The University Of Toledo

Existing Graduate Course Modification Form

* denotes required fields

Contact Person*: Aliaksandr Amialchuk Phone: (xxx - xxxx) Email:

Present

Supply all information asked for in this column. (Supply core, research intensive and transfer module info if applicable)

College*: College Lang, Lit, and Soc Sci
Dept/Academic Unit*: Economics
Course Alpha/Numeric*: ECON - 5050

Course Title: Population Economics
Credit hours: Fixed: 3 or Variable: to
Cross Listings:

To add a course, type in course ID and click the Insert button.
To remove a course, select the course on left and click the Remove button.

Prerequisite(s)(if longer than 50 characters, please place it in Catalog Description):

Corequisite(s)(if longer than 50 characters, please place it in Catalog Description):

Proposed

Fill in appropriate blanks only where entry differs from first column.

College: --Select a College--
Dept/Academic Unit: --Select a Department--
Course Alpha/Numeric:

Course Title:
Credit Hours: Fixed: 4 or Variable: to
Cross Listings:

To add a course, type in course ID and click the Insert button.
To remove a course, select the course on left and click the Remove button.

Prerequisite(s)(if longer than 50 characters, please place it in Catalog Description):

Corequisite(s)(if longer than 50 characters, please place it in Catalog Description):
Has course content changed?

- Yes
- No

If course content is changed, give a brief topical outline of the revised course below (less than 200 words)

This will allow the instructor to teach the topics to the graduate level students at more advanced level. This will include more rigorous coverage of the academic literature and theories, teaching statistical methods and tools for data analysis; and teaching organization and implementation of a research project.

Proposed effective term*: 201640 (e.g. 201140 for 2011 Fall)
Rationale:

Approval:

Department Curriculum Authority: Olugbenga Ajilore Date 2016/03/24

Department Chairperson: Dowd, Michael Date 2017/01/27

College Curriculum Authority or Chair: David Black Date 2017/04/14

College Dean: Barbara Schneider Date 2017/07/24

Graduate Council: Andrea Kalinoski (GC 10.31.2017) Date 2017/11/02

Dean of Graduate Studies: Amanda C. Bryant-Friedrich Date 2017/11/02

Office of the Provost:

Administrative Use Only

Effective Date: (YYYY/MM/DD)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIP Code:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsidy Taxonomy:</td>
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<td>Program Code:</td>
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<td>Instructional Level:</td>
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**Registrar's Office Use Only**

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<td>Banner Course Title:</td>
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Population Economics  
(ECON 5050:001)  
Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Aliaksandr Amialchuk  
Lectures: UH 4150, TR 2:00 pm-3:15 pm; R 3:20 pm-4:10 pm (plus an additional hour for graduate students – time TBD)  
Office hours: TR 10:45 am-12:30 pm, T 3:15-4:45 pm  
Office Phone: 419-530-4754  
E-mail: Aliaksandr.Amialchuk@utoledo.edu  
Class website: Blackboard 9.1: https://blackboard.utdl.edu

Required textbook:  

Recommended textbooks:  

Course description  
This course introduces to the central substantive issues in the fields of population and demography from the economic perspective. It illustrates how economic models can be used to analyze demographic phenomena and how we can use econometric methods to test the empirical implications of these models. Classes will focus on selected subset of topics and readings.

The course is aimed at introducing students to methodology for structured and analytical examination of the issues rather than a simple review of the issues. After each topic is presented (mainly based on a microeconomic consumer demand theory), we will review empirical papers and econometric methods used to investigate this topic. Our focus will be on the ways of dealing with methodological issues that arise when doing research on population and family economics. In particular, it is important to identify causal effect and avoid biases that can arise from unobserved heterogeneity and various behavioural responses. To this end, our objective will be to prepare for research in population economics. Therefore, one of the requirements of the course is a term paper. Potential questions for research will be discussed as we cover each topic.

The course will start with a brief introduction of the history of population. We will then look at theories and empirical evidence for the demographic transition, the transition from high mortality and high fertility to low mortality and low fertility. Then we will cover topics that include fertility, mortality, health and nutrition, investment in education, the intra-household allocation of resources, household structure and marriage, migration, the effect of population aging, and others. All required readings and PDF lecture slides will be posted on the Blackboard.

An additional hour-long session for graduate students will cover the topics at more advanced level and will cover theories in greater detail; will teach statistical methods and tools for data analysis; and cover organization and implementation of a research project.

