



SO/ GE 341 DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD: SPAIN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

IES Abroad Madrid

DESCRIPTION:

The increase in the world's population has been (and still is) used as a scapegoat for the evils that haunt the earth: poverty, hunger, global warming, ecological damage, deforestation, biodiversity threat, depletion of the seas, energy shortages, migration flows, etc. What is true in all this? The course will present a plural view of the different theoretical currents on the relationship between population, on the one hand, and economic development and ecological threats, on the other.

The course will also analyze a number of demographic aspects that Western societies have experienced (although we will make a special mention of the transformations experienced by Spanish society) and that greatly condition their future: the strong decline in fertility (well below the level of generational replacement), the process of population aging, concentration of population in cities and depopulation of rural areas, etc. Nor will we forget to analyze another demographic aspect of vital importance that is of great concern to policy makers and the general population: international migration flows. Fears towards foreigners, especially in times of economic crisis, are felt both in countries with a long tradition of migration (United States, Germany, United Kingdom ...), as well as in new immigrant recipients (Spain). The course will analyze the causes and consequences of migratory flows (both for receiving countries and for countries of origin).

All these themes will be supported with numerous examples from the specific analysis of the Spanish socio-demographic reality, but without doubt, its conclusions will transcend other areas of the Western world. Official data will be offered on which the different theoretical paradigms are based. Students will actively participate in the search for information (from the United Nations, the World Bank and many other international agencies, national statistical offices) to ratify or contradict the approaches made in class.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Spanish

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures: The professor will present and explain the main concepts that are collected in the recommended readings.
- Discussions and Active Learning: Students are expected to intervene actively making constructive comments on the theoretical positions of the authors to be studied (it is very important that the students come to class with the recommended texts already read)
- Debates and Presentations: There will be debates on current news and documentaries related to the course topics. Additionally, students will work in pairs to deliver a presentation at the end of the course on a topic related to the syllabus.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation- 5%
- Mid-term Exam - 30%
- Final Exam - 30%
- Term paper - 30%
- Documentary Critique- 5%



Course Element

Class Participation

Students are expected to intervene actively making constructive comments on the theoretical positions of the authors to be studied (it is very important that the students come to class with the recommended texts already read).

Term paper

In pairs, students will produce a well-researched and well-argued term paper of approximately 4,000 words in length. They will select their topics from one of the center themes outlined in the course content in consultation with the professor and should incorporate supporting documentation that ratifies or contradicts the theoretical positions analyzed in the course. Students will provide oral updates of their progress in the latter half of the term.

Documentary Critique

Students will write a short critical commentary of two documentaries ("An Inconvenient Truth" vs. "Climate: The Movie (The Cold Truth)").

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam consists of answering two questions about the topics covered. The exam will be "open-book," and students will be allowed to consult the material explained in class. It will be necessary to carry out a significant exercise in synthesizing the material explained in class.

Final Exam

The final exam consists of answering two questions about the topics covered after the midterm exam. The exam will be "open-book," and students will be allowed to consult the material explained in class. It will be necessary to carry out a significant exercise in synthesizing the material explained in class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Identify the dynamic relationships between population, natural resources and the environment.
- Describe main migratory flows in the world-wide sphere, with special attention to the Western reality
- Assess the economic and social costs and benefits of international migratory flows (present and future).
- Analyze the main concepts and generalizations about human society and its processes.
- Identify and evaluate the interrelationship between different demographic phenomena and the social, economic and possibly public policy reality (causes and consequences of international migrations).
- Demonstrate their skills in the search for secondary information in different international sources (official institutions, libraries, Internet, etc.).
- Analyze the transformations and evolution of contemporary societies

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is **mandatory for all IES Madrid classes**, including course related excursions. Absences will only be justified in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. Assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations will be justified and rescheduled accordingly. Otherwise, they will be graded as 0. Please be aware that after the third unexcused absence (courses meeting twice a week) and two unexcused absences (courses meeting once a week), your final grade will decrease by five percentage points (out of 100) for each subsequent absence. For courses meeting twice a week, **7 or more absences, and for courses meeting once a week, 4 or more absences, will result in a failing grade.** For more information, please refer to the Orientation Handbook.

CONTENT:

Topic 1. Size, Growth, and Spatial Distribution of the World Population, with Special Attention to the Case of Spain

Topic 2. History of Demographic Theories:

- Ancient and Medieval Works, Mercantilists and Physiocrats, Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus, Karl Marx, Mathematical Theories.

