

Sex, Death, and Data
Sociology/Demography C126
UC Berkeley, Fall 2023

Professor

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Lectures: MWF 11-12, Hearst Mining 390

Office Hours: Monday 12-1; Wednesday 10-11. Location: Social Sciences Room 398

Graduate Student Instructors

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Sections will begin the week of August 28th

Tue 5-6 PM, Evans 81 - Xinghe Pan

Wed 4-5 PM, Dwinelle 106 - Juana Montoya Murillo

Thu 5-6 PM, Dwinelle 206 - Xinghe Pan

Fri 1-2 PM, Cory 285 - Juana Montoya Murillo

Overview

Demography is formally the study of statistics about birth, death, and migration. In practice, it's a field where one can study many (measurable) aspects of human life – sex, contraception, marriage, education, employment, poverty, race, sickness, health, and parenthood. This course focuses on sex and death, the driving forces of population.

We'll examine some big questions. Is human life getting worse? What are the trends in causes of human misery such as violence, disease and famine? Are we rapidly outgrowing our finite planet or, alternatively, are we at risk of extinction due to below replacement birth rates? If the latter, how are we achieving such low birth rates? In particular, how do sexual behavior, contraception and abortion affect the number of children we conceive and carry to term?

We will discuss how births and deaths shape populations and our futures. We will look at historical events that entailed exceptional numbers of deaths and the ways those events transformed the structure of populations. We'll explore some difficult topics at the nexus of sex and death – gender-based violence, sex-selective infanticide, differential lifespans between males and females.

We will have several excellent guest lecturers who can provide different perspectives on sex, birth and death. For example, we will hear from researchers who study the AIDS epidemic and physicians whose work sometimes brings them to the moment of both birth and death.

Throughout the course, we will question the basis of our knowledge and beliefs about basic facts concerning sex and death for the distant past, for populations without a written record, and about behaviors that are hidden and private. At the end of this course, you will have a basic toolkit for understanding statistical data about birth and death, and for thinking about population issues as they relate to contemporary life.

Format and practicalities

Attendance: This course combines three lectures a week with smaller discussion sections. Participation in lectures and discussion is required and will include responding to in class polls. Attendance at guest lectures is extremely important. Attendance will also be taken in discussion sections. If you are unable to attend or if you want to rewatch a lecture, the recording will be available on bCourses.

If you are sick, **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. There will be a google form available through bCourses where you can excuse your own absence. No need to email me or the GSIs unless you want sympathy for your illness or kudos for not giving COVID to the rest of us.

Respect: We will cover a body of material intimately related to issues of policy and politics, ethics, religion, family, and sexuality. Smart and well-informed people disagree about these issues. There is a scientific literature – facts, theories, and approaches that I expect you to master – but also considerable scope for reflection, different opinions, and debate. To be part of the discussion, it is critical that you do the assigned reading before class and engage with each other in a respectful manner.

What readings are required? All readings will be available electronically through bCourses at <http://bCourses.berkeley.edu>, under the educational fair use policy of US copyright law.

Timely completion of assignments: Work is due online through bCourses according to the schedule in the syllabus. Late essays and homework will receive a deduction of 10% per day late. If you have extenuating circumstances, please reach out to one of the GSIs.

Berkeley honor code: We all participate in maintaining our honor code: “As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.” I intend to treat you with the dignity and respect you deserve. For example, when I lecture, I endeavor to always cite my sources, identify places where experts disagree, and tell you honestly when I do not know the answer to a question. Your obligations are reciprocal: treat your fellow students and GSIs with respect, do your own work on assignments and exams, and cite your sources. If at any point you have any questions about how the honor code applies to a given context, please feel free to ask me or your GSI—we want to help you.

Accommodations: I am committed to making my class accessible to all students. If there are any ways in which you require accommodation (say, for religious observance, to have the readings scanned into text-to-voice software, or for any other reason), please let me or your GSI know and we will work with you. Information about disability accommodation at UC Berkeley is available at <http://dsp.berkeley.edu>.

