



College of Commerce  
Division of Economic and Financial Studies  
Business Department

# DEM255

## Topics in Demography

### *Unit Outline*

### *First Semester 2005*

**Unit Convenor:** Dr. Fei Guo

**Lecture Times:** Tuesday 3:05pm – 4:55pm

**Location:** E7B - T2

**Prerequisite:** DEM127 (P)

Student Key  
Division of Economic and Financial Studies  
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY



# DEM255: TOPICS IN DEMOGRAPHY

First Semester 2005

*Students in this unit should read this unit outline carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.*

## ABOUT THIS UNIT

### Unit description and rationale

This unit is to familiarise students with some important substantive topics in the field of demography. While emphasis will be placed on the study of Australian population, the demographic situation in selected other countries and regions will also be covered. This unit will appeal to students from a wide range of backgrounds with an interest in demography. Topics covered in this unit will help students establish a better understanding of the demographic issues in relation to other elements in business and society. The unit should also assist students in developing skills in note-taking, accessing demographic literature, essay writing, and critical thinking.

### Credit points for this unit: 3

## TEACHING STAFF

### Unit Convenor:

Dr. Fei Guo  
Room: C5C-318  
Phone (02) 9850-8445  
Email: [fguo@efs.mq.edu.au](mailto:fguo@efs.mq.edu.au)  
Consultation Hours: Wednesday 2:00pm – 4:00pm

### Other Teaching Staff

Dr. Nick Parr  
Room C5C-326  
Phone (02) 9850-8570  
Email: [nparr@efs.mq.edu.au](mailto:nparr@efs.mq.edu.au)  
Consultation Hours: Monday 1:00pm – 3:00pm

### Guest Lecturers

Dr. Stefania Siedlecky  
Professor Terry Hull

Students are most welcome to visit the staff connected with the unit during their consultation hours. If you cannot make the scheduled consultation hours you are still welcome to visit the staff, however, since there is no guarantee that the staff will be available outside the consultation hours, phoning or emailing to make an appointment would be advisable.

## **CLASSES**

### **Lecture Time and Venue**

Lectures will be held in E7B – T2 on Tuesdays from 3:05pm to 4:55pm. Satisfactory attendance in lectures is a requirement of the unit, which may be used to determine a marginal grade. Class attendance will be recorded each week. It is students' responsibility to sign the class attendance sheet that will be circulated at beginning of each lecture.

A field trip to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (Level 5, St. Andrew House, Town Hall Square) will be held on Tuesday 24 May 2005 from 3:00 to 4:30. *Please ensure that on that day you make arrangements with lecturers/tutors for any units which you may be scheduled to attend in the 2-3pm and 5-6pm time slots.*

## **REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

There is no prescribed textbook for this unit. A list of references will be posted on the DEM255 website <http://www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/255.html>. Please note that the lecture notes handed out each week offer only a skeletal coverage of the topics covered in lectures that must be augmented by additional note-taking during the lecture or using the recommended references. The DEM255 Bulletin Board website <http://www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/255bulletin.html> will be used to relay information about the unit to students. It is expected that students will visit this website on a regular basis.

## **UNIT WEB PAGE**

The address of the Macquarie University Demography website is [www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/](http://www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/). The site contains an array of materials relating to the various undergraduate units in demography. Additional materials will be added from time to time. DEM255 students should visit the DEM255 page [www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/255.htm](http://www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/255.htm). Of particular importance is the DEM255 Bulletin Board [www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/255bulletin.htm](http://www.bus.mq.edu.au/dem/255bulletin.htm). The Bulletin Board will be used by the Unit Convenor to relay information about the unit to students. It is expected students will visit this page on a regular basis.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The main outcomes that students are expected to achieve from this unit include:

- knowledge of the main sources of demographic data and literature;
- knowledge of the main demographic issues;
- knowledge of major demographic changes in Australia and their implications;
- ability to use demographic concepts to interpret demographic transition and its contributory factors;
- ability to appreciate the importance of demographic elements in business decisions and social policy-making;
- ability to write a major essay on relevant demographic topics; and
- ability to use appropriate academic referencing style.

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills in a range of areas. One of the aims of this unit is that students develop their skills in the following:

- foundation skills of literacy and numeracy;
- information literacy skills;
- analytic skills; and
- critical thinking skills.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY**

The teaching strategy consists of the provision of information in the weekly lectures on Tuesdays, a library information session, and a field trip to visit the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Copies of overhead lecture notes for each topic will be distributed in class or provided via the Library e-Reserve page, which could be printed out before the lecture. It is expected that students will attend the weekly lectures and other activities on a regular basis and will actively take notes during the lectures.

