Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Learned how demographers study population
How demographers think about population changes, composition, and interactions with other factors. I also learned how to write a good succinct summary of a reading.
I got better at figuring out what population data means and also learned how to make stats models to make sense of trends in demographics.
A continuation from last quarter and how the population is affected by certain events. Went a bit more into modern society and wealth distribution.
Demographic tools such as: lifetables, standardization techniques, lexis diagrams and cohort analysis. Discussions about population issues such as inequality, segregation, fertility rates and migration.
I think the course was a good mix of theory, quantitative tools, and case studies. I feel like I took away several concrete skills while also learning to think more critically about population issues.

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
The readings and assignments aligned together
I think the readings were very interesting and I wish we had more time to just read, instead of having a written product due almost every class. I think the excel work we did was almost entirely pointless; they didn't help me learn the formulas. I was also very disappointed in the coverage of quantitative topics, as our professor would often interpret graphs in ways that just didn't make sense (eg. saying that an exponential graph showed an increasing *rate* of growth) or talking about factors that influence others in ways that were entirely unsupported and also didn't track with history, which just felt like a selective view of the factors that influence growth and also seemed like it encouraged a lack of scientific rigor. I thought the first assignment was good in encouraging more unconventional ways of thinking about readings. I think the second task would have been good in practicing how to process numbers and make graphics, except there were many data problems that came up including insufficient data and mismatching figures between datasets which were never mentioned in class or by the professor. If such problems had been mentioned and discussed in class, I think that would have been a great opportunity to talk about the difficulties that come up during research and especially go into how researchers try to solve these difficulties, but instead students had to be confused and come up with their own approximation methods to get an answer that was factually wrong due to insufficient data, and they may not have been aware that their answer was indeed factually wrong. I also don't think the lectures contributed much, as they seemed to just bring basic points out from the readings and didn't really deepen my understanding of things. I liked when real world examples from outside the readings were brought up though.
I picked up how to spot trends for a specific group using the Lexis diagram, and life tables really helped me get the hang of life expectancy for a particular population and connect it to a specific event.
The only helpful thing was the readings. Lectures were extremely slow and boring with discussions not being too helpful. The professor kept trying to dig into topics when there wasn't much to talk about.
Lectures, specifically in the last 3 weeks, were very informative. It was obvious the professor put a lot of work into them and they really made me think about demographics from a deeper perspective.
I really appreciated the mix of the different assignments that were part of the class this quarter. The final assignment, particularly, helped me combine several concepts that we learned about this quarter into a context that I enjoyed researching and writing about.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.14	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	42.86%	42.86%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.00	3.00	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%	28.57%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	2.43	2.00	28.57%	42.86%	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	2.71	3.00	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%	0.00%	14.29%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.14	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	28.57%	14.29%
I felt respected in this class.	3.43	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	42.86%	14.29%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	2.71	2.00	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The courses consumes too mich time weekly and you are required to do several assignments at the same week which affects the time dedicated to study other classes , also the professor didn't give clear assignment instructions and changed assignments last minute.
I really appreciate the professor's time and effort; he genuinely put in a lot of work to provide us with the necessary information. However, I feel he wasn't quite prepared to teach this course, considering it was his first time. I have a lot of respect for him when it comes to the theoretical aspects, but I think he struggled with delivering the quantitative side of the class. Even though he made an effort, I understand that this isn't his field of expertise, and he was asked to teach this as part of the sequence. He was excellent in the first quarter, thanks to his vast experience in political science. That said, we might have gained more from having someone who specializes in demography.
There were no comments on our assignments or grades we could understand. Throughout the course, our grades made no sense and we had no feel for how we would end up. There were also no comments on our writings so we couldn't improve.
The course has potential to be great but it would have been much more beneficial if the professor was more knowledgeable about the topic.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	16.67%	83.33%
Anyone interested in the topic	33.33%	66.67%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
He had good slides and discussions prepared
I really liked how he managed class discussions. He encouraged us to speak up and share our opinions, which was the best aspect of his teaching style.
Maybe the slides.
The lectures he gave in the last 3 weeks were interesting as they were more related to his field than the rest of the quarter. When he made us work in pairs on demographic issues and do a small presentation at the end of the class. The videos he showed were very insightful and interesting.
Professor Noor facilitated productive conversations while respectfully listening to and responding to the points that my classmates and I brought up. I enjoy this part of the class.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

