Information about the ECON 125 Final

The final exam will be two hours long, **9-11 am** on **Tuesday, June 10**, in our usual classroom **SOLIS 104**. The start time is later than listed in the Schedule of Classes because the exam is only two hours long, and you should have a good night sleep before the exam.

The exam will test your understanding of the **demographic concepts and measures from the entire course** and your knowledge of the **readings from weeks 5-9**. It will pose **25 short-answer questions**, which you will answer with a few sentences for each question. Unlike the midterm, all the questions will be open-ended; none will be true/false. Other than the absence of true/false questions, the style of the questions will be like the midterm. You will not be required to remember detailed facts from lectures and readings, only concepts and broader ideas. You may be asked to interpret tables or figures from the readings, but only those included in the lecture slides. You may also be asked to interpret new tables or figures that relate to course concepts.

You are permitted to bring a one-page, double-sided, 8.5" x 11" cheat sheet, written in your own handwriting. **Typed notes will not be permitted.** Calculators will be unnecessary.
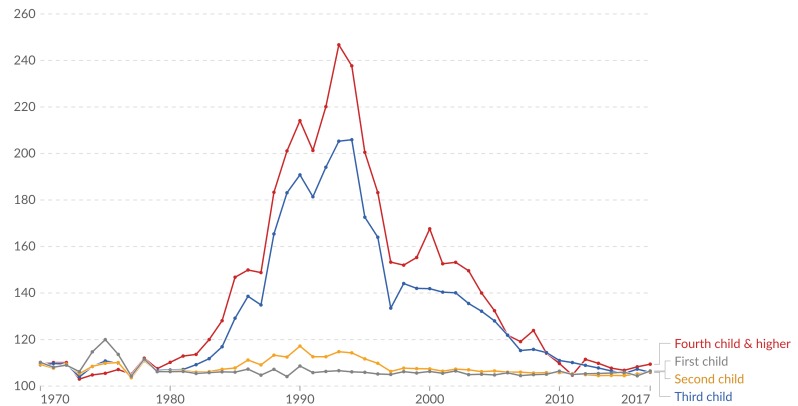
If you would like your midterm cheat sheet to help you prepare for the final, you can pick it up from my office, ideally during office hours. If that time does not work for you, please email to set up an alternative time.

Below you will find 10 practice questions. The exam will have more questions, but they will be similar in style. **I will post solutions once half of the students respond to the course evaluations.** Your feedback is very important to me!
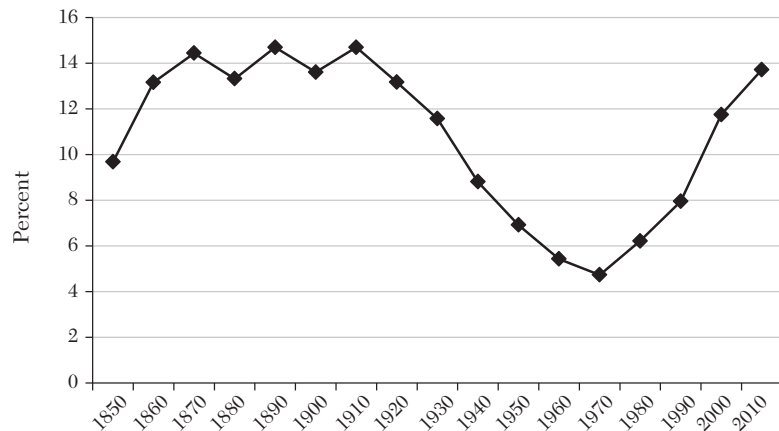
Practice Questions

1. In "Delayed Marriage and Very Low Fertility in Pacific Asia," what major trend in Asian marriage patterns does Jones describe? In his view, how does this trend differ from what is happening in Europe?

2. In a famous article, Amartya Sen claimed that "more than 100 million women are missing." How did he come up with this number?

3. In "How Many More Missing Women," Bongaarts and Guilmoto refine Sen's calculation by taking into account three factors. What are they?

