

General Description of Econ 3020, Population Economics

This is a course designed to provide an introduction to the many feedback effects that exist between population growth and economic growth. This will take us all the way from the works of Thomas Malthus; through the demographic transition and its relationship with the Industrial Revolution; J.M. Keynes and the 1930s Depression; and post WWII experience with the Baby Boom, Bust and Echo B to today's Asian flu. These real world applications will be used to reinforce the concepts you've learned in the core Economics classes B supply/demand, marginal analysis, utility maximization, externalities and market failure, income and substitution effects, the paradox of thrift, diminishing marginal returns, inflation and unemployment, national accounting B to extend them, and to supplement them with methods of analyzing population growth such as fertility and mortality rates, the sex ratio, age pyramids, dependency ratios, life expectancies, and age, period and cohort effects.

Readings will be drawn from a wide variety of sources and, for the most part, will be provided to you in articles posted on the Web. We will also be using my book *Birth Quake: The Baby Boom and Its Aftershocks*, which is **available in the Columbia Bookstore**. Also recommended and available in Columbia Bookstore, but optional, are

Growth Triumphant: The Twenty-first Century in Historical Perspective, by Richard Easterlin (1998 paperback). University of Michigan Press.

A Concise History of World Population, third edition, by Massimo Livi-Bacci, Blackwell Publishers. (ISBN 0-631-20455-5 paperback)

The Institutional Context of Population Change, by Fred C. Pampel (2001), University of Chicago Press.

Course Requirements

You are required to have completed both Intermediate Micro and Intermediate Macro. The course will be conducted in a lecture format, but active class participation will be expected. You must complete assigned readings before each class, and attendance in class is mandatory: you will be held responsible for material presented and discussed in class!

There will be one midterm and a final exam. In addition, there will be three papers assigned through the semester: Your course grade will be based on the following:

Class participation:	15%
Essay and critique:	15%
Research project:	20%
Midterm:	25%
Final:	25%