| Comments |
|---|
| Make less assignments in a week and be more descriptive on assignments and give enough time to finish the work required for class |
| I would suggest that he offer feedback on every assignment, regardless of whether students request it. Providing feedback significantly aids in student success. Even if a student performs well on an assignment, he should still give feedback, highlighting what was good about it and what aspects particularly impressed him. |
| Make a clear lecture with a clear motive for discussion. It was very unorganized and at times where we worked with excel the prof had no idea what was going on. We would have to help him through assignments. |
| I would say that Professor Salih has improved a lot since the first quarter and even since the beginning of this quarter but there are somethings that may be better improved:

1– Sometimes during discussions, different people would be discussing different views and then the professor just moves on, it would have been much more interesting if he gave his own contribution sometimes.

2– Be clearer on the description of the assignments. This has improved on the third assignment but the first two were not very clear.

3– For assignment number 2 (30% of the grade), I believe that the professor himself didn't know how we should do it. I went to him a couple of times to ask about issues in the PSet and he could not help me at all, not because he doesn't want to but he really didn't understand it. I tried working with other colleagues and we all had the same problem.

4– The professor needs to know that this class is a requirement and that not everyone is a social science major.

5– Sometimes I felt my contributions to the class weren't always welcome. |

The Instructor . . .

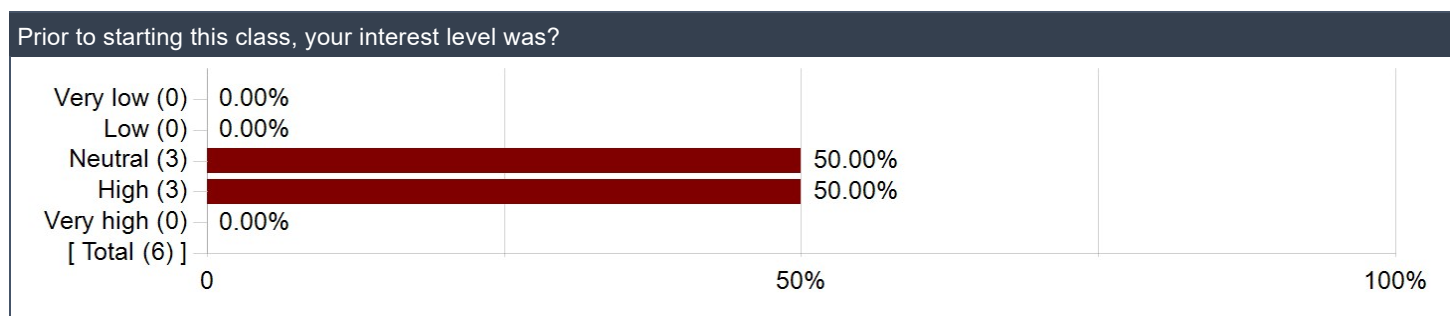|	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	3.43	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%	42.86%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	3.00	2.50	16.67%	33.33%	16.67%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.29	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	28.57%	14.29%	28.57%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	2.86	2.00	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.29	4.00	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.14	3.00	14.29%	14.29%	42.86%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.57	4.00	14.29%	0.00%	28.57%	28.57%	28.57%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.29	3.00	14.29%	0.00%	42.86%	28.57%	14.29%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.00	3.00	14.29%	0.00%	71.43%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	2.71	2.00	14.29%	42.86%	14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%

How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	2.00	2.00	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Field Trips	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Library Sessions	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Review Sessions	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Writing Seminars	3.00	3.00	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%