4. In "The Global Demography of Aging," Bloom and Luca describe population pyramids that look like pyramids, domes, and beehives. Describe how these shapes relate to the Demographic Transition.
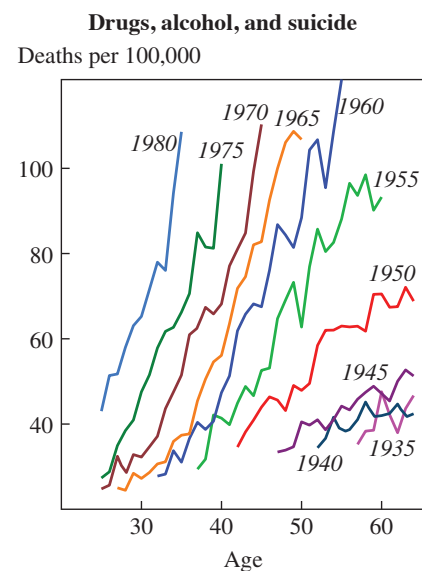
5. The graph at right shows the sex ratio at birth for South Korean infants, by birth order and year. What do you infer about the demand for male births at different birth orders over time?
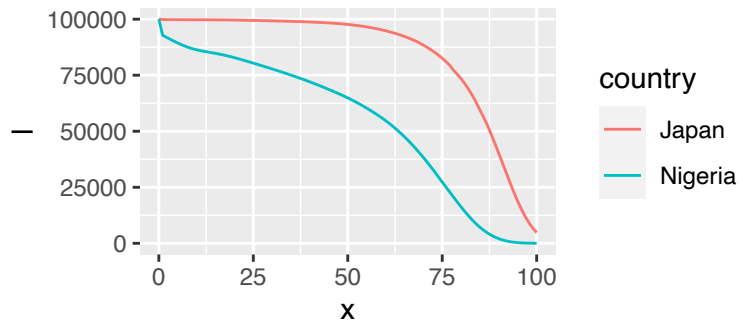

Fourth child & higher
First child
Second child
Third child

6. The graph at right is from "Immigration in American Economic History," by Abramitzky and Boustan. It portrays the US foreign-born share over time. Which periods of immigration do the authors mention in describing the graph? How did the composition of sending countries differ between these two periods?
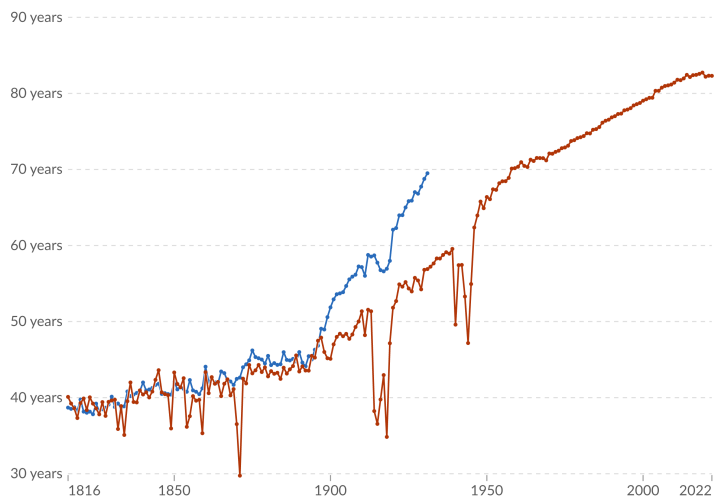

7. The graph at right is from "Mortality and Morbidity in the 21st Century," by Case and Deaton. It portrays the death rate from drugs, alcohol, and suicide by age and birth cohort for white non-Hispanics with less than college education. Does the graph show evidence of between-cohort increases in this death rate? How about within-cohort increases? For the within-cohort changes, is it possible to distinguish between the effects of age and period?

Drugs, alcohol, and suicide

Deaths per 100,000

8. The graph at right shows the survivorship curves associated with 2023 death rates for Japan and Nigeria. How would you use this information to determine Japanese life expectancy at birth?

9. The graph at right shows period life expectancy (in red) and cohort life expectancy (in blue) over time in France. Why are they similar before 1900? Why does cohort life expectancy rise above period life expectancy in the 1900s?

10. The graph at right shows the total fertility rate and the number of births over time in China. What does the total fertility rate mean? Why does the number of births increase in the 1980s while the total fertility rate does not?

Fertility in China

Number of births in millions (right axis)

Total fertility rate (left axis)