

**SYLLABUS (draft, revised April 4, 2007)**  
**ECONOMICS OF POPULATION (432)**  
**ORAL INTENSIVE**  
**Fall 2007, MW 1:30-2:45**

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**Office hours: MW 3:00-4:00**

Economics of Population (Econ 432) Calendar (subject to change)	
8/20 I. Introduction, overview	8/22 Introduction to population: mortality
8/27 Introduction to population: fertility	8/29 Introduction to population: age structure
9/3 Holiday: Labor Day	9/5 Presentation and powerpoint skills
9/10 Population: Summing Up	9/12 Country reports
9/17 Country reports	9/19 Country reports
9/24 <b>Review of Country Reports</b>	9/26
<b>II. Population and economic growth</b>	
10/1	10/3
10/8	10/10 <b>Midterm Examination</b>
10/15 <b>III. Immigration</b>	10/17
10/22	10/24
10/29	10/31 <b>IV. Economics of Aging</b>
11/5	11/7
11/12 Veteran's Day	11/14
11/19	11/21
11/26 Hearings: China's One Child Policy	11/28 Hearings: Limiting immigration
12/3 Hearings: Privatizing Social Security	12/5 Review
<b>Final Examination: Hearings and written report satisfy final exam requirement.</b>	

**Course Requirements**

The grade for this course is based on the following requirements:

Country report	20%
Mid-term examination	25%
Current Event	10%
Hearings	35%
Classroom participation	10%

Grading of the country report and the hearing testimony will be based half on the presentation and half on the written submission. Grading of the presentations will be through written peer evaluation using assessment forms that can be downloaded from the

class website. Peer evaluation will be anonymous to fellow students but known to the course instructor.

Active participation is essential to a successful oral intensive course. Students are expected to attend all presentations by their fellow students, to provide constructive and useful feedback as peer evaluators, and to actively participate in question and answer periods following country reports and hearings.

### **Country Reports**

Each student will select a country on which to report. The objective of the report is to present an overview of demographic trends and prospects in the assigned country and to highlight an interesting feature of population or population policy in your country. The report will be prepared in Microsoft Power Point and students will make an oral presentation of not more than 8 minutes. A written copy of the Power Point presentation must be submitted on the day of the presentation. Students will be graded on both the content of the report and the presentation. The lecture on that day will be devoted to presentation skills and to preparing a power point presentation. Please familiarize yourself with Power Point prior to the lecture.

At the end of each presentation, approximately 2 minutes will be devoted to questions from class members.

### **Current Event**

At the beginning of each class after the country reports, one or two students will make a three to four minute presentation on a population related topic based on an article in *The Economist*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Science*, *Nature* or a similar publication. The student will be allowed to use a power point presentation that consists of a single slide.

### **Hearings**

Three sets of hearings will be held at the end of the semester on the following issues:

- 1) Should China have adopted the “one child” policy?
- 2) Should immigration to the US be substantially limited?
- 3) Should the US privatize social security?

Hearings will be organized in the form of a debate. On each issue three or four students will present testimony taking either a *pro* or a *con* position, with testimony alternating between the *pro* and *con* positions. Each student will make an individual presentation, but presenters are expected to coordinate with their “team member/s” to reduce duplication and to achieve a more comprehensive coverage of the issues. Each student will also serve on a panel of *Senators* with one student serving as *Committee Chair*. The panel will receive the testimony and ask questions of those who are testifying.

**Class Website:** <https://myuhportal.hawaii.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>

Login with your username and password (same as accessing email).

Click on "My Tools" tab (at the top)

Select econ 432

At the left there are course tools. The only important one is "Files". Select it.

A directory for the course will appear. Files are contained in the various folders.