College of Commerce
Division of Economic and Financial Studies
Department of Business

DEM255
Topics in Demography

Unit Outline

Semester 1, 2007

Unit Convenor: Dr. Fei Guo

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

Location: E7B - T2

Prerequisite: DEM127 (P)

DEM255: TOPICS IN DEMOGRAPHY

First Semester 2007

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. The unit will appeal to students from a wide range of backgrounds with an interest in demography. Topics covered 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 the unit: 3

TEACHING STAFF

Unit Convenor:

Dr. Fei Guo
Room: E4A-627
Phone (02) 9850-8445
Email: fguo@efs.mq.edu.au
Consultation Hours: Monday 10:30am–12:30pm, Tuesday 10:30am – 12:30pm

Guest Lecturers

Dr. Stefania Siedlecky
Ms. Alison Culpin

Students are most welcome to visit staff connected with the unit during their consultation hours. If you cannot make the scheduled consultation hours you are still welcome to visit staff, however, since there it no guarantee that staff will be available outside the consultant 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 and 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 22nd May 2006 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 and the lecture notes/overheads and other relevant lecture and tutorial materials can be accessed via WebCT. Copies of a selection of the overheads shown in lectures will also be available on the Reserve Collection page of the Macquarie University library website http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/reserve/ .

Please note that the weekly lecture notes/overheads 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 Notice Board via WebCT will be used to relay information about the unit to students. It is expected that students will visit this page on a regular basis.

UNIT WEB PAGE

The address of the Macquarie University Demography website is 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.

WebCT
Students can access to this unit using the following address: http://online.mq.edu.au. This page supports the lecture notes, unit outline, assignments, and any other information that is deemed relevant to the unit. Students who experience technical problems accessing WebCT should contact Ms. Yang Yang in Room E4A624 or by email yyang@efs.mq.edu.au .

iLectures
It is planned that DEM255 lectures will be recorded using the iLecture system. Students may access files through the Macquarie University Online Teaching Facility http://online.mq.edu.au using your Student ID number and your myMQ Portal password. Whilst the iLectures may provide an additional resource, students are advised that no guarantees are given in relation to the availability or quality of the sound recordings or the functioning of any related websites or links to files of recordings of lecture slides. Students are expected to attend the lectures on a regular basis and to compile notes during the course of the lectures. Thus any failing of the iLectures will not be accepted as grounds for appeal.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- knowledge of main sources of demographic data and literature;
- knowledge of major 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, 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 provided via WebCT, and should be printed out before the lecture. The iLecture on each topic will assist students' revision of each lecture at their own pace. 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 the 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 used to assess students' ability to use 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	27 Feb.	Introduction. Library resources and some useful demographic sites on the internet	FG		
2	6 March	Landmarks in the population history of Australia	FG		
3	13 March	The history of migration to Australia	FG	1	
4	20 March	Ageing and aged care in Australia	FG		
5	27 March	Population and environment	FG		1
6	3 April	Family planning in Australia	SS	Essay 2	
MID-SEMESTER BREAK (5th April – 22nd April)					
7	24 April	Demographic transition in Europe	FG		2
8	1 May	Demographic transition in Asia: China	FG	3	
9	8 May	Demographic transition in Asia: Indonesia	FG		
10	15 May	Skilled migration in the Asia Pacific region	FG		3
11	22 May	Visit to the Australian Bureau of Statistics *(3:00 – 4:30pm)*	FG		
12	29 May	The demography of regional planning in Australia	AC		Essay
13	5 June	Conclusion and unit evaluation	FG		

(FG) Dr. Fei Guo (Unit Convenor)
(SS) Dr. Stefania Siedlecky, Guest Lecturer
(AC) Ms. Alison Culpin, Guest Lecturer

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

- **assignments and other tasks (15%)**
- **major essay (20%) and**
- **the final examination (65%)**

Please note that you must achieve a satisfactory 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. All assignments submitted should have a cover sheet which clearly states the student's 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 unless otherwise specified**. 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. A peer-review assessment procedure will be introduced this semester. Each student will be allocated to review and mark an essay written by another student. The marks given by students and the marks given by teaching staff will then be combined to generate an average grade for each assignment. **In addition, for each assignment, teaching staff may randomly select 10% of students to submit an electronic copy of their assignments for the purpose of detecting plagiarised contents in the assignments.**

This is a reading and writing intensive unit. The three 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 15 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. Satisfactory attendance is 75% of lectures.

The University Examination period in the First Half Year 2007 is from 13 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 at 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. Note that there is a Division policy regarding requests for special consideration for examinations and the granting of supplementary examinations, which can be found at:

http://www.efs.mq.edu.au/student_support/important_processes/special_consideration

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.

High Distinction	**(HD)**
Distinction	**(D)**
Credit	**(Cr)**
Pass	**(P)**
Conceded Pass	**(PC)**
Fail	**(F)**

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/rules/Guidelines2003.doc or http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/rules/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.