Specific course requirements

Students will be expected to:

- **Read the assigned material** by the class period indicated in the syllabus.
- **Demonstrate engagement and ongoing learning** by attending lectures and actively participating in section. Your lecture participation grade is based on attendance, evaluated through participation in in-class polls. We’ll be using polleverywhere. You do not need to buy a special device. If you do not have a phone or computer capable of reaching polleverywhere.com during class, please let your GSI or the professor know.
- **Demonstrate mastery of the course material through an in-class midterm and final exam.** The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions. The final will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material in the second half of the course.
- **Write two short (4-5 page) essays about topics from the class that interest you.** The first is due one week before the midterm. The other is due one week before the final. Through these essays, you can explore ideas raised in the lecture or readings, pursue case studies, present data for alternative arguments, or apply demographic concepts to new topics.
- **Complete four homework assignments** related to the class material, as indicated in the syllabus. Homework is turned in through bCourses.

Grades will be based on

- Mid-term exam: 20%
- Final exam: 20%

- Four homework assignments: 5% each
- Two essays: 15% each
- Attendance and participation: 10%

Final grades will generally follow the usual distribution (ie. 94% is an A, 90% is an A-, etc.). However, grade cut-points may be altered slightly so that they fall at natural breaks in the point distribution. They will only be altered in a way that improve your grades (eg, 89% may be an A- but 91% will not be a B+). If you believe that a grade on an assignment, essay or exam question is inappropriate or unfair, submit the original paper with a written description of what you would like reconsidered.

Due Dates

Homework Assignments: September 6, September 27, October 27, November 15

Essays due: October 9, November 29

Midterm: October 13

Final: December 11

Appreciation

Thanks to Dr. Jenna Johnson-Hanks, now Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science, who established this course and who thought of the excellent course title. Many of the lectures will be based on her initial conception. And thank you to Dr. Byron Villacis, Dr. Ryan Edwards, and Dr. Johnson-Hanks who taught this class previously and whose slides informed my own.

Date	Class	Readings
History of Human Population		
23-Aug	Introduction: Sex and death	
25-Aug	History of world population	Chapter 5. Hill, Kim, and A. Magdalena Hurtado. 2017. <i>Ache Life History: The Ecology and Demography of a Foraging People</i> . Routledge
28-Aug	DT & ET: Describing the mortality decline	Diamond, Jared. 1999. "The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race." <i>Discover</i> , April 30, 1999
30-Aug	The Fertility side of the Demographic transition	Omran, Abdel R. 1971. "The Epidemiologic Transition: A Theory of the Epidemiology of Population Change." <i>Milbank Memorial Quarterly Fund</i> 49 (4).
1-Sep	Homeostasis and Malthus	Chapter 2. Cohen, Joel E. 1996. <i>How Many People Can the Earth Support?</i> W. W. Norton & Company.
6-Sep	Checks on Malthus: Ehrlich, Simon and Lam	Lam, David. 2011. "How the World Survived the Population Bomb: Lessons From 50 Years of Extraordinary Demographic History." <i>Demography</i> 48 (4): 1231–62. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-011-0070-z .
<i>Homework assignment #1 due</i>		

