

Demography

Academic Year: (2018 / 2019)

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Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: JUIF , DACIL TANIA

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 3 Semester : 2

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Basic mathematics

OBJECTIVES

SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

CE7 - Understand the main dynamics which generate inequality and its consequences, and comprehend the principles on which equal opportunity policies are based.

CE10 - Be able to discern the differentiating elements in international problems in accordance to the development stages of a country.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- to acquire tools for the analysis of the evolution of population and the understanding of contemporary patterns of fertility, mortality and migration in different historical contexts based on relevant theories and using empirical data.
- to understand the evolution of world population from a historical and contemporary perspective of the main forces behind these events.
- to identify the most probable scenarios for the coming decades based on current demographic trends.
- to acquire conceptual and methodological tools for the analysis of the driving forces of migration in a global context and understanding of the main theories.
- to understand the consequences of aging populations in advanced societies.
- to acquire a general view of population policies in comparative perspective.
- to acquire conceptual and methodological tools for critical evaluation of studies that deal with demography
- Knowledge of databases and training to perform basic demographic analysis.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

Introduction to demography (theory, indicators, methods and data sources) and the analysis of demographic trends and challenges from a global, comparative and historical perspective. The main processes of demographic change: fertility, mortality, migration and urbanization, with special attention to the causes and consequences of these processes. Consequences of demographic change and population policies: population aging and sustainability of the welfare state; overpopulation, environmental and health risks; the processes of urbanization, segregation, spatial diffusion and networks; demography, poverty and economic growth.

1. Introduction to demography
2. Demographic theories: Malthus and the demographic transition
3. Demographic methods
4. Health and mortality transition
5. The fertility transition
6. Migration transition
7. The age transition: challenges of ageing
8. The urban transition
9. Family and household transition
10. Population growth and sustainability

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Lectures
Seminars
Literature study
Individual assignments
Group work

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

% end-of-term-examination/test:	60
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	40

Assignments

Two individual assignments with exercises on basic demographic methods and one group assignment. In addition, students will also be asked to present articles during the seminars. The two individual assignments will not be graded but will be used to determine the overall grade for the course. Students who do not submit the individual assignments in a satisfactory way or who submit them too late will receive a zero. For the group assignment students will carry out a small research project, write a short research paper, and present the final version at the end of the course.

Seminars

Students shall interact during seminar sessions, where we will discuss the previous lecture. Your contribution to these discussions is very important. Students are required to prepare in advance their answers to previously assigned questions for each session. These will be organized and prepared in a way that will add to a lively but also academic debate. When failing to participate, points can be subtracted from the final mark.

Grade

Your grade will be determined on the basis of a) a written exam (60%) with open and multiple-choice questions and b) the evaluation of individual and group assignments and presentations (40%).

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Weeks, John R. Population. An introduction to concepts and issues, Cengage Learning, 2015