COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This is a survey course in techniques that are widely used in demographic analysis. These include techniques that describe population structure, analyze demographic dynamics and evaluate demographic data. In addition, many of the analytic skills and techniques stressed throughout the course have more general applicability in social science research. The aim of the course is to acquaint you with the nature and structure of a variety of techniques and to provide you with experience in applying these techniques to substantive problems.

By the end of this course, students will:
- Develop expertise in calculating and interpreting a wide range of demographic rates and measures reflecting population structure and population change.
- Develop a broad understanding of international demographic trends and patterns.
- Develop expertise in locating, evaluating and analyzing sources of demographic data.
- Develop expertise with EXCEL, for both calculations and graphical presentations.

PRE-REQUISITES:
This course assumes that students have completed at least one upper level course in Demography, such as SOCY 410, 412 or 498D. These courses provide important background for many of the methods and techniques covered in the course. This course is, by its very nature, quantitative, and it therefore assumes that students are comfortable with basic algebra and simple calculus, and also have a basic understanding of EXCEL. Although specific knowledge of statistics is not necessary for learning most demographic techniques, I assume that students have successfully completed SOCY 201 (or an equivalent introductory statistics course). For some of you, an introductory calculus book that contains a brief algebra review might be a useful reference.

TEXTS:
There is 1 required text for this course (Demographic Methods and Concepts by Donald T. Rowland), and it should be available for purchase at the University Book Center. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE OBTAINING THIS BOOK!! Additional readings will be available on the Canvas course site.

CANVAS:
Information and materials for this course will be available on CANVAS. You can access our site by going to www.elms.umd.edu and signing in with your directory ID. All homework and term papers will be submitted through Canvas, so, with few a exceptions, this will be a paperless course.
FORMAT:
Although none of the demographic methods covered in this course is particularly complex or sophisticated, **this is not an easy course!** Students are expected to "teach themselves" the different methods by completing the written assignments and preparing for the exams. Of course, there will be a variety of resources available including lectures and handouts, the textbook and readings, and office hours with both Professor Kahn and Rachel Guo (your T.A.). Because this course is cumulative and much of the material is only presented in class (and not in the textbook), **class attendance is required.** Students will find it very difficult to keep up without coming to class on a regular basis. Moreover, 5% of the final grade will be a reflection of student attendance and participation.

HOMEWORK:
There will be 8 homework assignments during the semester, each due on a specified date (see below), and all requiring you to use EXCEL. The Rowland textbook has especially good instructions for using EXCEL for demographic applications. Homework assignments will be available on Canvas, along with a template (in EXCEL) to help you organize your work. **Late assignments will be tolerated only under extreme circumstances (please contact your TA if you run into time issues).**

FINAL PROJECT: **Due May 10**
The final project will be an extensive demographic analysis of one country’s growth patterns, including a population projection for the year 2050. The project will culminate in a final paper (not to exceed 20 pages) as well as a group presentation. Groups will be formed early in the semester based on the regions represented by the countries selected by class members, and groups will be encouraged to work together to develop a coherent “regional” story of demographic change.

The paper should include an historical assessment of the components of population growth throughout the period since the country started to pass through the Demographic Transition. The analysis should be based on a combination of the student’s assessment of the published literature on the subject, an evaluation of existing data sources, and also a cohort component projection to the year 2050, **estimated by the student** (not a published source) using methods learned in the course.

EXAMS:
**Mid-term** Wednesday, October 22  
**Final** Wednesday, December 17, 1:30-3:30
The exams are "closed-book," however, you will be permitted to bring 1 page of notes (i.e., a “cheat-sheet”) with formulae, definitions, etc.

GRADING:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>Term Paper Project &amp; Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
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There will be no Incompletes. Students must complete ALL required work in order to get credit for this course.
Letter grades will be assigned using the following guidelines:

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>F</th>
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<td>70-79</td>
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COURSE POLICIES:

Office Hours: My office hours are on Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 or by appointment. The best way to contact me is by email (jkahn@umd.edu).