Inequality and Measurement		
8-Sep	Inequality in Life and Death	Hummer, Robert A, and Elaine M Hernandez. 2015. "The Effect of Educational Attainment on Adult Mortality in the United States." Williams, David R, Jourdyn A Lawrence, and Brigette A Davis. 2019. "Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research."
11-Sep	Inequality (Despair, Paradox, AA maternal mortality)	Wrigley-Field, Elizabeth. 2020. "US Racial Inequality May Be as Deadly as COVID-19." <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 117 (36): 21854–56. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2014750117 .
13-Sep	Measurement	Bridges, Khiara M. 2020. "Racial Disparities in Maternal Mortality." <i>New York University Law Review</i> 95 (5).
15-Sep	Population structure, momentum dependency	Chapters 1 and 2. Rosling, Hans, Ola Rosling, and Anna Rosling Rönnlund. 2018. <i>Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think</i> . Flatiron Books.
18-Sep	Selection	Charles, Vignetta E., Chelsea B. Polis, Srinivas K. Sridhara, and Robert W. Blum. 2008. "Abortion and Long-Term Mental Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review of the Evidence." <i>Contraception</i> 78 (6): 436–50. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2008.07.005 .
Mortality		
20-Sep	Excess male mortality: Russia (Leslie Root)	video on Russian mortality during WWII: https://youtu.be/DwKPFT-RioU
22-Sep	Why do women live longer than men? (Leslie Root)	Goldin, Claudia. 2018. "XX>XY?: The Changing Female Advantage in Life Expectancy." <i>NBER Working Paper</i> , June.
25-Sep	Infant and child mortality	Chapters 3 and 4. Klass, Perri. 2020. <i>A Good Time to Be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future</i> . National Geographic Books.
27-Sep	Childbirth and maternal mortality (Dilys Walker)	Boerma, Ties, Oona M R Campbell, Agbessi Amouzou, Cauane Blumenberg, Hannah Blencowe, Allisyn Moran, Joy E Lawn, and Gloria Ikilezi. 2023. "Maternal Mortality, Stillbirths, and Neonatal Mortality: A Transition Model Based on Analyses of 151 Countries." <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> 11 (7): e1024–31. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(23)00195-X .
<i>Homework assignment #2 due</i>		
Fertility and Sexual Behavior		
29-Sep	Fertility	Günther, Isabel, and Kenneth Harttgen. 2016. "Desired Fertility and Number of Children Born Across Time and Space." <i>Demography</i> 53 (1): 55–83. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-015-0451-9 .
2-Oct	Sex, Gender, Sexual Repertoire and pleasure	Debby Herbenick, Tsung-chieh Fu & Callie Patterson (2023) Sexual Repertoire, Duration of Partnered Sex, Sexual Pleasure, and Orgasm: Findings from a US Nationally Representative Survey of Adults, <i>Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy</i> , 49:4, 369-390, DOI: 10.1080/0092623X.2022.2126417
4-Oct	Study of Sexual behavior	Wellings, Kaye, Martine Collumbien, Emma Slaymaker, Susheela Singh, Zoé Hodges, Dhaval Patel, and Nathalie Bajos. 2006. "Sexual Behaviour in Context: A Global Perspective." <i>The Lancet</i> 368 (9548): 1706–28. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(06)69479-8 .
6-Oct	Review for the midterm	
9-Oct	Reproductive health in emergency	Casey SE, Chynoweth SK, Cornier N, Gallagher MC, Wheeler EE. Progress and gaps in reproductive health services in three humanitarian settings: mixed-methods case