Is this class a requirement of some sort?
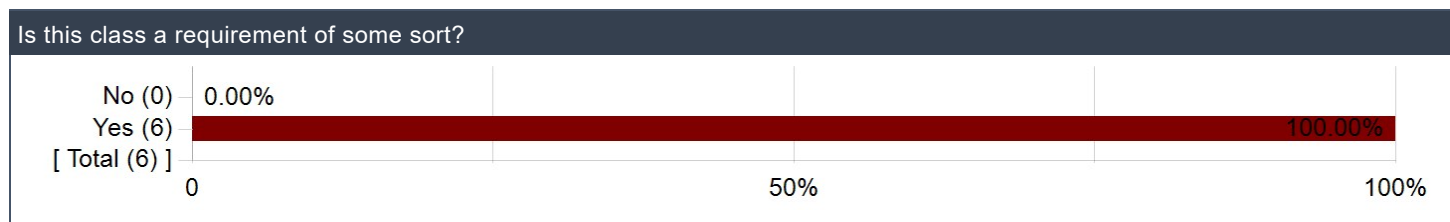
Is this class a requirement of some sort?	
No (0)	0.00%
Yes (6)	100.00%
[Total (6)]	

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?	
Very low (0)	0.00%
Low (0)	0.00%
Neutral (3)	50.00%
High (3)	50.00%
Very high (0)	0.00%
[Total (6)]	

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?	
Diminished (4)	66.67%
Satisfied (2)	33.33%
Heightened (0)	0.00%
[Total (6)]	
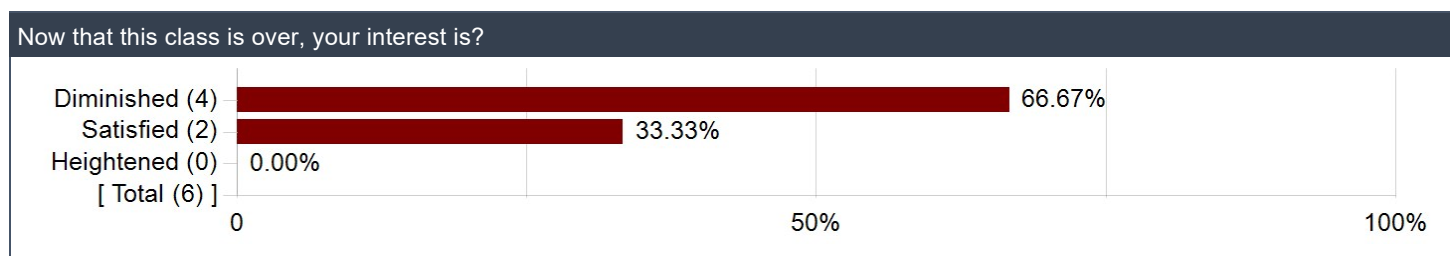
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)
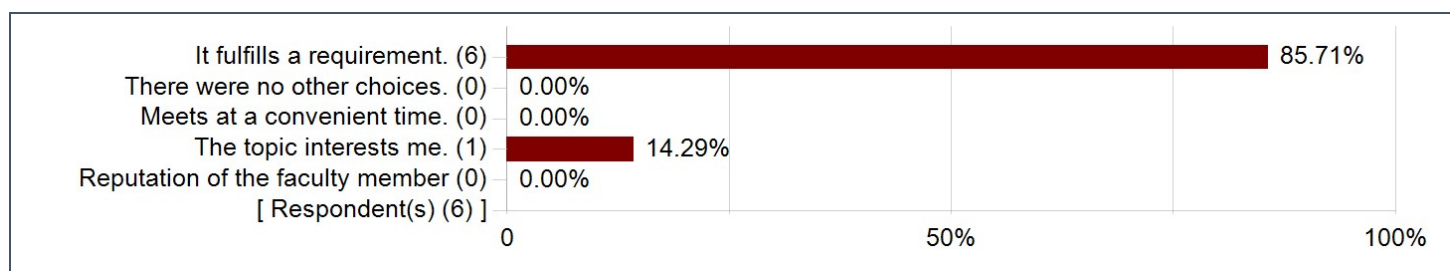
It fulfills a requirement. (6)	85.71%
There were no other choices. (0)	0.00%
Meets at a convenient time. (0)	0.00%
The topic interests me. (1)	14.29%
Reputation of the faculty member (0)	0.00%
[Respondent(s) (6)]	

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

<5 hours (2)	33.33%
5-10 hours (1)	16.67%
10-15 hours (2)	33.33%
15-20 hours (1)	16.67%
20-25 hours (0)	0.00%
25-30 hours (0)	0.00%
>30 hours (0)	0.00%
[Total (6)]	

0   50%   100%

What proportion of classes did you attend?