Personal Technology: Cell phones are to be turned off. Laptops and tablets may be used for note-taking and looking up topics during class, but not for social networking during class time!

Special Needs: Please inform me during the first 2 weeks of class if you have a documented disability and require accommodation with any aspect of the class and test-taking. To receive such accommodation, you must be registered with Disability Support Services (DSS).

Missing Class: I strongly discourage you from missing class as it will adversely affect your participation grade and overall performance in the class. However, if you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what material you have missed and to make it up. According to university policy, you are permitted one self-signed medical excuse per course per semester.

If you must miss class due to religious observance, participation in university activities at the request of University authorities, or compelling circumstances beyond your control, please inform me in writing within the first 2 weeks of class or as soon as you know about your upcoming absence.

Academic Integrity: The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. Students may not cheat on exams, plagiarize papers, buy papers, submit fraudulent documents or forge signatures. Plagiarizing means to communicate someone else’s ideas as if they are your own (including failing to cite a book or article used for a paper). Furthermore, students are not permitted to submit the same paper for credit in two different courses. Faculty members who suspect or witness acts of academic dishonesty are required to contact the Student Honor council and the Office of Judicial Programs. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit [http://www.studenthonor council.umd.edu/whatis.html](http://www.studenthonor council.umd.edu/whatis.html).
### TOPICS/READINGS TO BE COVERED AND TENTATIVE TIME SCHEDULE:

Note: DR refers to the Donald Rowland text. * indicates that the article or chapter is available on Canvas.

#### I. Introduction to Demography and Sources of Demographic Data (Sept. 3-8)
- DR Chapter 1

  ➢ EXCEL Tutorial (due @ noon on Monday Sept. 8)

#### II. Measuring Population Growth (Sept. 10-12)
- DR Chapter 2

#### III. Aging and Age Structure (Sept. 17)
- DR Chapter 3

  ➢ HW#1: Growth Rates (DUE @ noon on Fri., Sept. 19)

#### IV. Measuring Mortality (Sept. 22-24)
- DR Chapter 6

  ➢ HW#2: Age Structure (DUE @ noon on Fri., Sept.26*)

*Students observing Rosh Hashanah may turn in HW#2 by noon on Mon., Sept. 29. Please inform your TA if you will be turning in a late HW

#### V. Standardization (Sept. 29-Oct. 1)
- *Palmore & Gardner, chapter 2 (pp. 9-30)

  ➢ Select the country for your project by Oct. 1
  ➢ HW#3: Mortality (DUE @ noon on Fri., Oct. 3)

#### VI. The Life Table (Oct. 8-20)
- DR Chapter 8
  - *Palmore & Gardner Chapter 2 (pp. 35-61)

  ➢ HW#4: Standardization (DUE @ noon on Fri. Oct. 10)
  ➢ HW#5: Life Tables (DUE @ noon on Weds., Oct. 15)

#### MIDTERM EXAM (Oct. 22)

#### VII. Measuring Fertility (Oct. 27-29)
- DR Chapter 7

  ➢ A 3-5 page summary of your country’s demographic history, including its progress through the Demographic Transition, is due on Canvas at noon on Friday, October 31. This summary should include “annotated” bibliography including 5-10 references relevant to your country's demographic history/situation.
**VIII. Migration**  
(Nov. 3-5)  
DR Chapter 11  

- **HW#6: Fertility** (DUE @ noon on Fri., Nov. 7)  
- **HW#7: Migration** (DUE @ noon on Fri., Nov. 14)

**IX. Projections**  
(Nov. 10-17)  
DR Chapter 12  

**X. Population Distributions**  
(Nov. 19-24)  
DR Chapter 10  

- **HW#8: Projections** (DUE @ noon on Fri., Nov. 21)  
- **NOTE: There will be no class on Weds., Nov. 26: Happy Thanksgiving!**

**XI. Marriage, Families and Households**  
(Dec. 1-3)  

- **Final Papers due Dec. 10**  
- **Student Presentations of Final Projects on Dec. 5 and Dec. 10**  
- **Final Exam, Wednesday, December 17, 1:30-3:30**