	settings (Ndola Prata)	studies. <i>Confl Health</i> . 2015 Feb 2;9(Suppl 1 Taking Stock of Reproductive Health in Humanitarian):S3.
	<i>Essay #1 due</i>	
Migration and Marriage		
11-Oct	Migration (Xinghe Pan and Juana Montoya Murillo)	Overview. Kumari Rigaud, Kanta, Alex de Sherbinin, Bryan Jones, Jonas Bergmann, Viviane Clement, Kayly Ober, Jacob Schewe, Susana Adamo, Brent McCusker, Silke Heuser, and Amelia Midgley. 2018. <i>Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration</i> . Washington, DC: The World Bank TBD
13-Oct	<i>Midterm</i>	
16-Oct	Marriage	Lesthaeghe, Ron. 2010. "The Unfolding Story of the Second Demographic Transition." <i>Population and Development Review</i> 36 (2): 211–51. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2010.00328.x .
Contraception and Abortion		
18-Oct	Infertility and Fertility postponement	Schmidt, L., T. Sobotka, J. G. Bentzen, A. Nyboe Andersen, and on behalf of the ESHRE Reproduction and Society Task Force. 2012. "Demographic and Medical Consequences of the Postponement of Parenthood." <i>Human Reproduction Update</i> 18 (1): 29–43. https://doi.org/10.1093/humupd/dmr040
20-Oct	Sex ratio at birth & China's one child policy	Das Gupta, Monica, and P.N. Mari Bhat. 1997. "Fertility Decline and Increased Manifestation of Sex Bias in India." <i>Population Studies</i> 51 (3): 307–15. https://doi.org/10.1080/0032472031000150076 .
23-Oct	Methods of contraception	Jackson, Andrea V., Deborah Karasek, Christine Dehlendorf, and Diana Greene Foster. 2016. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Women's Preferences for Features of Contraceptive Methods." <i>Contraception</i> 93 (5): 406–11. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2015.12.010 .
25-Oct	Special topics in contraception	Slaymaker, Emma, Rachel H Scott, Melissa J Palmer, Luigi Palla, Milly Marston, Lianne Gonsalves, Lale Say, and Kaye Wellings. 2020. "Trends in Sexual Activity and Demand for and Use of Modern Contraceptive Methods in 74 Countries: A Retrospective Analysis of Nationally Representative Surveys." <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> 8 (4): e567–79. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30060-7 .
27-Oct	Sexual behavior on college campuses with Jennifer Hirsch	Intro and Chapter 9. Hirsch, Jennifer S., and Shamus Khan. 2020. <i>Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus</i> . W. W. Norton & Company.
	<i>Homework assignment #3 due</i>	
30-Oct	TBD	Sandefur, Justin. 2023. "How Economists Got Africa's AIDS Epidemic Wrong." <i>Center for Global Development</i> (blog). May 31, 2023.
1-Nov	Intersectional Stigma and HIV equity (Miranda Hill)	Watkins-Hayes, Celeste. 2014. "Intersectionality and the Sociology of HIV/AIDS: Past, Present, and Future Research Directions." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 40 (1): 431–57. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-071312-145621 .
3-Nov	Abortion globally	Horga, Mihai, Caitlin Gerdt, and Malcolm Potts. 2013. "The Remarkable Story of Romanian Women's Struggle to Manage Their Fertility." <i>Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care</i> 39 (1): 2–4. https://doi.org/10.1136/jfprhc-2012-100498 .
6-Nov	Abortion in the US	Carmon, Irin. 2022. "I, Too, Have a Human Form In Justice Alito's Draft Opinion, the Pregnant Body Is Erased." <i>Intelligencer</i> , May 19, 2022.
8-Nov	Abortion: consequences of denial	Chapters 1 & 2. Foster, Diana Greene. 2020. <i>The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having—or Being Denied—an Abortion</i> . Simon and Schuster.

AIDS, HPV and Syphilis		
13-Nov	HPV	Liao, Cheng-I., Alex Andrea Francoeur, Daniel S. Kapp, Michelle Ann P. Caesar, Warner K. Huh, and John K. Chan. 2022. "Trends in Human Papillomavirus–Associated Cancers, Demographic Characteristics, and Vaccinations in the US, 2001-2017." <i>JAMA Network Open</i> 5 (3): e222530. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.2530 .
15-Nov	HIV/AIDS in the US gay community (Greg Rebchook)	Ayala, George, and Andrew Spieldenner. 2021. "Written on the Bodies of Gay and Bisexual Men" 111 (7). <i>American Journal Public Health</i> . July 2021 Purcell, David W. 2021. "Forty Years of HIV: The Intersection of Laws, Stigma, and Sexual Behavior and Identity." <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 111 (7): 1231–33. https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2021.306335 .
<i>Homework Assignment #4 due</i>		
17-Nov	Syphilis	Tampa, M, I Sarbu, C Matei, V Benea, and SR Georgescu. 2014. "Brief History of Syphilis." <i>Journal Med Life</i> . 7 (1): 4–10.
Final Topics		
20-Nov	Urbanization and population density	Chapters 1 and 4. Glaeser, Edward. 2012. <i>Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier</i> . Penguin.
27-Nov	Violence, disease and famine	Chapters 2 and 5. Pinker, Steven. 2011. "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined" Penguin Random house
29-Nov	Population impact of calamities	TBD
<i>Essay #2 due</i>		
1-Dec	Future of human population: negative growth rates, environment, longevity	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs. 2023. <i>World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results</i> . S.l.: UNITED NATIONS.
11-Dec	<i>Final exam</i>	