

SOSC1780  
Population and Development in China  
Course Outline

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of population growth, distribution, composition, major demographic processes and their relationship with economic development. Special attention is given to the demographic trends and policies in both the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong SAR. Basic concepts of economics and knowledge of development in the region are required for the exams. Students are assessed according to their performance in exams (2), assignments (2), random quizzes (5) and class discussion.

### Course Structure

1. Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences, and Controversies
2. Population Composition by Age and Sex: Marriage Squeeze and Population Aging
3. Fertility Analysis: Trends, Levels and Explanations
4. Migration: Explanation and Evaluation of Its Impact
5. Mortality Analysis: Causes, Epidemiological Transition, and Differentials in Mortality
6. Population Distribution: Urban and Regional Growth

Instructor: Zhongdong Ma (Rm. 2464, 2358-7829, [sojohnma@ust.hk](mailto:sojohnma@ust.hk))  
Office hour: after lecture or by appointment

TA: Daphne DENG (Rm. 3005, [daphned@ust.hk](mailto:daphned@ust.hk))  
Office hour: TBA

Lectures: Tuesday: 9:00 – 11:50 AM, Rm. 2464  
two-hour lecture followed by video on China and the region

Assessment:	Assignment (2)	20%
	Class attendance & Quizzes	20%
	Final Exam (MC & Short Qs)	60%

Website: <https://canvas.ust.hk/>

### Reference Books:

Todaro, M.P, *Economic Development* (11th ed), 2010, Mass.: Addison Wesley.  
<http://eco.eco.basu.ac.ir/BasuContentFiles/57/57304a77-1269-4081-bd5b-4c66b84b06a4.pdf>

Weeks, J. R. 2008. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*. Belmont, CA :  
Wadsworth Publishing Co.  
<http://www.arabgeographers.net/vb/attachments/attachments/arab3198/>

## Readings:

1. 中国人口迁移 1982-2015 变动趋势, 人口科学, 2019, 马忠东
2. Feature Article, *Fertility and Mortality Trends in Hong Kong, 1971 to 2000*, Apr 2002, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR
3. Feature Article, *The Mortality Trend in Hong Kong, 1981 to 2015*, Dec 2016, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR
4. Feature Article, *Marriage and Divorce Trends in Hong Kong, 1991 to 2016*, Jan 2018, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR
5. Feature Article, *Fertility Trend in Hong Kong, 1981 to 2017*, Dec 2018, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR

## Main problems encountered by previous students

1. **Basic concepts of economics** will be frequently used in understanding theories of economic development and population change. If you are not familiar with basic concepts such as opportunity costs, economy of scale, and price elasticity, you may encounter difficulties in understanding the lecture, reading assignments and hence examination.
2. **Putonghua** will be sometimes used for explaining specific terms/policies in China. For MC and essay questions, students need basic understanding of both HK and the Chinese Mainland.
3. **Honesty**. I expect all of my students to behave in an honest manner. This means no cheating or taking other people's work and acting as though it is your own. Students who violate the school's policies on academic integrity will fail the course.
4. **Class attendance / discussion**. There are regular quizzes either at the beginning or the end of the class that account for 15 percentages of the total marks. There were excellent students who missed lecture(s) and were unable to answer questions in the exam, even with lecture notes. Students who actively participate in class discussion will get bonus points.
5. **Lecture notes**. A few years ago, our division had an explicit policy of not distributing any lecture notes to students. For your concentration in the class, I will distribute the outline of the notes to you in the course website. While ignoring numbers and simple description during lecture, it is your responsibility to take notes on the detail explanation of concepts and theories.

## What should I do if I encounter some problems mentioned above?

You should spend extra time and efforts on learning basic concepts of economics, understanding basic Putonghua, and/or improving your writing skills, which are all important to your future life and career. Importantly, you should attend class **on time**, switch off your mobile phone and refrain yourself from talking. If you are unwilling or unable to do so, it is probably best for you to find a different class. In the past years, there were several students who frequently travelled outside HK, missed many classes, obtained a low grade but begged a higher one for passing. We can never entertain such an unreasonable request.