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<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

SOC 597 01W: Demography
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026
Meets 8/20/2026 through 12/11/2026 Web Based Class

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Farris, Professor
Office Location: Ferguson Room 218
Office Hours: On Campus: Online by appointment
University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@utamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**
Communication Response Time: 24 to 48 Hours, M-F, 8am to 5pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

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1. Dudley L. Poston, Jr. and Leon F. Bouvier, 2017. *Population and Society*. 3rd or 2nd edition.
New York: Cambridge University Press.
ISBN: 978-1-107-64593-6 (paperback); 978-1-107-04267-4 (hardback)

2. Ben J. Wattenberg, 2005. *Fewer: How the New Demography of Depopulation Will Shape Our Future*. New York: Ivan R. Dee Publishers. ISBN: 156663606X.(recently added- available on e-book through amazon for 13 dollars)

3. John Iceland, 2014. *A Portrait of America: The Demographic Perspective*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, paperback. ISBN: 978-0-520-27819. (available online through the library website)
https://tamuc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/sespll/alma991006484748506041

Software Required

Access to course website- you need to have an active email username and password.

Optional Texts and/or Materials

None

Course Description

The Course. This is an introduction to the sociological study of populations, i.e., social demography. My definition of demography is the following: Demography is the scientific study of human populations – their size, composition, and distribution – and the changes in these factors as they occur through the three processes of fertility, mortality and migration.

Our course will focus in particular on the demography of the United States, China, and Texas.

The course outline (below) pretty much follows my above definition of demography. When you complete this course, you will be able to perceive, analyze and discuss at sophisticated levels the dynamics of human populations. You will be especially knowledgeable about the populations of the U.S., China and Texas. You will also be able to discuss with anyone the theme of our course, “Demography is Destiny.”

Few issues in the world are as important these days as population growth and change. This course will enable you to view population issues from the perspective of the social sciences.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Demonstrate understanding and mastery of the study of human populations.
Assessed through: assignments
2. Theory and Content: Students will be able to sufficiently synthesize theoretical knowledge in Sociology. Measured by: Exams/Assignments
3. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to think critically about complex major-related concepts/knowledge. Measured by: Assignments/Discussion Board
4. Communication: Students will be able to communicate, express, and discuss complex major-related concepts sufficiently. Measured by: Exams/Assignments/
5. Sociocultural and International Awareness: Students will show sufficient understanding of responsible citizenship, political issues, and gender relations.
Measured by: Assignments

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This course will be conducted entirely via the web. All components of this class are online. We will not meet any time as a class. This course is primarily administered through D2L. If you need help using D2L, please see the technology services staff for help.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. It will be very important that you all read regularly the syllabus and ALL Announcements posted at the home page of this course very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, etc. Ignorance about details given in the course syllabus and various announcements posted on the D2L web site cannot be accepted as excuse in any manner. I urge that you FULLY understand course requirements and grading procedures. That will be the key to doing well in the course. Also, please feel free to ask me questions about the course requirements through e-mails as needed.
2. This is an online course. Read instructions given under each week carefully.
3. You can e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don't want to share with your class mates.

Please specify the following in your e-mail: your full name and the course # you are enrolled in so that I check your record before responding to your need or question. You can also get an appointment to see me before and after each class or through an e-mail to me.

Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your My Leo account in the eCollege. If you have problem with your email system, please contact the Instructional Technology office. Do follow university deadlines in schedules given at the university's website and in the undergraduate catalog.

Since this is an online only course, students will need to spend a significant amount of time reading and formulating ideas on their own.

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 270-300 points

B = 240-269 points

C = 210-239 points

D = 180 to 209 points

F = 179 points or Below

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Assessments

You will have three exams in this course, all open book and open notes. They will be worth 75 points each for a total of 225 points. You will also be responsible for completing a county demographic profile, which will be worth 75 points.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor's communication response time and feedback on assessments are stated clearly.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Assignments

Students who need extra time may submit assignments (excluding discussion board postings) up to one week after the assignment due date.

