

Demography Camp Syllabus

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Abstract

Welcome to Demography Camp! I am excited to be one of the first to welcome you to the Office of Population Research at Princeton University. The next two weeks will hopefully provide you a **relaxing** introduction or review of basic demographic methods. The purpose of this course is to provide incoming OPR students with enough exposure to demographic methods to enable them to read and understand the articles they will encounter in their first-semester demography class, POP501. We will focus on basic concepts and measurements demographers use to understand mortality, fertility, and population projections.

1 Hello from Kristin

Let me introduce myself. I am a fourth year Ph.D. student in the Office of Population Research. I have been studying demography since my second year of undergrad and have precepted for POP502 for the last two years. My research leans towards the fertility side of demography, but I promise to give mortality its fair amount of time during camp.

2 Contact Information

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Website: princeton.edu/~kbietsch (go here for handouts, problem sets, and solutions)

3 Course Information

We will meet weekdays (August 26th through September 6) from 2:00 to 3:30 in Wallace 290. There will no class on Monday, September 2th.

4 Office Hours and Email Policy

I will generally be available before and after class if you would like to meet to discuss anything (big or small questions welcome).

Since we are on a tight schedule, I will try to respond to emails as quickly as possible. However, I sleep normal hours, so don't expect me to respond at 3 A.M.

5 Course Materials

The text for this class is *Demography: Measuring and Modeling Population Processes* by Preston, Heuveline, and Guillot. Each day I will distribute handouts based on invaluable lecture notes written by Tom Espenshade. Everything you need to know about the introductory methods we discuss will be covered in the lecture notes. However, you will end up having to get the Preston et al text for POP502 anyway, and you may find it useful to have it as a reference during POP501.

Some topics will be supplemented with reading from Ken Wachter's *Demography* text. I will provide copies of these readings.

6 Problem Sets

- You will receive a problem set almost every day.
- Unless noted otherwise, problem sets are due by 9AM the morning of the next class so that I have time to grade them before we meet.
- You can turn in your problem set electronically via email (kbietsch@princeton.edu) **or** put a paper copy in my office mail box

7 Exam

A final in-class exam will be given on Friday, September 9. This will be closed book. Make sure to bring a calculator!

8 Grades

You do not receive a grade for this class, however I will be marking up your homework and final. I will share this information with the professors teaching POP501 and POP502. Also, the material covered in this class is fair game for an exam in POP501.

9 Course Outline

Day 1: Monday August 26

In class:

- Get to know one another
- Review syllabus
- Introduction Handout

Homework:

- Problem Set 1
- Suggested Reading: Preston 1.1-2.1

Day 2: Tuesday August 27

In class:

- Any questions from yesterday's class?
- Return and go over problem set 1
- Population Growth Handout
- Mortality: Introduction and Rates Handout

Homework:

- Problem Set 2
- Suggested Reading: Preston 2.1-2.2, 3-3.5

Day 3: Wednesday August 28

In class:

- Any questions from yesterday's class?
- Return and go over problem set 2
- Mortality: Standardizing CDR Handout
- Mortality: Life Table Construction Handout

Homework:

- Problem Set 3
- Problem Set 4 (Due Friday)
- Suggested Reading: Preston 3.6, 3.7, 3.11

Day 4: Thursday August 29**In class:**

- Any questions from yesterday's class?
- Return and go over problem set 3
- Reinforce Life Table functions
- Mortality: Extension of Life Table Handout

Homework:

- Problem Set 4
- Suggested Reading: Preston Page 92-94 (stop before "Despite the multiplicity...")

Day 5: Friday August 30**In class:**

- Any questions from yesterday's class?
- Return and go over problem set 4
- Review of Mortality and its Measurement
- Fertility: Introduction and Simple Measures Handout

Homework:

- Problem Set 5
- Suggested Reading: Preston Pages 94-95, Wachter Section 6.2

Day 6: Tuesday September 3**In class:**

- Any questions from yesterday's class?
- Return and go over problem set 5
- Fertility: Age-Specific Measures Handout

Homework:

- Problem Set 6
- Suggested Reading: Preston Bottom of Page 95 - Bottom of Page 99, Wachter Chapter 4, Sections 6.3, 6.4, 11.1, 11.3

Day 7: Wednesday September 4**In class:**

- Any questions from yesterday's class?
- Return and go over problem set 6
- Fertility: Further Methods of Analysis Handout

Homework:

- Problem Set 7
- Suggested Reading: Preston 6.1-6.31

Day 8: Thursday September 5**In class:**

- Any questions from yesterday's class?
- Return and go over problem set 7
- Population Projections Handout
- Course review

Homework:

- Problem Set 8
- Study for exam

Day 9: Friday September 6**In class:**

- Return and go over problem set 8
- Exam