



**Stockholm  
University**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

## **Course Syllabus: Population Development and Social Change**

### **1. General information**

The course consists of 7.5 ECTS credits and is at advanced level in Demography.

### **2. Decision**

The syllabus is approved by the head of Department on behalf of the board of the Department of Sociology at Stockholm University as of May 2007.

### **3. Entrance qualifications**

Course applicants should have completed 90 ECTS credits (60p) in the social sciences, gender studies, or history.

### **4. Course organization**

The course is provided at full time during 4-5 weeks. Course participants meet around three times per week. Two half-week periods are devoted to independent examination work.

### **5. Course contents**

The course offers an introduction to demography, i.e., to the field of population studies. It introduces students to the discipline and its theory, methods, and sources of data. Important societal issues related to population development, population structure (including population ageing), and population policy are studied both from a historical and a contemporary perspective. The course covers international issues in demography (relevant to rich and poor countries) as well as issues that are specific to Sweden.

### **6. Learning outcome**

After accomplishing this course, participants are expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge and understanding:

- Describe and explain basic demographic terms.
- Provide an overview of main issues of population developments in Sweden.
- Describe and explain the most common demographic methods and identify data sources that demographers commonly use. The student should also be able to discuss the advantages and shortcomings of different data sources.
- Compare different demographic perspectives as they appear in the literature and describe how they have been applied in demographic studies.

- Provide an overview of global population developments in historical and contemporary perspectives and discuss main forces behind these developments.
- Identify and discuss problems arising from population ageing.
- Provide an overview of Swedish population policies and analyze different approaches to population issues that exist internationally.

In terms of accomplishment and competence:

- Write and present shorter scientific texts with demographic contents and policy relevance.

In terms of values and evaluation:

- Critically review demographic data and literature relevant for a particular research question.

## **7. Instruction and examination**

The course is given by means of lectures and seminars, with scope for interaction and student presentations. Examination contains a written and an oral part. The oral part comprises participation in general discussions as well as participation and presentation at two course seminars. Grades are “pass” and “not pass”. The latter grade can be upgraded by means of delivery of an acceptable written presentation. The course is completed by means of written home exam, amounting to independent work on essays on a set of demographic questions. Questions are addressed with written text of around 1,500 words per question and the purpose to demonstrate that the course participant has fulfilled learning outcomes under point 6 above.

The home exam is evaluated according to the following grades:

A = Excellent. This grade is given when the student in his or her work produces innovative ideas to specific questions, synthesizes them to a higher analytical level, and provides a very relevant, critical, well formulated and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific questions.

B = Very good. This grade is given when the student in his or her work synthesizes ideas at a high analytical level, and provides a relevant, thorough, critical, well formulated and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific questions.

C = Good. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a relevant, thorough, critical, well formulated and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific questions.

D = Satisfactory. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a relevant and accurate review of the topic he or she addresses.

E = Sufficient. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides an accurately formulated but not entirely relevant review of the topic he or she addresses.

Fx = Insufficient. This grade is given when the student has not addressed all questions or in his or her work provides a limited and/or only partly relevant review of the topic he or she addresses.

F = Fail. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a limited and irrelevant review of the topic he or she addresses.

E is needed to pass the course. Fx indicates that the student is offered the opportunity to upgrade his or her exam. Students with grade F or Fx are entitled to take another exam as long as the course is provided in order to achieve grade E at least. A student with E is not entitled to another examination to raise his or her grade.

## **8. Literature**

Course literature is specified in Appendix 1

Teaching schedule is specified in Appendix 2

## APPENDIX 1

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

### Population Development and Social Change (7.5 ECTS credits)

#### *Main literature*

Weeks, John. 2012. *An Introduction to Population*. Eleventh edition, International Edition. Belmont CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

Livi-Bacci, Massimo. 2012. *A Concise History of World Population*. Fifth edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

#### *Sweden-specific literature*

Hofsten, Erland. 1982. *Demografins grunder*. Lund: Studentlitteratur. (Only mandatory for Swedish-speaking students who need to be introduced to Swedish demographic terminology. Off-print is sold at the Sociology Student Office.)