In addition to the time spent attending lectures and other activities and doing assignments, each student is expected to spend a significant amount of time preparing for lectures, updating lecture notes, reading the demographic literature, preparing for major essay and revising for the final examination (12 hours per week is recommended). There is no mid-semester exam for this unit. A major essay will be assigned instead. The major essay will be used to assess students' ability of using relevant demographic data and literature to analyse one or more major demographic issues.

A week-by-week list of the topics is provided on the following page.

## DEM255: TOPICS IN DEMOGRAPHY

### Schedule of Lectures

Week	Date	Topic	Lecturer	Assignments	
				Given	Due
1	1 March	Introduction. Library resources and some useful demographic sites on the internet (library)	FG		
2	8 March	Landmarks in the population history of Australia	FG		
3	15 March	The history of migration to Australia	FG	1	
4	22 March	The demography of households in Australia	NP		
5	29 March	Family planning in Australia	SS	2	1
6	5 April	Population and environment	FG	Essay	
7	12 April	Australia's changing ethnic demography	NP	3	2
<b>MID-SEMESTER BREAK (15 April – 1 May)</b>					
8	3 May	Fertility and family planning in Asia	TH		
9	10 May	Demographic transition in Europe	FG	4	3
10	17 May	Demographic transition in Asia: China	FG		
11	24 May	Visit to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (3:00 – 4:30pm)	FG		4
12	31 May	Demographic transition in Asia: Indonesia	FG		Essay
13	7 June	Conclusion and unit evaluation	FG		

(FG) Dr. Fei Guo (Unit Convenor)

(NP) Dr. Nick Parr

(SS) Dr. Stefania Siedlecky

(TH) Professor Terry Hull

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The requirements of this unit consist of regular attendance at lectures, participation in the field trip, and satisfactory completion of the assignments, major essay, and the final examination.

Assessment will be by four assignments, one major essay, and a final examination. The weighting given to the various assessment tasks will be:

- **assignments and other tasks (20%)**
- **major essay (20%) and**
- **the final examination (60%)**

Please note that you must achieve a reasonable performance both in the classwork (class attendance, assignments, and essay) and in the examination components of this unit.

Details of the dates of distribution of and for submission of assignments for DEM255 are given in the Schedule of Lectures. Spare copies of assignments may be obtained from the Economics Resources and Information Centre (ERIC-C5C244). All assignments submitted should have a cover sheet which clearly states the student's name, ID number, the name and code of the unit, the number of the assignment, and date of submission. **All assignments should be submitted in class at the scheduled lecture time.** Penalties will be incurred for the late submission of assignments, unless satisfactory evidence of unavoidable disruption is presented. Teaching staff may refuse to mark the work of students who have a poor record of attendance or who have previously been late in submitting assignments (without satisfactory evidence of unavoidable disruption) on more than one occasion.

This is a reading and writing intensive unit. The four assignments will be short essays -- either a critical review of one or more papers/chapters or a comprehensive analysis of demographic issue(s) covered in the lectures. Questions in the final exam will be in the format of short essay and short notes. The major essay assignment is expected to be approximately 25 pages in length with appropriate footnoting and referencing style.

Dictionaries are not allowed in the exam.

Students are advised that a poor record of attendance in lectures may adversely affect the grade awarded. Satisfactory attendance in lectures and other activities may be used to determine a marginal grade. A marginal performance in the final examination will normally result in a marginal final grade being given.

The University Examination period in the First Half Year 2005 is from 15 June to 29 June. You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations. <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCons.pdf>

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.

You are advised that is Macquarie University policy NOT to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching semester, that is the final day of the official examination period.

## **PLAGIARISM**

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own." Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at:  
<http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING**

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction.

<b>High Distinction</b>	<b>(HD)</b>
<b>Distinction</b>	<b>(D)</b>
<b>Credit</b>	<b>(Cr)</b>
<b>Pass</b>	<b>(P)</b>
<b>Conceded Pass</b>	<b>(PC)</b>
<b>Fail</b>	<b>(F)</b>

Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG). Please note that the raw marks for a unit (i.e. the weighted average of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should achieve similar results.

For an explanation of the policy see

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/MQUonly/Issues/Guidelines2003.doc> or  
<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/MQUonly/Issues/detailedguidelines.doc>.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.