Topic 3. Relationship Between Population Growth and Economic Development:

- Pessimistic View: Kingsley Davis, Ansley Coale, Edgar Hoover, the World Bank.
- Neutral View: Richard Easterlin, the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.
- Optimistic View: Simon Kuznets, Ester Boserup, Julian Simon, the Austrian School of Economics.
- Analysis of data confirming or refuting the different theories presented.

Topic 4. Fertility Transition and Changes in Family Structures (with Special Attention to the Case of Spain):

- Historical evolution of different indicators.
- Major sociodemographic events: baby boom, baby bust, the effect of marriage, fertility and immigration, aging of fertility, adoptions, assisted reproduction and surrogacy, births out of wedlock, infertility, the difficult transition to the second child, the gap between reproductive desires and realities, contraception and abortion, second demographic transition: the weakening of the traditional family.
- Causes of the historical decline in fertility.

Topic 5. Health and Mortality Transition:

- Historical evolution of mortality levels (the Preston curve) and analysis of their causes.
- Analysis of mortality by age (rectangularization of the survival curve) and sex.

Topic 6. Changes in Population Structure by Age and Sex:

- Aging of the population in Western countries.
- Demographic dividend or bonus.
- Impact of migratory flows on population structure.
- Aging and the Welfare State (pay-as-you-go pension systems and public healthcare).
- Sex imbalances caused by female feticide and infanticide.

Topic 7. Population Growth and Availability of Natural Resources:

- Neo-Malthusian Pessimists: Garrett Hardin, Paul Ehrlich, the Club of Rome, United Nations, Al Gore, eco-messiahs, degrowth.
- Optimists or Cornucopians: Julian Simon, George Reisman.
- Analysis of data confirming or refuting the different theories presented.

Topic 8. Population Growth and the Environment:

- The environmental movement and population control as an environmental protection strategy.
- Environmental protection through the free market.
- Data on the evolution of different environmental indicators.

Topic 9. International Migratory Flows: The Case of Spain and the United States:

- A snapshot of migration.
- Explanatory theories of the initiation of migratory flows.
- Explanatory theories of the persistence of migratory flows.
- Openness as the key to humanity's success.
- Economic consequences of international migration flows for host countries: employment, income, labor mobility, productivity.
- Immigration and the Welfare State: threat or support? Fiscal impact of immigration and remittances.
- The need for highly skilled and unskilled immigrant labor.
- The cost of human lives in the migration process.
- Economic consequences of international migration for countries of origin.
- Immigration and crime.

	Readings
First Week: • First Class (Session 1): Introduction and presentation of the course. • Second Class (Session 2): The size and growth of the world (and Spanish) population and its spatial distribution.	Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.

	Readings
Second Week: • First Class (Session 3): History of Demographic Theories I • Second Class (Session 4): History of Demographic Theories II	Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.
Third Week: • First Class (Session 5): Population and Economic Development I • Second Class (Session 6): Population and Economic Development II	Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.

	Readings
Fourth Week: • First Class (Session 7): Population and Economic Development III	Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.

- **Second Class (Session 8):** Population and Economic Development IV

Fifth Week:

- **First Class (Session 9):** Fertility Transition and Changes in Family Structures I
- **Second Class (Session 10):** Fertility Transition and Changes in Family Structures I

Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.

Readings

Sixth Week:

- **First Class (Session 11):** First Midterm Exam
- **Second Class (Session 12):** Health and Mortality Transition I

Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.

Seventh Week:

- **First Class (Session 13):** Health and Mortality Transition II
- **Second Class (Session 14):** Population Growth and Availability of Natural Resources I

Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.

Readings

Eighth Week:

- **First Class (Session 15):** Population Growth and Availability of Natural Resources II
- **Second Class (Session 16):** Population Growth and the Environment I

Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.