Öberg, Sture and Springfield, Peter. 1991. *The Population*. The National Atlas of Sweden.

#### *Further readings*

Andersson, Gunnar. 2007. A review of policies and practices related to the “highest-low” fertility of Sweden. *Stockholm Research Reports in Demography, SRRD* 2007:1. Available [www.suda.su.se](http://www.suda.su.se)

Behr, Michelle. 2006. An American in Berlin: reflections on the German demographic challenge, immigration, and national identity. *Population Research and Policy Review* 25(5-6): 465-477.

Bengtsson, Tommy. 2003. The need for looking far back in time when predicting future mortality trends. pp. 87-97 in Bengtsson, T. and Keilman, N. (Eds), *Perspectives on Mortality Forecasting*. Social Insurance Studies, No1. Swedish National Social Insurance Board.

<http://www.fk.se/sprak/eng/publications/dokument/sis0312.pdf>

Bengtsson, Tommy and Kirk Scott. 2011. Population aging and the future of the welfare state: The example of Sweden. *Population and Development Review* 37 (Supplement): 158-170.

Bledsoe, Caroline. 2004. Reproduction at the margins: migration and legitimacy in the New Europe. *Demographic Research*, Special Collection 3(4). Available at <http://www.demographic-research.org>.

Bloom, David and Jeffrey Williamson. 1998. Demographic transitions and economic miracles in emerging Asia. *The World Bank Economic Review* 12(3): 419-55.

Finkle, Jason and Alison McIntosh. 2002. United Nations Population Conferences: Shaping the policy agenda for the twenty-first century. *Studies in Family Planning* 33(1): 11-23.

Goldscheider, Frances. 1990. The aging of the gender revolution: What do we know and what do we need to know? *Research on Aging* 12(4): 531-545.

- Hagestad, G. and P. Uhlenberg. 2006. Should we be concerned about age segregation? Some theoretical and empirical explorations. *Research on Aging* 28(6): 638-653.
- Hesketh, Therese and Zhu Wei Xing. 2006. Abnormal sex ratios in human populations: Causes and consequences. *PNAS* 103(36): 13271-13275. Available [www.pnas.org](http://www.pnas.org)
- MacKellar, Landis. 1997. Population and fairness. *Population and Development Review* 23(2): 359-374.
- McDonald, Peter. 2006. Low fertility and the state: the efficacy of policy. *Population and Development Review* 32(3): 485-510.
- McNicoll, Geoffrey. 2006. Policy lessons of the East Asian demographic transition. *Population and Development Review* 32(1): 1-25.
- Meinow, B., M. Parker, I. Kåreholt, and M. Thorslund. 2006. Complex health problems in the oldest old in Sweden 1992-2002. *European Journal of Ageing* 3: 98-106.
- Merrick, Thomas. 2002. Population and poverty: New views on an old controversy. *International Family Planning Perspectives* 28(1): 41-45.
- Oláh, L. and E. Bernhardt, 2008. Sweden: Combining childbearing and gender equality. *Demographic Research* 19(28): 1105-1144. Available at <http://www.demographic-research.org>.
- Schröder, Lena. 2007. From problematic objects to resourceful subjects: An overview of immigrant-native labour market gaps from a policy perspective. *Swedish Economic Policy Review* 14: 7-31. Available at: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/9983/a/97618>
- Sjögren Lindquist, G. and E. Wadensjö. 2009. Retirement, pensions and work in Sweden. *The Geneva Papers* 34:578-590.

***Re-prints*** (Sold at the Sociology Student Office.)

- Bengtsson, Tommy and Rolf Ohlsson. 1994. The demographic transition revised. Pp. 13, 17-24, and 28-33. In T. Bengtsson (ed): *Population, Economy and Welfare in Sweden*. Berlin: Springer Verlag.
- Boserup, Ester. 1981. *Population and Technological Change*. Pp 3-7. The University of Chicago Press.
- Malthus, T. 1992/1803. *An Essay on the Principles of Population*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp 13-19 and 21-28.
- Lutz, Wolfgang et al. 2004. *The End of World Population Growth*. Earthscan: pp 3-9 and 28-35.

