SYD 3020
SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

- **Class meetings:** This course will be conducted asynchronously. You may access the recorded lectures and other materials on this site at any time, as long as you're working within required due dates.
- **Credit Hours:** 3 hours
- **Prerequisites:** There are no formal prerequisites for SYD 3020 but I expect you to be able to read and comprehend course materials, including a college-level text.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Karin Brewster
Professor of Sociology

brewster@fsu.edu (mailto:brewster@fsu.edu)

Center for Demography & Population Health (BEL 601) OR Department of Sociology (BEL 526). **Office hours** on Tuesday afternoons between 1 and 2:15 **by appointment** over Zoom.

% Emails will be responded to within 24 to 48 hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
We all live out our lives as population members, but few of us pay much attention to the characteristics of the populations to which we belong. This is unfortunate because population characteristics and the processes that drive them are tied to many critical social issues, from the rising cost of health care to climate change to the future of Social Security (to name just a few!). Knowing more about population characteristics and the processes responsible for them will help you to understand the roots of many social issues and the public discourse around them.

More formally, this course is an introduction to two related fields concerned with populations: demography, a science that describes what populations look like and how they change, and population studies, a field that considers the relationships linking population characteristics to social, cultural, economic, and technological factors.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to **build your demographic literacy**. By the end of this semester, you will be able to:

1. Identify the three “demographic processes” and explain how each is related to population growth, distribution, and composition;
2. Differentiate global regions in terms of their current demographic characteristics, population growth rates, and living standards;
3. Explain the roles of technological and economic change, social norms, and national policies in shaping the demographic characteristics of human populations and their living standards; and
4. Interpret the global, national, and local implications of population trends from different theoretical perspectives.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is structured around ten topic-based modules. The course modules include narrated PowerPoint lectures (with transcripts), course assessments (assignments, quizzes, and discussions), and required supplemental materials, including readings, articles, and podcasts,
We will work through these modules sequentially as described on the course calendar. Modules 2 through 10 include introductions that include module-specific learning goals and details on the what to read, watch, or listen to when.

In addition to the ten topic-based modules, you'll find two more general modules. One has materials to help you excel in the class, including useful information on how to use a text book effectively and study guides for the course quizzes. The other is a course library, which has links to sites you'll need for the course assignments.

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### COURSE MATERIALS

#### Required text


The Poston & Bouvier (P & B) text provides critical background on course topics and definitions and discussions of key concepts. You may purchase or lease the text at the campus bookstore; used copies should be available. I strongly recommend a "hard" version; the e-version can be difficult to navigate and you will want to use the glossary and indexes.

#### Other required materials

Additional readings, in PDF format, are available in the course modules, as indicated in the course schedule. Some are mass media articles, some are from academic journals, and some are research briefs from federal agencies, research centers, or NGOs. These articles have been selected to help illustrate ideas from the text and lectures.

Videos and podcasts are also available in the modules. Like the supplemental readings, these recordings illustrate or extend ideas presented in the lectures and text.

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### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Group Discussions.** There are five class discussions, facilitated through FlipGrid, which allows you to record short videos. I'll ask a question about an issue raised in lecture or in the supplemental materials and you'll record your answer to the question and a response to a
A classmate’s answer, drawing on materials from lectures and the text. No post = 0 points; thoughtful main post = 1 point; two thoughtful responses = 1 point.

**Six assignments.** Each assignment requires you to find the answers to 4 to 10 questions from various internet-based sources. To answer these questions, you may need to browse a web page or locate and read a report from a U.S. government agency or a non-governmental organization. You will then submit answers to a randomly-selected subset of these questions, posed in multiple choice format and presented quiz-style.

**Eleven quizzes.** These timed quizzes will be administered on-line, through Canvas. Questions will be objective (i.e., fact-based), typically formatted as multiple choice or true/false and will cover material from the assigned readings and lectures. I will provide a list of concepts and topics for each quiz. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

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**GRADING POLICY**

**Course grades:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Basis</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>0, 1, or 2 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>average % correct</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>average % correct</td>
<td>45%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Missed work:**

Please read the university's attendance policy later in this syllabus; it provides guidance for how I handle missed work.

