

# GEOG 245

## Geodemographics: Population, Diversity, and Place

Autumn 2016

---

**Instructor:** Skye Naslund

PhD Candidate, Department of Geography

Smith Hall 428 (Mailbox in Smith 415)

Email: [snaslund@uw.edu](mailto:snaslund@uw.edu)

Course Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1066002>

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10am-11am or by appointment

**Class:** Tuesday & Thursday 11:30am-1:20pm in Miller 301

**Discussion/Lab Sections:**

AA: Monday 11:30am-12:20pm, Electrical Engineering Building 042 (Key McFarlane)

AB: Monday 11:30am-12:20pm, Electrical Engineering Building 054 (Rebecca Stubbs)

AC: Monday 12:30-1:20pm, Electrical Engineering Building 025 (Key McFarlane)

AD: Monday 12:30-1:20pm, Electrical Engineering Building 026 (Rebecca Stubbs)

AE: Monday 1:30-2:20pm, Electrical Engineering Building 025 (Key McFarlane)

AF: Monday 1:30-2:20pm, Mechanical Engineering Building 102 (Rebecca Stubbs)

\*Note: Some discussion/lab sections will be held in Savory 117. Please refer to the schedule at the end of the syllabus for directions on where to go each week. This information will also be posted on the course Canvas site and you will be reminded each Thursday lecture.

### Course Description:

This course explores the geodemographic underpinnings of societal dynamics and the spatial diversity of United States populations. Topics include immigration policy, the concept of 'race' in the census, fertility and mortality differences, political redistricting, segregation, and internal migration of populations. The course examines regional and local scales of variation using geodemographic techniques and GIS.

### Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course you will:

- better understand the make-up of the US population and what factors influence the geography and composition of that population.
- understand where demographic information comes from and how it is used to influence policy, voting, housing, and other parts of society.
- be familiar with demographic techniques and principles and know when and how to apply them.

## Basic Expectations:

- Respect: I expect each of you to remain respectful of each other, the TAs, and myself. This class is a chance for everyone to learn and to express themselves and should remain a welcoming place to do that. We will be discussing some very charged topics this quarter and thus it is essential to remain respectful of differing views.
- Patience: In this course, you will be learning new ideas, concepts, and technologies. In particular with new technologies, it is important to be patient, take it day by day and plan ahead in order to give yourself room to hit stumbling blocks. This course assumes no prior technology (GIS, etc.) experience and we will do our best to walk you through it step by step, but in order to maximize your learning, there may be moments when you are pushed outside your comfort zone, so please be patient, give it a try, and feel free to reach out for help if you need it.
- Keep up: I expect each of you to stay on top of course materials. It is your responsibility to come to class having read that day's material and to complete assignments on time.
- Talk to us: If something is going on in your life that is affecting your work in this class, let one of us know. If you know in advance that you are going to be unable to complete an assignment on time, let us know. I am happy to try to work out an accommodation with you, but I can't unless I know that one is needed. Further if something about my teaching is detracting from your education, please come talk to me; I welcome feedback!
- Response to emails: Please allow 24 hours for a response to emails you send me (48 hours on weekends).
- Honesty: I expect all students to abide by the University of Washington rules on academic honesty that explicitly prohibit plagiarism and cheating. These provisions are spelled out in detail at: [depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf](https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf).
- Responsibility: You are responsible for submitting your assignments on Canvas and double checking that any documents you submitted uploaded properly and are readable. I know that submitting intentionally corrupted files is a growing way of buying time on assignments and I do not appreciate such dishonesty. If you need additional time to complete an assignment, talk to us.

## Requirements:

In order to succeed in this class, students must:

- attend class sessions and participate actively;
- complete all reading by the date due, *before* class;
- turn in assignments on time;
- study for the midterm and final exams.

All written work (except assignments completed in class) is to be submitted typewritten, double-spaced, using a 12-point font and 1-inch margins, unless otherwise specified.

Deadlines are there to help you stay current on the material. While I am happy to work with you if you are struggling with an approaching deadline, **late assignments will not be accepted unless you have spoken with the instructor or TA.** In-class activities and participation cannot be made up, though a single absence will not significantly impact your grade.

## **Grading:**

Participation: 15%

You are expected to come to class and lab/discussion sections prepared and to actively participate in the class. 5% of your class grade will be based on your participation in class (lecture) and the other 10% of your class grade will be based on your participation in lab/discussion sections.

Assignments: 40%

All assignments will be introduced in either class or discussion/lab section and made available to you on the class Canvas site. Directions for how to turn in your assignments will be included in each assignment. There will be 4 assignments total, each worth 10% of your class grade.

Midterm Exam: 20%

The midterm exam will be held in class during Week 6. The exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions. You will NOT be required to bring a blue book or scantron form and will have approximately an hour and 45 minutes to complete the exam.

Final Exam: 25%

The final exam for this class will be structured in exactly the same way as the midterm. You will NOT be required to bring a blue book or scantron form. The final will take place on December 8th during class time and you will have approximately an hour and 45 minutes to complete the exam. The final exam IS cumulative, so will cover material from before and after the midterm.

## **Grade Changes:**

Requests for grade changes on assignments will only be accepted in writing and only within one week of the assignment being handed back to students/grades being made available on canvas. Requests must be justified in terms of the content of the assignment, not by outside considerations. Please submit grade change requests first to your TA and then, if you are not happy with the outcome of that, you may submit them to the instructor.