## APPENDIX 2

### COURSE SCHEDULE FALL 2012 – Population Development and Social Change

Please, observe the changes of lecture rooms!

The new rooms are written in bold letters. The rooms Y21 and Y23 are located in the Geo science house, a green building close to the T-bana entrance.

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Room</u> | <u>Topic</u>                           |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Mon        | 3 Sep       | 13-15       | F347        | Introduction, GA                       |
| Tue        | 4 Sep       | 10-12       | D271        | Population development in Sweden, AZ   |
| Thu        | 6 Sep       | 15-17       | B497        | Intro to demographic methods, GA       |
| Fri        | 7 Sep       | 13-15       | <b>D220</b> | Demographic data, GA                   |
| Tue        | 11 Sep      | 12-14       | <b>Y21</b>  | Demographic perspectives, SB           |
| Thu        | 13 Sep      | 15-17       | D207        | Population development globally, SB    |
| Fri        | 14 Sep      | 12-14       | F389        | Population structures, SB              |
| Thu        | 20 Sep      | 15-17       | B315        | Population and environment, GN         |
| Fri        | 21 Sep      | 13-15       | <b>Y23</b>  | Spatial demography & urbanization, JÖ  |
| Mon        | 24 Sep      | 13-15       | <b>D299</b> | Population policy, GN                  |
| Wed        | 26 Sep      | 13-15       | <b>Y21</b>  | Seminar: Population ageing, SB         |
| Thu        | 27 Sep      | 12-14       | <b>D299</b> | Population policy in Sweden, AZ        |
| Fri        | 28 Sep      | 16-18       | <b>B315</b> | Seminar: International pop. policy, GN |

First part of Exam to be delivered Wed 19 Sep

Second part of Exam to be delivered Wed 3 Oct

## Course Overview

| Topic                                    | Literature  |     | Teacher            |
|--|---|-----|--------------------|
| Introduction                             | Weeks Chap 1 (29p)<br>Hofsten Chap 0 (10p)  | 40  | Gunnar Andersson   |
| Population development in Sweden         | Öberg & Springfeld (pp 6-55 and 138-169)  | 80  | Ann-Zofie Duvander |
| Demographic methods                      | Hofsten, Chap 1 and parts of Chap 2 (40p); Weeks Chap 4 (35p)   | 75  | Gunnar Andersson   |
| Demographic data                         | Weeks Chap 4 (35p)  |     | Gunnar Andersson   |
| Demographic perspectives                 | Weeks Chap 3 (41p)<br>Malthus (15p), Boserup (5p), Bengtsson&Ohlsson (15p), Livi-Bacci Ch 3 (30p),  | 105 | Sunnee Billingsley |
| Population development globally          | Weeks Chap 2 (36p)<br>Livi-Bacci Chap 2, 4, 5 (150p)  | 185 | Sunnee Billingsley |
| Population structure and ageing          | Weeks Chap 8 (44p)  | 45  | Sunnee Billingsley |
| Population and environment               | Weeks Chap 11 (50p)<br>Lutz (15p)<br>Livi-Bacci Chap 6 (50p)  | 115 | Gerda Neyer        |
| Spatial demography / Urbanization        | Weeks Chap 9 (38p)<br>Öberg & Springfeld (pp 76-99)   | 60  | John Östh          |
| Population policy                        | Weeks Chap 12 (36p)   | 35  | Gerda Neyer        |
| Seminar: Population ageing               | Bengtsson&Scott (15p)<br>Bloom (30) Goldscheider (15)<br>Bengtsson (10) Meinow et al. (8)<br>Hesketh and Zhu (4)<br>Hagestad & Uhlenberg (12) | 95  | Sunnee Billingsley |
| Population policy in Sweden              | Schröder (20p) Sjögren (12p)<br>Bengtsson&Scott (15p)<br>Andersson (15p)<br>Oláh&Bernhardt (40p)  | 100 | Ann-Zofie Duvander |
| Seminar: International population policy | Finkle (13p), MacKellar (15p)<br>Merrick (5p), McNicoll (25p)<br>Bledsoe (30p), McDonald (25p)<br>Behr (12p)                                  | 120 | Gerda Neyer        |