Assignments and quizzes will be available on-line for at least six days and answers may be submitted at any time during that period. Therefore, late submissions of these assessments will not be accepted unless you can provide documentation of:

- Death of an immediate family member (spouse, parent, sibling, or child);
- An unanticipated event that incapacitates you for four or more days (e.g., hospitalization);
- Required service extending over at least four consecutive days (e.g., selection for a federal jury, military training/drills). You must notify me at least two weeks in advance, in accordance with university policy; after-the-fact paperwork will not eliminate a zero grade.

Missed discussion posts may be made up at my discretion, after appropriate documentation in provided.
Incomplete grades

In accordance with FSU policy, an “I” grade will be granted *only* if a student who is passing the course is unable to complete the course due to unanticipated and unavoidable circumstances. Students must provide indisputable documentation of these circumstances. (You will find details of the university grading policies in the undergraduate edition of the FSU General Bulletin at http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/.)

Extra credit opportunities

None.

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GRADING SCHEME

Course grades will be **rounded up to the nearest integer** and translated to FSU’s letter scale as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100% to 92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 92.5% to 89.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 89.5% to 86.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 86.5% to 82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 82.5% to 79.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 79.5% to 76.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt; 76.5% to 72.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt; 72.5% to 69.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 69.5% to 66.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 66.5% to 62.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>&lt; 62.5% to 59.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.5% to 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Read** the syllabus and follow the course policies.
- **Ask** Dr. B~ if you don't understand something in the lectures, readings, or quiz/assignment grades. This will take more effort than usual in our "socially distanced class," but you can make a Zoom appointment for Tuesday afternoons or send an email.
- **Keep up** with the course schedule: listen to the lectures and other audio and video recordings, participate in the discussion board, complete the assignments and quizzes.
- **Log on** to Canvas at least twice weekly to access lectures and articles, complete assignments and quizzes, and check the announcements for course updates.
- **Be honorable.** If you’re not doing your own work, you’re violating the [FSU Academic Honor Policy](http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity). If you're caught, you will be held to account. Here are some of the acts that constitute cheating in this course:
  - Letting others do your work for you.
  - Discussing the assignments with other students, either in person or virtually by joining apps like GroupMe.
  - Giving other students answers to the assignments or quiz questions.
- **This is your education. Own it!**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to view videos, take quizzes, and post to discussion boards. Students should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. Cell phones may be used to view course content, upload assignments, and take assessments but I **strongly encourage** the use of a tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the [FSU Canvas support site](http://support.canvas.fsu.edu).
Office hours: Beginning the second week of the semester, I will post a Zoom link in the announcements for my office hours. To come to my office hours, you'll simply click on the link. Doing so will put you in a "waiting room." If another student is "in" my office, I might ask you to wait a few minutes but I'll get to you.

If you need assistance with the course materials or have other problems, let me know through email. I check email at least once each weekday morning and afternoon, so I will get back to you, typically within 24 hours, during the week. You may wait longer on weekends. If you have emailed me, please be sure to check your email for my response.

If you need help with Canvas or technology, please see the Canvas Support section, below.

**CANVAS SUPPORT**

Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:

- **Email:** canvas@fsu.edu ([mailto:canvas@fsu.edu](mailto:canvas@fsu.edu))
- **Phone:** (850) 644-8004
- **Website:** support.canvas.fsu.edu ([http://support.canvas.fsu.edu](http://support.canvas.fsu.edu))
- **Hours:** 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday

**COURSE POLICIES**

**For Discussions:**

- When making your FlipGrid videos, creativity is fine. Nudity and profanity, not so much.
- Be mindful of how you express your emotions and humor, and be sensitive to cultural and ability differences of your online peers.
- Keep postings to the point, and make sure your comments are relevant to the topic of discussion.
- Avoid messages such as, "Wow," "Way to go," or "Ditto" and aim for comments that validate other members' ideas through careful explanation of why.

