Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe
7.5 ECTS credits

Teacher: Gerda Neyer

Course at advanced level for students who want an introduction to contemporary research on fertility and family dynamics in Europe. The course is offered within the multidisciplinary Master’s program in Demography at Stockholm University. It provides an overview of recent theory and research on changes and dynamics in family demographic behavior in Europe. With its variation in cultural, political, economic, and institutional settings, Europe is the ideal place to test various hypotheses on the causes and consequences of family demographic change in economically developed societies. The recent transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, and the increasing importance of international migration have added to the variety of demographic dynamics of the continent. The seminar series cover changes in living arrangements, union dynamics, and childbearing; causes and consequences of family-demographic change; relationships between social policy and family-demographic change; and transnational vital events and family dynamics in the course of international migration. Particular attention is devoted to comparative research within Europe.

The course is provided at full time during weeks 35 to 38, 2011.
Course Syllabus: Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe

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 September 2008.

3. Entrance qualifications

Course applicants should have completed the introductory demographic courses of the Master’s program in Demography, or other suitable courses in the field.

4. Course organization

The course is provided at full time during 4 weeks. Course participants meet twice a week for lectures and discussion of literature. Examination is done by means of active participation in discussion and by the writing of an independent course paper.

5. Course contents

Course at advanced level for students who want an introduction to contemporary research on fertility and family dynamics in Europe. The course provides an overview of recent theory and research on changes and dynamics in family demographic behavior in Europe. The seminar series cover changes in living arrangements and union dynamics; changes in childbearing dynamics; causes and consequences of family-demographic change; relationships between social policy and family-demographic change; and transnational vital events and family dynamics in the course of international migration. Particular attention is devoted to comparative research within Europe.

6. Learning outcome

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

In terms of knowledge and understanding:

- Identify innovative topics of research on family dynamics in Europe

In terms of accomplishment and competence:
Formulate a research question that can be addressed by means of making references to existing demographic literature in Europe
Formulate a research question that can be addressed by taking advantage of the variation in contexts across countries in Europe
Adress a research question related to some aspect of family dynamics in Europe by reviewing the most relevant literature on it

In terms of values and evaluation:

- Critically evaluate different approaches to family demographic research by researchers from different disciplines and by researchers from different countries in Europe and North America

7. Instruction and examination

Course work and examination consist of discussion of lecture contents and the writing of a course paper on a topic related to the course contents. The course work is evaluated according to the following degrees:

A = Excellent. This grade is given when the student in his or her work produces innovative ideas to specific research question(s), 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 research question(s).

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 research question(s).

C = Good. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a relevant, thorough, critical, well written and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific research question(s).

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 focused review of the topic he or she addresses.

Fx = Insufficient. This grade is given when the student 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 another examination 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 degree.

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1 12-15 pages written text, excluding references etc., formatted in 1.5 line space.
8. Literature

Introduction


Diversity across Europe


SDT


The “New Europe”


Transnational family dynamics


Social policy and demographic behavior


For the writing of a final course paper, participants are expected to locate own suitable literature.

9. Course Schedule Fall 2011 – Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>1 Sept</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>Diversity across Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>6 Sept</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>SDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>8 Sept</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>The “New Europe”</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>Transnational family dynamics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>15 Sept</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>Social policy and demographic behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>20 Sept</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>21 Sept</td>
<td>B900</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
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Meeting times: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10.00 – 11.45

Student papers due: 27 September 2011