SOSC1860: Population and Society

Instructor: Stuart Gietel-Basten [PPOL & SOSC]

Enrolment requirements

No course pre-requisite. Basic spreadsheet skills required.

Course objectives

To give students:

- an appreciation of the role of population issues in contemporary society
- the ability to find and evaluate demographic information
- an understanding of the main measurements of population
- an appreciation of how we consider future changes in population
- the opportunity to develop their skills in basic quantitative analysis, presentation and team-work

Intended learning outcomes

At the completion of the course, students will be able to

- Explain how and why population issues drive, and are driven by, changes in society, politics and the economy
- Find and evaluate pertinent data relating to population
- Perform, and evaluate, basic calculations to produce core demographic measures relating to mortality, fertility and migration
- Project populations into the future; and interpret these findings
- Demonstrate a higher degree of competence in spreadsheet skills, presenting data, and working in a team.

Teaching and learning activities

The course will be taught in the **flipped classroom (blended) format.** Students are expected to watch a series of online video lectures before class according to the timetable. These will cover some key concepts and calculations. **It is imperative that students watch the videos befor e class.** In class, students will then apply and practice these skills in groups with assistance from the teacher and TA. Groups will alternate between in-class consultation time, and individual study out of class. This is discussed in more depth in the 'About this course' page'.

More information about blended learning can be found at these links:[HKUST (Links to an external site.)](#) ▷ & [University of Queensland (Links to an external site.)](#).

The first two weeks of classes will be completely online, as per University regulations. However, from Week 3, **if circumstances permit**, we will move to a **mixed-mode style of teaching,** where students can attend class either in-person or online.

Assessment

Assessment will take two forms for this course.

Group workbook (40%)

For each module (except #1), students will need to complete a series of assignments as a group. These assignments will be based on the videos for each module.

These workbooks will gradually develop over the course of the semester as students add more detail to their projects.

In order to penalize free-riding, groups will be required to perform an internal peer-review. The results of this exercise will be part of the final mark.

Quizzes (15%)

Each module will have a quiz that students are expected to take. The quiz will include a test of the basic understanding of the video materials, as well as some review of the overall group work in the previous module assessment.

Essay (35%)

At the end of the course, students will be required to write an individual project where they apply the learning across the course to their own case study.

Participation, class engagement (10%)

This mark will be determined by the degree of overall engagement of the student, including attendance in 'Live' sessions, the amount of time engaged with online materials, etc.