What proportion of classes did you attend?

None (0)	0.00%
25% (0)	0.00%
50% (0)	0.00%
75% (0)	0.00%
All (6)	100.00%
[Total (6)]	

0   50%   100%
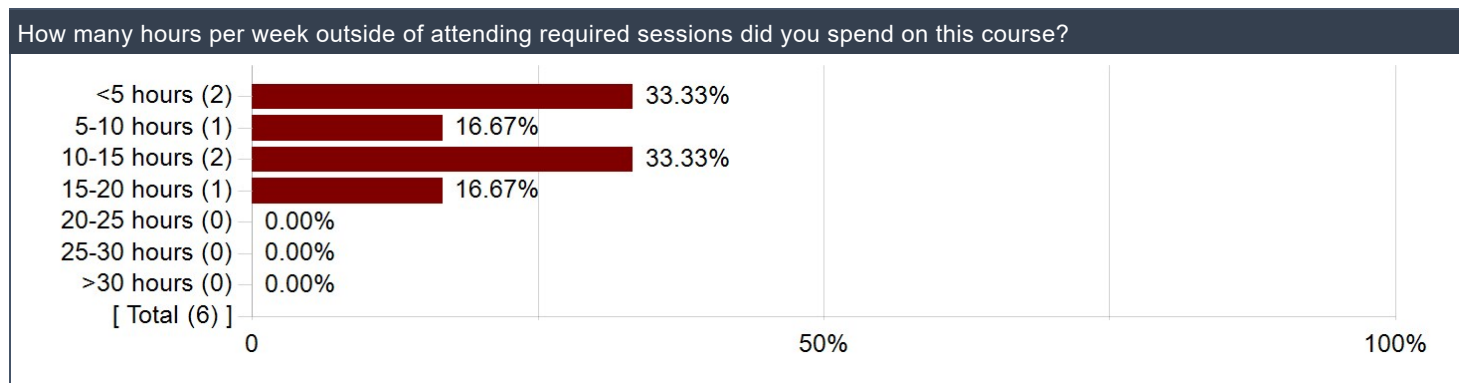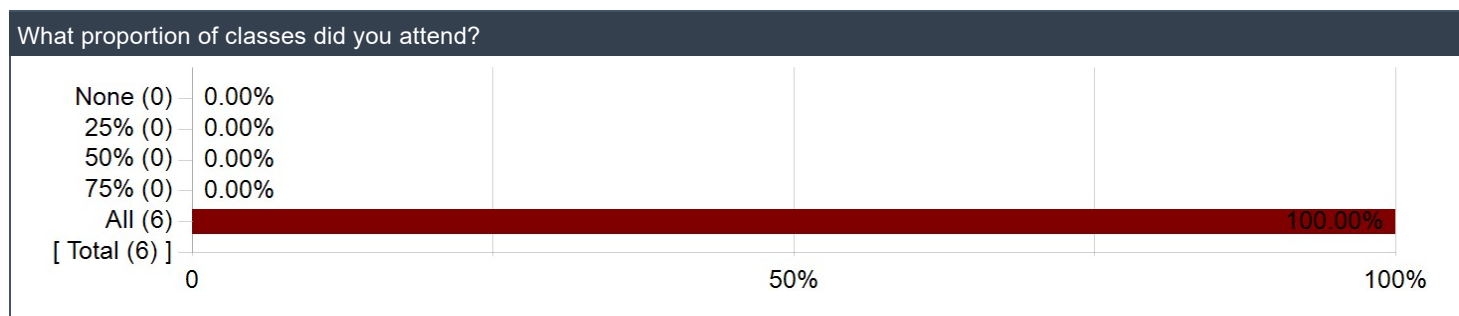
Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Work load is high
Time requirement quite difficult, intellectual engagement and challenge moderate.
quantitative stuff
The course wasn't relatively hard and the professor adjusted the level of reading in the third week so that it is not too much, however, PSET 2 was extremely demanding and took hours specially without any help from the professor.