



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

DEM355: Social and Applied Demography

Unit Outline First Semester, 2007

Thursdays 1-4 pm, E7B-100

Unit Convenor: Professor Farhat Yusuf

Prerequisites: DEM255 (P) or DEM256 (P)

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

About this unit

This unit will appeal particularly to commerce and other social science students. It focuses on the strategic implications of demographic trends for business and governments both in Australia and other countries. This unit will familiarise students with the determinants and consequences of population trends, and the applications of demography in the public and private sectors. While special emphasis will be placed on the study of contemporary Australian demography, the situation in other countries and the historical perspectives will also be considered. In addition to lectures, students will be asked to actively participate in class discussions and will also get opportunities to make presentations. Students will get hands-on experience of social and applied demographic research through the use of census and other data.

The unit is worth 3 credit points.

Teaching staff

The teaching staff consists of Professor Farhat Yusuf and one or more invited lecturers. Please feel free to contact Prof. Yusuf if you have any questions, or if there is any way in which he can assist you. Professor Yusuf will be available for consultation either immediately after the class or by appointment. You could call him on 9850-8565. His e-mail address is: fyusuf@efs.mq.edu.au.

Classes

The unit will involve attendance at three lectures every week on Thursdays from 1-4 pm, with a 20 minute break, in E7B-100. It is a requirement of the unit that students attend all lectures. Students must contact the unit convenor if due to special circumstances they are unable to attend the class.

Workload

The relationship between workload and credit points, which, for a typical competent student, is 4 hours per credit point per week. Thus, you should plan to spend, on an average, 12 hours per week on the study of social and applied demography. This includes the time spent in lectures as well as doing assignments and *independent study* of relevant demographic topics. If you consistently spend less time than that stipulated above then you are probably not studying hard enough and/or do not understand fully the requirements of this unit.

Required and recommended text and materials

The prescribed textbook for this unit is: Weeks, J.R. (2002) *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*. Eighth Edition. Lecture notes will provide additional material.

They will be available to students in the Library E-Reserve. You will also be referred to other readings material in the lectures and tutorials.

Unit web page

At this stage there is no web page for this unit.

Learning objectives and outcomes

Some of the important learning objectives and outcomes include:

- ability to define and explain the differences in social and applied demography
- knowledge of demographic concepts and basic techniques
- ability to access demographic and other data for Australia and overseas countries using internet and other sources
- understanding of the social and other determinants of fertility, mortality, migration and their consequences
- knowledge of causes and consequences of phenomena such as demographic transition and ageing of populations
- appreciation and understanding of the applications of demography in business and in the public sector.

In addition to the discipline based objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie University 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:

- critical analysis skills
- problem solving skills
- creative thinking skills
- communication skills
- interpersonal skills.

Assessment

Assessment of the student performance will be based on attendance at lectures, participation in class discussions, group research project, class test and the mid-year examination. Various components of the assessment are:

Mid-year examination	70 %
Group research project	20 %
Class test	10 %

The final grade which will be awarded to you will be within the range: high distinction (HD), distinction (D), credit (CR), pass (P), conceded pass (PC) or fail (F). For details please refer to the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies 2007*.

Your final assessment for the unit will be within the grade scheme given above, and will indicate the standardised numerical grade (SNG) you have achieved. Please note that the SNG is not simply a sum of your raw marks for the class work and examination, but will take into consideration other factors such as your participation in class discussions and attendance record, and that **students must pass the mid-year-examination**.

University policy on grading

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus an SNG.

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (*i.e.*, the total 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 the students should achieve similar results.

It is important that you realise that the policy does not require that a minimum number of students are to be failed in any unit. In fact it does something like the opposite, in requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of students fail in a unit.

The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scale mark.

For an explanation of the policy see:

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

or alternately

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

(any changes in the above URLs will be advised later).

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> (any changes in this URL will be advised later).

Examinations

The University Examination period in First Half Year 2007 is from 11 to 25 June (dates to be confirmed).

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. Please check the following link: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam> (any changes in this URL will be advised later).

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 the following web address: <http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCon.pdf> (any changes in this URL will be advised later).

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 it 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. This can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at: <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/> (any changes in this URL will be advised later).

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.

Teaching and learning strategy

The unit will be taught through lectures, class discussions and a research project to be carried out by groups of students. Students are expected to read in advance for lectures and class discussions, participate in group work including preparation of the project reports, presentation of findings and other related tasks.

Schedule of classes

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	1/3	Introduction.
2	8/3	World population: past, present and future.
3	15/3	Population theories.
4	22/3	Changing status of women and its socio-demographic implications. (<i>Prof. Martins</i>)
5	29/3	Fertility trends and differentials.
6	5/4	Mortality and morbidity trends and differentials.
MID SEMESTER BREAK.		
7	26/4	Class Test.
8	3/5	Internal and international migration patterns.
9	10/5	Ageing and its implications.
10	17/5	Some case studies on consumer demographics in Australia and China.
11	24/5	Presentation of group research projects – I.
12	31/5	Presentation of group research projects –II.
13	7/6	Revision and conclusion.

Group research projects

Groups

The class will be divided into 5-6 groups. Each student will be assigned to a particular group. The membership of the groups will be decided in the second lecture on 8 March 2007.

It will be the responsibility of each group to complete the research project and four assignments. It will also be the responsibility of each group to decide how work would be organised and individual tasks assigned, including the completion of the final project report. To facilitate work, the group may select a co-ordinator and a rapporteur. The groups should meet **at least once weekly** to decide on how the work would be organised, assign work to each individual, and review progress made towards the completion of the project. The group will nominate one or a maximum of two members to make an oral presentation of 10-15 minutes in the class in week 11 or 12.

A cover sheet will be provided for the research project. Each group will indicate whether individual members of the group should be given the full mark, or only a proportion of the mark, depending on the group's assessment of the effort made by the individual towards the completion of the group's work. Final reports are due in the class on 7 June 2007. Late submissions will NOT be accepted.

Research project topics

Group research project topics will be assigned in the second lecture on 8 March 2007.