

ECONOMICS 489

Economics and Population

Taught by Professor Shoshana Grossbard

Spring 2016

Official Information and Calendar

Course meets Tu Th 11:00-12:15.

I can be contacted via Email: shosh@mail.sdsu.edu; or come visit me during Office hours: Tuesdays 10:15 to 10:50 and Thursdays 14:30 to 15:30 at Nasatir Hall Room 307. You can call me during my office hours at 619 594 5468. Let us talk about you, economics, or... in English, French, Dutch, Hebrew, or Spanish. My webpage: <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/index.html>. I occasionally blog to my 489 students on www.facebook.com/Populationecon (163 likes) and linked twitter account @econofhousehold.

Description from Catalog:

Relation of fertility, marriage, migration, and other dimensions of population to various economic factors affecting household behavior. Demographic measures and projections, application to product markets and to policies of developed and less developed countries.

Prerequisites: Six units of economics to include Economics 102; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences. General Education prerequisite not required for Economics majors.

Main ways of Getting Information, besides lectures:

A/ **Blackboard (Bb):** you are responsible for checking your messages on Bb. Please register at <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/>. This is also how you will find out about your grades.

B/ Required and Recommended Learning Resources

B.1 Required Book: John Weeks' *Population*, 11th edition, published by Wadsworth/Cengage Learning. Note that this is NOT the latest edition. If you get a copy of the 11th edition that was custom made for my class three years ago, that is also good, but it may be cheaper to order the whole book on the internet. Prices charged by KB are 99\$ for buying book (minus discount of 5\$ if you mention my name) and 20 dollars if you rent the book. Campus bookstore charges 103\$ to buy.

B.2 Recommended:

- **Get one or more learning partners.** Studying in a group makes it a lot more fun to study economics! Another advantage of partnership is that if you are absent, a partner can update you on what you missed. However, class consultations with fellow students are forbidden during quizzes and exams.
- Follow and participate in **blogs**. In addition to my www.facebook.com/populationecon blog, tied to my twitter account @econofhousehold, you may want to consider the blog of John Weeks (<http://weekspopulation.blogspot.com>) and my other two blogs: www.facebook.com/econoflove (linked to @econoflove where I have 2387 followers) and www.facebook.com/basicecon (linked to @shoshecon).

Topics covered

- Review of major tools of analysis, including economic and statistical analysis.
- What is demography?
- Why demography and economics?
- Health and mortality
- Fertility
- Family and Household

Assessment and Grading

Exam 1	50 points
Exams 2 and 3	200 points (100 pts each)
Assignments	100 points
Class Participation	50 points
GRAND TOTAL:	400 points

No extra credit options available.

More about exams:

- Exams scheduled in advance according to calendar available to students.
- Bring red scantron forms to exams.
- First exam consists entirely of multiple choice (MC) questions; last two exams have both MC and essay questions.

Class participation is based both on attendance and active and informed participation in class discussions. Students are encouraged to share materials pertaining to this class by posting them on www.facebook.com/populationecon and by commenting on entries that have appeared on these blogs.

Any request for grade change will have to be submitted to me in writing, clearly indicating the question and the rationale/argument behind your request.

Grading criteria:

90	A
87	A-
84	B+
81	B
78	B-
74	C+
70	C
66	C-
60	D+
55	D
50	D-
0	F

Cheating: SDSU has an office in charge of handling cheating cases. I hate dealing with that office. Please do your part so we can avoid them.