DEM 5935 | Professional Development Seminar for Demographers

Course Information
- **Course Hours:** 10:10 - 11:00 AM Wednesdays
- **Course Meeting Location:** Bellamy 606B and/or Synchronous Online Meetings (see Announcements)
- **Credit Hours:** 0 hours
- **Prerequisites:** None

Course Description
This zero-credit course complements your regular coursework by teaching some of the “soft skills” you need to complete the program successfully and then land a job as an applied demographer. Class meetings will consist of either a group discussion or a presentation by a visiting speaker. All enrolled candidates for the Master of Science in Demography degree are expected to attend this development seminar each week during the Fall semester, and to complete some minimal preparatory work prior to some seminar meetings. Attendance at all CDPH brown-bag discussion lunches also is required as part of the participation in this development seminar.

Course Instructor
Elwood Carlson
Charles Nam Professor in Sociology of Population
Email: ecarlson@fsu.edu
Office: 609 Bellamy Building
Office Hours: Weekdays 8-9:00AM
Emails will be responded to within 24 to 48 hours.

Learning Objectives
As the semester proceeds, you will:
- gain a sense of what professional demographers “do” at work;
- construct a professional resumé;
- write an “elevator speech” for use at professional conferences;
- navigate web-based job search engines, including Seminole Connection, PeopleFirst, and USAJobs
- participate in a practice job interview with the FSU Office of Career Advising

Student Responsibilities
This course is graded on an S/U basis. Attendance and participation in all weekly are required, as is attendance at any announced CDPH brown-bag luncheon talks. Students are responsible for completing assigned work by the stated due date. As early as possible in the semester, all participants should pre-schedule practice job interviews with the FSU Office of Career Advising, to be conducted from November 26th through November 30th (the week after Thanksgiving break)--you have to get on their calendar as early as possible, as all the practice interview slots fill up!

University Policies
University Attendance Policy
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who
have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Academic Honor Policy**
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (For more details see the [FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations](https://example.com).

**Americans With Disabilities Act**
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

[Student Disability Resource Center](https://example.com)
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
Email: sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

Free Tutoring from FSU
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the [Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services](https://example.com)' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - email: tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

**Syllabus Change Policy**
"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."
Course Summary

Week 1: Welcome and Course Overview
Woody Carlson, FSU CDPH (August 28)

Week 2: Strategies for Success in the MSD Program
Katrina Crankshaw MSD, US Census Bureau (September 2)

Week 3: Demographers in State Government
David Howell MSD, Alaska Department of Labor (September 9)

Week 4: Constructing Your Resume / Curriculum Vitae
Rebecca Lovett, FSU Career Advising (September 16)

Week 5: Demographers in Large Corporations
Claire Finucane MSD, Warner Brothers Entertainment (September 23)

Week 6: Demographers as Self-Employed Consultants
Peter Morrison, RAND Corporation-retired (September 30)

Week 7: Demographers in Health-Related Careers
Heather Rubino? (October 7)

Week 8: Conducting a Job Search - Online Resources
Rebecca Lovett, FSU Career Advising (October 14)

Week 9: Demography Conferences in a Virtual Environment
(October 23 - 25, New Orleans)

Week 10: Demographers in Academic Careers
Deanna Gore MSD, USC Aiken (October 28)

Week 11: Demographers at the Census Bureau
Melissa Kresin MSD, U.S. Census Bureau (November 4)

Week 12: Demographers in Market Research
Collin McCarter MSD, Trellance Data Analytics (November 11)

Week 13: Scheduled Practice Interviews
(November 20 - 30)

Week 14: Semester Wrap-Up
(December 2)