Points are accumulated in this course instead of averaged. You will have a grade report on D2L keeping track of your points as this semester progresses. Your grade is not negotiable.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

A Note about Citation/Style Guides

Please note that while you may be more familiar with APA or MLA citation styles, this is a **graduate-level sociology course**, and we will be using **ASA (American Sociological Association) style** for all written assignments.

A copy of the ASA Style Guide and examples are available in the **Information and Resources** tab of the course shell. If you have questions about formatting or citation, feel free to reach out.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI IN DR. FARRIS' CLASSROOM

You're welcome to use AI tools (like ChatGPT), Grammarly, or similar support services in this class—as long as you're using them the way you'd use me: as a resource to support your learning, not as a shortcut to avoid doing the work.

Think of it like this:

Would you ask me to write your discussion post for you?

Would you ask me to complete your final project or reflection?

Probably not—and if you did, I'd (kindly) say no!

But would you ask me to help brainstorm ideas, explain a sociological concept, give feedback on a rough draft, or suggest ways to structure your response?

Absolutely. That's using support in a way that still keeps the work (and the learning) yours.

If you do use any AI tools (including Grammarly or ChatGPT), you must note it at the bottom of your assignment.

Just a short line is fine—for example:

- “I used Grammarly to check grammar and clarity.”
- “ChatGPT helped me outline my initial ideas for this post.”
- “I asked ChatGPT to explain symbolic interactionism in simpler terms.”

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Being transparent helps build trust and keeps our academic work ethical and clear.
If you're ever unsure whether you're using AI appropriately, just ask yourself: *Is this something I would ask my professor to do for me?*
If the answer is yes, you're probably on the right track.

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Everything will be due Sunday at 11:59pm via D2L unless otherwise stated.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1:

Lecture 1: Demography: What Is It? How Did It Begin? Why Is It Important? Demography is Destiny!

Readings: 1. Poston/Bouvier, chapter 1.
2. Wattenberg, chapter 1.
3. Iceland, "Introduction."

Week 2:

Lecture 2: The Sources and Materials of Demography

Readings: 1. Poston/Bouvier, chapter 3.

Assignments: CDP Sections 1 + 2 Due

Week 3/4:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Lecture 3: Population Increase/Decrease and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Demographic Transitions

Readings: 1. Poston/Bouvier, chapters 2, 12, 13.
2. Wattenberg, chapters 2-3.
3. Iceland, chapter 1.

Assignments: CDP Section 3 Due

Week 5/6:

Lecture 4: Population Composition: Age, Sex and Race

Readings:

1. Poston/Bouvier, chapters 10, 11.
2. Iceland, chapter 6.

Assignments: Exam 1 Due

Week 7:

Lecture 5: The Family and Sexuality

Readings:

1. Poston/Bouvier, chapter 5.
2. Iceland, chapter 3.

Assignments: CDP Section 4 Due

Week 8/9:

Lecture 6: Fertility

Readings:

1. Poston/Bouvier, chapters 4, 6.
2. Wattenberg, chapters 6 and 7.
3. Iceland, chapter 2.

Assignments: CDP Section 5 Due

Week 10:

Lecture 7: Mortality

Readings:

1. Poston/Bouvier, chapter 7
2. Iceland, chapter 8.

Assignments: Exam 2 Due

Week 11/12:

Lecture 8: Migration

Readings:

1. Poston/Bouvier, chapters 8, 9.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

2. Iceland, chapters 5 and 7.

Assignments: CDP Section 6 Due

Week 13/14:

Lecture 9: Population Distribution and Urbanization

Readings:

1. Poston/Bouvier chapter 14.
3. Wattenberg, chapters 4 and 5.
4. Iceland, chapter 4.

Assignments: CDP Sections 7 + 8 Due

Week 15/16:

Lecture 10: Population Policy and Applications of Demography

Readings:

1. Poston/Bouvier, chapters 15, 16.
2. Wattenberg, chapters 8 – 12.
3. Iceland, "Conclusion."

Assignments: CDP Full Due
Exam 3 Due