## **Readings:**

There are no required textbooks for this class. All readings will be made available for you online through the course canvas site. Readings should be read prior to the class for which they are assigned. If it appears that students are not staying up to date on the readings, I reserve the right to conduct pop quizzes in class that will be factored as a portion of your participation grade.

During Week 9 (Thanksgiving week) you will be expected to view the film 'Gran Torino' (directed and produced by Clint Eastwood). There will be multiple copies of the film on four-hour loan at the media center in Suzzallo/Allen Library. The film is also available for rent on iTunes (\$3.99) and Amazon (\$3.99) and a DVD can be purchased on Amazon (Prime—free same day delivery) for \$3.74. However you view the film, please have it watched before Nov. 28's discussion section.\*

\*The film Gran Torino is rated R for "language throughout, and some violence." If you feel at all uncomfortable with watching the film, please email the instructor ([snaslund@uw.edu](mailto:snaslund@uw.edu)) to discuss an alternative activity.

You will be required to bring a thumb drive (USB drive/jump drive) to lab sections when you meet in the computer lab (Savery 117). If you do not already have one, please purchase one before quiz section on October 17<sup>th</sup> and bring it with you.

### **Academic Accommodations:**

The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Resources for Students Office at: 206-543-8924 (Voice & Relay), or [uwdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu). I take such requests seriously and encourage you to schedule a time to meet privately with me to discuss how I can best assist your learning and success in the class.

### **Campus Support Services:**

It is important that we take care of ourselves inside and outside of class by learning how to work through stress and other obstacles and by prioritizing our physical, emotional and mental health. Toward that end, there are many different kinds of support services on campus such as the Counseling Center, Hall Health, and the IMA. If you are concerned about yourself or a friend who is struggling, SafeCampus (206-685-7233) is a very helpful resource to learn more about how to facilitate access to campus-based support services.

### **Student Code of Conduct for Geography Classrooms:**

The Department of Geography has implemented a new code of conduct effective this quarter. The code of conduct reads as follows:

“The Department of Geography is committed to ensuring a classroom environment that contributes to optimum teaching and learning for all students. Individuals who engage in disruptive behavior that creates a negative or threatening environment for teaching and learning will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. These requests are not negotiable. Disruptive behavior includes: verbal or physical aggression toward other students or faculty/TAs, threats of violence, unyielding argument or debate, yelling inside or outside of the classroom, untimely outbursts, violating class policies about technology use or seating, refusing to follow faculty or TA directions, and entering and exiting the classroom in disruptive ways.”

This code of conduct is designed to protect instructors, TAs, and students from both the disruptive behavior of, and harassment by, students in the classroom. I am committed to using this policy only as a last resort and to ensuring that it is not used in a discriminatory manner to police particular styles of learning or engagement.

### Grade Conversion Chart:

The University of Washington does not have a standard procedure for converting percent scores to 4.0-scaled grades. For the purposes of this class, grades will be maintained in percent scores until final grades are calculated and will then be converted to 4.0-scaled grades using the chart below:

Percentage Earned	4.0-scaled Equivalent	Letter-Grade Equivalent
99-100	4.0	A
97-98	3.9	A
95-96	3.8	A-
93-94	3.7	A-
91-92	3.6	A-
90	3.5	A-
89	3.4	B+
88	3.3	B+
87	3.2	B+
86	3.1	B
85	3.0	B
84	2.9	B
83	2.8	B-
82	2.7	B-
80-81	2.6	B-
79	2.5	B-
78	2.4	C+
77	2.3	C+

76	2.2	C+
75	2.1	C
73-74	2.0	C
72	1.9	C
71	1.8	C-
70	1.7	C-
69	1.6	C-
68	1.5	C-
67	1.4	D+
66	1.3	D+
65	1.2	D+
64	1.1	D
63	1.0	D
62	0.9	D
61	0.8	D-
60	0.7	D- (lowest passing grade)
59 and x < 59	0.0	No credit earned.

### Tentative Schedule for the Quarter:

Week	Monday (variable)	Tuesday (11:30am-1:20pm)	Thursday (11:30am-1:20pm)
Week 1: September 29			Introduction to Geodemography & Global Population
Week 2: October 3-6	Introduction to TAs & the Personal in Demographics (classrooms)	Population Distribution & Composition	Population Data: Vital Statistics and the US Census
Week 3: October 10-13	Navigating the Census Online (Savery 117)	Fertility & Mortality	Immigration
Week 4: October 17-20	Introduction to ArcGIS (Savery 117)	Race, Ethnicity & Diversity	Segregation in the United States
Week 5: October 24-27	Pop. Distribution in King County (Savery 117)	Morbidity, Population Health & HIV/AIDS	TBD
Week 6: Oct. 31-Nov. 3	Midterm Exam Review (classrooms)	<b>Midterm Exam In Class</b>	Internal Migration
Week 7: November 7-10	TBD (Savery 117)	Political Redistricting, Gerrymandering, and the National Election	Urbanization, Suburbanization, and Gentrification
Week 8: Nov. 14-17	TBD (Savery 117)	Cohorts, Aging, and the Baby Boom	TBD
Week 9: Nov. 21-24	<b>Thanksgiving Week</b> <b>NO CLASS</b> <i>Watch film 'Gran Torino' on your own time in lieu of lecture.</i>		
Week 10: Nov. 28-Dec. 1	Film Discussion of 'Gran Torino' (classrooms)	Population Growth & Resources	Population Policies
Week 11: December 5-8	Final Exam Review (classrooms)	Geodemographics in the Real World	<b>Final Exam In Class</b>

\*Please note that this schedule is subject to change and all changes and updates will be announced on the course Canvas site.