**For Email Communication:**

- Because this class does not have face-to-face meetings, email is our only way to
communicate. Therefore, it is **critical that you respond when Dr. B~ or your TA emails you**.

- Use your FSU email in all messages to Dr. B~ or your TA and please sign **using your full name**.
- Try to be clear and concise when explaining a problem or issue. If you're emailing about a computer problem when submitting an assessment, please provide screenshots.
- Whether you're emailing Dr. B~, your TA, or another student, be sure to ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read your message. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.
- Report any inappropriate communication from your peers to your instructor, as it may be a violation of University policy.

## 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.

Please note: Modifications to this policy have been made to accommodate the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see this memo that has been distributed to all faculty and instructional staff (https://www.fda.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbru636/files/Important%20Policies%20AY%202020-2021%20revised.pdf) regarding the 2020-2021 academic year.

### 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 (http://fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy).)

PROCESS FOR RESOLVING ACADEMIC PROBLEMS OR GRIEVANCES

Please use this step-by-step guide to resolving academic problems (https://www.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu636/files/Media/Files/General%20Academic%20Appeals/Academic_Problem-Solving_Flowchart_Binder_Oct-2020.pdf) to begin the process of communicating with your instructor to resolve any confusion or difficulty you may be having in the course. Detailed information on FSU's grievance procedure, including special instructions for students enrolled in an FSU branch campus, is maintained on the General Bulletin's Academic Integrity & Grievances (https://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity/index.cfm) webpage. Out-of-state distance learning students should review the Office of Distance Learning Complaint Resolution (https://distance.fsu.edu/about-us/complaint-resolution) page for additional procedures.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

1. must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
2. must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
3. should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services 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

Office of Accessibility Services (Tallahassee Campus) (https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas)
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu (mailto:oas@fsu.edu)
https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas

Student Disability Services (Panama City Campus) (https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-disability-services)
Office of Student Affairs
4750 Collegiate Drive
2nd Floor Barron Building (Room 215)
Florida State University Panama City
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 770-2172 (office)
(866) 693-7872 (toll free)
Email: sds@pc.fsu.edu (mailto:sds@pc.fsu.edu)
https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-disability-services

FREE TUTORING FROM FSU (TALLAHASSEE CAMPUS)

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance are available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' website (http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring) or contact tutor@fsu.edu (mailto: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

The due dates for all course assignments, quizzes, and discussions are listed below. A printable Course Calendar, which you'll find in the Course Information module, provides the dates you'll be able to access each of these assessments. To be successful in this course, be sure to complete all required assignments and tests by the due date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 21, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 1: basics of demography and population growth</td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084930">https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084930</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Jan 26, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
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<td>(<a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084925">https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084925</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Jan 28, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 2: demographic data</td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084929">https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084929</a>)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 4, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 3: Population perspectives</td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084927">https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084927</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 10, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(<a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084938">https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084938</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 16, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 4: fertility <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084924">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Feb 18, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment 3 <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084926">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 23, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 5: contraceptives <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084922">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Feb 26, 2021</td>
<td>Discussion 2 <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084939">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Mar 3, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 6: family <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084931">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Tue Mar 9, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment 4 <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084928">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Mar 12, 2021</td>
<td>Discussion 3 <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1106859">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Mar 16, 2021</td>
<td>Assignment 5 <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084934">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Mar 17, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 7: mortality <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084936">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Mar 24, 2021</td>
<td>Quiz 8: mobility, migration, &amp; urbanization <a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084937">Link</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Mar 26, 2021</td>
<td><a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1106860">Discussion 4</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Apr 2, 2021</td>
<td><a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084923">Quiz 9: immigration</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Apr 12, 2021</td>
<td><a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084932">Assignment 6</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Apr 13, 2021</td>
<td><a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084933">Quiz 10: race &amp; ethnicity, age &amp; sex</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 15, 2021</td>
<td><a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1106861">Discussion 5</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 21, 2021</td>
<td><a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084935">Quiz 11: where are we headed?</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/158219/assignments/1084940">Introduce yourself!</a></td>
<td></td>
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