called upon to get together outside of class, and aside from occasional team activities which contribute toward your CAP account, you'll be graded on an individual basis. Nonetheless, you are expected to participate in team activities and contribute toward the zone's learning experience as best you can.

## Course Requirements and Determination of Final Grade Tests (30 per cent of your final grade)

You are required to take two tests during the semester. Dates of each test will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

**You may be required to leave your personal belongings at the front of the room during tests, both to underscore the importance of academic honesty and to provide a comfortable physical space for taking the test. While I will remain in the room during tests, I cannot be responsible for your personal property. Therefore, you should seriously consider leaving valuable items, especially "attractive" electronic devices either at home or in your car.**

## Final Exam (25 per cent of your final grade)

The Final Exam will count 25 per cent of your final grade and will be *comprehensive*, covering the entire semester's work.

**The Final Exam is Monday, December 3, at 10:15am**

## Option to Substitute a Term Essay the Final Exam

Students who maintain a B average through midterm have the option of substituting a term essay, of 1000-1500 words (approximately 5 pages) for the final exam. **Be aware that this is a harder, more rigorous and time consuming option than studying for and taking the exam; do not choose it merely because you feel you "don't test well."** I offer this option to those of you who are interested in exploring a specific topic in depth, and I encourage you to pursue it. I expect nothing short of excellence! To complete the essay option, the student must meet the following deadlines, all of which are 4pm on the designated dates:

- By **October 18**, the student must meet with me to discuss a paper topic.
- By **October 25**, the student must submit a written paragraph describing the topic.
- By **November 15**, the student must submit a list of sources, a paper outline, and an introductory paragraph for my approval.
- By **November 27**, the final paper, in both printed and electronic form, must be submitted.
- By Monday, **December 4**, the student must have completed a conference with me to discuss the essay.

**Students missing any deadlines will be dropped from the essay option and will take the final exam at 8am on Tuesday, December 5.**

## Georgia County Demographic Profile (25 per cent of your final grade)

You will complete multi-part analytic project, designed to provide you with practical experience in working with demographic data, producing a detailed demographic profile of a Georgia county. Each student will be assigned a unique county at the beginning of the semester. During the semester, you will follow detailed instructions to prepare and submit the following components of your county's demographic profile:

- Introduction and Background
- Basic Measures of Mortality
- Basic Measures of Fertility
- Basic Measures of Migration
- Population Pyramid
- Measures of Population Composition: Education, Income, Labor Force, Ethnicity, etc.

## Integrative Essays (10 per cent of your final grade)

During the course of the semester, you will write two brief essays relating the topics in this class to either your job, your career aspiration, or another class.

## CAP: Contribution, Attitude, Professionalism (15 per cent of your final grade)

You can earn a maximum of 15 per cent of your final grade through classroom participation, special assignments, and other events and activities. At my discretion, I may subtract CAP points for egregious violation of the expectations of our community as stated in this syllabus and in Dr. Burstein's Rules.

## Final Letter Grade:

Note that your total possible grade is 105. Based on the total of your tests, final exam, county demographic profile, and CAP account, your final grade will be determined as follows:

90 or higher	A
80 to 89	B
70 to 79	C
60 to 69	D
under 60	F

**Failure to take the final exam results in a grade of WF, regardless of other performance.**

## Attendance

Our classroom is structured as a cooperative learning community; to which you're expected to contribute. You can't contribute to our community if you're not there. Additionally, you will be responsible for material covered in class, whether it's in the readings or not. **Therefore, I expect you to attend all classes unless you have a compelling reason to miss a class.** In order for me to plan class activities, **I require you to inform me by email before any class that you need to miss. Each class you miss without informing me beforehand will cost 3 points off your final grade. It is your responsibility to sign in on the attendance sheet at each class.** If you do need to miss a class, do not ask me if you missed "something important;" you did! Make sure you know another student who can reliably fill you in on what you missed.

## Academic Catalog

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to all regulations contained in the Gordon State College Catalog.

## Social Media

I frequently come across news pertaining to the various areas I teach and have created a Facebook group to share them with interested students and colleagues. If you're interested, please join the group and feel free to post and comment. This is a closed group. Only Gordon State students and faculty who join the group will see your contributions. You do not have to be my Facebook friend to join the group although you do need a Facebook

account. The name of the group is “Dr. B’s Eccentric Mix: Population, Statistics, Finance, maybe Accounting.” You can request to join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/420437934977184/>.

## Electronic Device Policy

I highly recommend that you take notes “by hand,” as I do. There is a substantial body of research suggesting that you’ll learn much better by doing so: If you do choose to use a laptop, tablet, or any other device for taking notes, however, I won’t stop you. And there will definitely be opportunities in class for you to gather information on the internet; you have a vast resource of information at your fingertips, and you need to learn to use it well. However, please do not use a personal device for any purpose unrelated to our class; it’s distracting to other students. And do not text each other during our class; if you have something to say, raise your hand and say it to all of us. All devices should be silenced. If there is a serious need to leave your cell phone on, such as a family emergency, please put it on vibrate and let me know so that if you have to leave the classroom to take a call, I’ll understand why. I will penalize you in CAP points for misuse of electronic devices.

## Video Policy

I frequently take photographs and make video recordings of our classroom activities. For graded activities, I use these videos to evaluate your work. However, where your performance is especially interesting or outstanding, I often show off your work in several ways:

- I sometimes use the videos as examples of excellent work for my other classes, both present and future.
- I sometimes use the videos as examples in presentations I give of my classroom strategies.
- I sometimes post especially noteworthy videos on my Facebook page and/or for private distribution on YouTube.

I will never post a video which would embarrass you or put you in a bad light. However, if you do not want me to use video recordings of your own work for any or all of these purposes, then please inform me in writing (paper or email), ensuring that you receive a written acknowledgement from me.

## Schedule

My intention starting out is to cover the first ten chapters of the text. However, I recognize that each group of students is unique, and I will try to maintain a pace which is comfortable for those of you making a genuine effort.

## Addendum to Syllabus: Required Wording

**Gordon State College requires all faculty to include the following wording on every syllabus.**

### Title IX

Gordon State College is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. All faculty members at Gordon State College are mandated reporters. Any student reporting any type of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking must be made aware that any report made to a faculty member under the provisions of Title IX will be reported to the Title IX Coordinator or a Title IX Deputy Coordinator. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, you must contact the Counseling and Accessibility Services office, Room 212, Student Life Center. The licensed counselors in the Counseling Office are able to provide confidential support.

Gordon State College does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy, parenting or related conditions. Students seeking accommodations on the basis of pregnancy, parenting or related conditions should contact Counseling and Accessibility Services regarding the process of documenting pregnancy related issues and being approved for accommodations, including pregnancy related absences as defined under Title IX.

### ADA and 504

If you have a documented disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and/or physical accessibility. The Counseling and Accessibility Services office located in the Student Center, Room 212 can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GSC programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, contact Counseling and Accessibility Services at 678-359-5585.