Student learning objectives in ECON 5050 Population Economics:

a) Being able to identify central substantive issues in the field of population and demography from the economic perspective.

b) Being able to compute key mortality statistics (mortality rate, life expectancy, and other)

c) Being able to apply microeconomic consumer demand theory to understand how economic and non-economic factors influence demographic variables.

d) Being able to select appropriate statistical tools necessary to identify causal effect of economic factors on demographic variables.
Students will demonstrate their knowledge in these areas via examinations, term papers, referee reports and presentations.

**Grading**
The course grade will be determined based on the following activities. The weights of these activities in the final grade are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take-home Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referee Report (graduate)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Exams**
There will be two non-cumulative take-home exams. Students will be given four days to answer the exam questions. Different versions of the exams will be administered to 4000 and 5000 sections. 20% of exam points will be subtracted for each day the exam is late.

**Term Paper and Proposal:**
Before starting the term paper, students are required to submit a proposal for the paper. Proposal writing develops valuable skills towards becoming a researcher. The proposal should be between 1-3 pages long. **Hard copies of the proposals are due in class on February 22nd.** Late or emailed submissions will not be accepted. **Failure to submit the proposal bears a penalty of 20% of the term paper grade.**

The purpose of term paper is to develop analytical skills and the ability to independently examine issues by using the knowledge acquired in class. You are expected to make term paper based on substantive material learned in class, and the use of economic logic and methodology. Credit will be assessed for creative application of economic reasoning. However, **little or no credit will be given for arguments that are superficial or political in nature.** In short, your paper will be judged for its analytical rigor, application of economics, creative arguments and independence of examination.

**Term papers are due in class on April 25th.** Term paper should have a maximum length of 20 pages, including graphs, tables, references, and notes. Term paper should be formatted as follows: **12 pt font** (except in tables and graphs) with **1.5 line spacing. No late submissions will be allowed. You must submit a printed copy of your term paper, emailed copy will not be accepted.** I will distribute a detailed guideline on how to write the term paper later in the course.

**Referee Report:**
One of the most important skills that you learn in school is how to critically read a research paper. It is hard to make your own contribution until you are able to recognize the contribution of others. We will practice writing a referee report for a journal to learn these skills. You are free to choose the paper that you want to write the referee report on. However **the paper has to be approved by me first. The referee report is due in class on paper on March 21st.** It is strongly advised not to wait until the submission deadline to select your paper. I will provide you with a sample referee report later in the course.

You will also have the **option of not writing the referee report** and its weight shifted towards your term paper. The term paper will be worth **45%** if you choose not to write the referee report. **Graduate students (5000-level) do not have this option.**

**Presentation:**
You will also have to prepare a 10-15 minute presentation. You may present either your term paper or the paper you wrote your referee report on. **Two weeks before the last week of classes, you will have to announce your presentation topic and sign up for one of the presentation time slots (April 25th and 27th).**
Missed exam policy
Absences and extensions of deadlines are permitted only for circumstances of personal emergencies (death in the family or illness), religious observances, participation in University sponsored activities (athletics or artistic performances), or government-required activities (jury duty). Written documentation of the circumstance (such as doctor’s note) must be provided to me in advance (except in emergency) in writing or via e-mail in order to be excused. You are strongly advised to discuss absences with the instructor at least a week ahead of the exam or due date so that an early make-up exam can be arranged and submission date extended. Refer to the UT Missed Class Policy at http://www.utoledo.edu/fac senate/missed_class_policy.html.

How to succeed in this course
The best way to learn economics is through practice. It is not enough to do some shallow reading and quick memorizing before the exams. Active involvement in classes and working on problems are the best way to succeed in this course. Make every effort to not miss lectures, take good notes, and work on the material covered in classes. A very strong correlation between learning, performance and attendance exists. Read the assigned materials ahead of time and come prepared to class with questions. Take advantage of the office hours to discuss any questions about the lectures and your term paper.

Accessibility
If needed, consult the university policy on accessibility and/or see the Office of Accessibility (http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/accessibility/).

Academic Honesty
This course requires personal integrity and academic honesty. Academic dishonesty will be enforced according to the University’s “Policy statement on Academic Dishonesty” in the current catalog. Read it online at: http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/dishonesty.html.

Important deadlines
Exam 1: TBA
Exam 2: TBA
Proposal Submission – February 22nd, in class
Referee Report Submission – March 21st, in class
Term Paper Submission – April 25th, in class
Presentation – April 25th and 27th

Tentative Course Outline*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Overview of the History of Population</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Mortality</td>
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<td>4-5</td>
<td>The Fertility Transition</td>
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<td>6-9</td>
<td>Economic Theories of Fertility</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
<td>Migration</td>
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<td>12-13</td>
<td>Marriage and Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>Health and Well-Being</td>
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* See Reading List for a complete set of required and recommended readings