Ninth Week: First Class (Session 17): Population Growth and the Environment II Second Class (Session 18): International Migratory Flows I	Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.
Tenth Week: First Class (Session 19): International Migratory Flows II Second Class (Session 20): International Migratory Flows III	Readings Texts prepared by the professor and available on Moodle.
Eleventh Week: First Class (Session 21): Presentation of Projects Second Class (Session 22): Presentation of Projects	Readings Presentation of projects prepared by students on a topic from the syllabus
Twelfth Week: First Class (Session 23): Presentation of Projects Second Class (Session 24): Presentation of Projects Term Paper Due	Presentation of projects prepared by students on a topic from the syllabus

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Carter, G. *Population and Society: An Introduction*, Polity, 2016
- Fernando Manzano & Guillermo Velázquez, *Población y economía recorrido histórico del estado del arte*, Instituto de Geografía, Historia y Ciencias Sociales (IGEHCs) Universidad Nacional del Centro / CONICET, 2018
- Norberg, Johan *Progreso. 10 razones para mirar al futuro con optimismo*, Deusto, 2017
- Pierre Desrochers, Joanna Szurmak *Population Bombed!: Exploding the Link Between Overpopulation and Climate Change*, The Global Warming Policy Foundation, 2018
- Poston, D. y Bouvier, L. *Population and Society An Introduction to Demography*, Cambridge University Press, 2012

- Sánchez Barricarte, Jesús Javier *El crecimiento de la población mundial: implicaciones socioeconómicas, ecológicas y éticas*, Tirant lo Blanch, 2008
- Sánchez Barricarte, Jesús Javier *Socioeconomía de las migraciones en un mundo globalizado*, Biblioteca Nueva, 2010
- SIMON, J. (1986), *El último recurso*, Madrid: Dossat.
- Tupy, Marian L. and Pooley, Gale L. *Superabundance: The Story of Population Growth, Innovation, and Human Flourishing on an Infinitely Bountiful Planet*, Cato Institute., 2022
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Population Division Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development*. UN DESA/POP/2021/TR/NO. 2., Naciones Unidas, 2021
- WEEKS, J. (2020), *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, Cengage Learning; 13th edition.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Bailey, Ronald y Tupy, Marian L. *Ten Global Trends Every Smart Person Should Know: And Many Others You Will Find Interesting*, Cato Institute, 2020
- Desrochers, Pierre and Szurmak, Joanna *Population Bombed!: Exploding the Link Between Overpopulation and Climate Change*, The Global Warming Policy Foundation, 2018
- EHRLICH, P. y EHRLICH, A. *La explosión demográfica. El principal problema ecológico*, Barcelona: Salvat, 1994
- Epstein, Alex *La cuestión moral de los combustibles fósiles*, Deusto. , 2021
- FONDO DE POBLACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS *Estado de la población mundial*, Nueva York: Naciones Unidas, 2008
- GORE, A. *An inconvenient truth. The planetary emergency of global warming and what we can do about*, Emmaus, Pa.: Rodale Press., 2006
- GORE, A. *La Tierra en juego. Ecología y conciencia humana*, Barcelona: Emecé Editores, 1993
- Huerta de Soto, Jesús *Socialismo, cálculo económico y función empresarial*, Unión Editorial, 2020
- NACIONES UNIDAS *Crecimiento de la población y desarrollo económico*, Cuadernos de la CEPAL nº 75, Santiago de Chile: Naciones Unidas., 1996
- Norberg, Johan *Progreso: 10 razones para mirar al futuro con optimismo*, Deusto, 2017
- Pinker, Steven *En defensa de la Ilustración: Por la razón, la ciencia, el humanismo y el progreso*, Tupy, Marian L. and Pooley, Gale L. (2022), *Superabundance: The Story of Population Growth, Innovation, and Human Flourishing on an Infinitely Bountiful Planet*, Cato Institute, 520 páginas.
- REQUES VELASCO, P. *Población, recursos y medioambiente: ¿el fin de los mitos?*, Santander: Servicio de publicaciones de la Universidad de Cantabria, 2001
- Ridley, Matt *Claves de la innovación (Conjeturas)*, Antoni Bosch Editor, 2021
- Rosling, Hans; Rosling, Ola y Rönnlund, Anna *Rosling Factfulness: Diez razones por las que estamos equivocados sobre el mundo. Y por qué las cosas están mejor de lo que piensas*, Planeta, 2018
- SIMON, J. *El último recurso*, Madrid: Dossat, 1986
- Tupy, Marian L. and Pooley, Gale L. *Superabundance: The Story of Population Growth, Innovation, and Human Flourishing on an Infinitely Bountiful Planet*, Cato Institute, 2022
- Zamora Bonilla, Jesús *Contra apocalípticos*, Shackleton books, 2021