Syllabus

Instructors
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Contents
Course at advanced level, aims to develop students’ analytical and interpretative skills by familiarizing them with basic concepts and measures of mortality, fertility and migration as well as with basic demographic methods, including the life table, standardization, and population forecasting. Such knowledge is essential for work with statistical materials on populations.

Organization
The course is provided at full-time basis over five weeks. Teaching is conducted through compulsory lectures, seminars, and classroom and home exercises. Participants meet four times a week (two lectures and two seminars in the computer laboratory) for about four weeks. Nearly a week will be available to prepare the independent take-home exam.

Learning outcomes
Upon the completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge and understanding:
- Be familiar with data sources applied in demographic research;
- Link theory and demographic methods that are appropriate for a specific demographic research question;
- Interpret and explain demographic data, including qualitative and quantitative research results and discuss their validity.

In terms of accomplishments and competence:
- Use basic demographic measures and indices to describe the features, changes and trends of a population, and do proper comparison between populations;
- Use basic demographic analytical techniques in own empirical analyses;
- Make proper diagrams and tables to present results;
- Correctly refer to original demographic data to prove own arguments;
- Apply demographic techniques to substantive problems.
In terms of attitudes and values:

- Search for, compare and critically review demographic data relevant for a particular research question;
- Compare and evaluate basic methods used in research on demographic questions.

Assessment and examination
The assessment of course work includes class-room and home exercises as well as a take-home exam. All exercises need to be completed before the final exam. The student’s achievement is evaluated according to the following criterion-referenced assessment:

**A** = Excellent. To achieve this grade, the student needs to demonstrate a high degree of independence during the course and high ability to identify appropriate approaches to demographic data. Her/his work should prove excellence in handling demographic data and methods and show much analytical strength.

**B** = Very good. To achieve this grade, the student needs to demonstrate very good ability to identify appropriate approaches to demographic data and in applying demographic methods to such data. Her/his work should prove of analytical strength.

**C** = Good. To achieve this grade, the student needs to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the demographic approach, as well as good ability to evaluate demographic data. Her/his work should prove of good skills to link theory and empirical material in order to study demographically relevant issues.

**D** = Satisfactory. To achieve this grade, the student needs to demonstrate good knowledge of the methods covered in the course, but s/he may need occasional help to apply them to empirical analysis.

**E** = Sufficient. To achieve this grade, the student needs to demonstrate basic knowledge of the methods covered in the course, but s/he needs help to apply her/his knowledge in own empirical work.

**Fx** = Not sufficient. To achieve this grade, the student needs to demonstrate general understanding of the main topics covered in the course, while showing gaps in her/his ability to master demographic methods and apply them to data.

**F** = Fail.

Students with grade Fx or F at an exam 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/her degree.

Students who received grade Fx or F on exams twice from the same examiner can request to be evaluated by another examiner. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

Students can request to have examination according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it has stopped to be valid. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.
Literature

The course literature consists of two compendiums and selected book chapters to be purchased at the Student Office of the Department of Sociology and a number of relevant articles to be downloaded from internet / the SU e-library. The book by J. Weeks is available at the Academy bookstore.

Literature list

Main literature


Additional readings on fertility analysis


Additional readings on life-table estimation

Readings on population projections


Readings on stochastic population projections


Non-compulsory readings

Methods Volume


Population projections

STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY  
Department of Sociology  

_Schedule: Basic demographic methods, 7.5 ECTS-credits, fall semester 2009_

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Sep 28.</td>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Introduction (data sources, basic measures I)</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sep 29.</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 1: Excel + basic measures</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>Oct 1.</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Basic measures II, Lexis diagram</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Oct 2.</td>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 2: Basic measures II</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Oct 5.</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Standardization</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Oct 6.</td>
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<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 3: Standardization</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>Oct 8.</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Life tables I</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Oct 9.</td>
<td>13-16</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 4: Life tables I</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Oct 12.</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Life tables II; Stable population</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Oct 13.</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 5: Life tables II</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
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<td>Fertility analysis</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 6: Fertility measures</td>
<td>Ying Hong</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
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<td>Applied life tables in fam. dynamics</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
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<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 7: Family dynamics</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Oct 23.</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Stochastic population projection</td>
<td>Gustaf Strandell</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>Oct 26.</td>
<td>13-16</td>
<td>B 389</td>
<td>Exercise 8: Projections</td>
<td>G. Andersson</td>
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Submission deadline for home exam: _Sunday November 1 by 12 P.M. (24:00) at the latest_.  
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