

# ECONOMICS 489

## Economics and Population

Spring 2013

### Official Information and Calendar

Meeting Dates and Times: Tu Th 14:00-15:15

Instructor: Shoshana Grossbard <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/>. I can be contacted via Email: [shosh@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:shosh@mail.sdsu.edu); or come visit me during Office hours: Tu 10 to 10 45; Th 13:00 to 13:45 at Adams Humanities Room 4200.

#### 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: *Populations SDSU*, excerpts from John Weeks' *Population*, a custom edition for San Diego State Econ 489. ISBN 1133872506. Published by Cengage Learning. This special edition will cost you less than 100\$, covers about 320 pages, and includes chapters 2,5,6,7,8, and 10. The full book is about double the price.

#### 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**, especially my [www.facebook.com/populationecon](http://www.facebook.com/populationecon) blog. Also recommended are my other blog [www.facebook.com/econoflove](http://www.facebook.com/econoflove) and that of John Weeks (<http://weekspopulation.blogspot.com>). Econoflove deals mostly with relationships between intimate partners and parents and children; Populationecon is all other demographic topics. I also tweet @econoflove and @econofhousehold. The first is linked to the econoflove fb page; the latter to the populationecon fb page.
- **The Wall Street Journal:** printed or electronic. Great source of news about economics.

### **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
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>400 points</b>

No extra credit options available.

### **More about exams:**

- Exams scheduled in advance according to calendar below.
- Bring red large scantron forms to first exam; narrow red scantron forms to later 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](http://www.facebook.com/populationecon) or [www.facebook.com/econoflove](http://www.facebook.com/econoflove) 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.

The following is a bare-bones calendar. Further details will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

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CALENDAR ECON 489 Spring 2013

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**Week 1 Jan 17**

Introduction to the course

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**Week 2 starts Jan 22**

Tools of economic analysis

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**Week 3 starts Jan 29**

Statistical tools

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**Week 4 starts Feb 5**

2/5: REVIEW SESSION

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2/7: FIRST EXAM (MULTIPLE CHOICE; REVIEW OF ECONOMIC & STATISTICAL TOOLS)

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**Week 5 starts Feb 12**

Chapter 2 in Weeks: Global population Trends

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**Week 6 starts Feb 19**

Chapter 6 in Weeks: The Fertility Transition

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**Week 7 starts Feb 26**

Fertility and pyramids; 2/28 REVIEW SESSION

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**Week 8 starts March 5**

3/5: EXAM 2

3/7: Preparation for pyramid presentations

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**Week 9 starts March 12**

Pyramid presentations

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**Week 10 starts March 19**

Pyramid presentations

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**Week 11 starts March 26**

Chapter 5 in Weeks on Health and Mortality

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SPRING RECESS APRIL 1 TO 7

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**Week 12 starts April 9**

## Chapter 8 in Weeks on Age Transition

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Week 13 starts April 16

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Age transition, continued  
Age and housing

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Week 14 starts April 23

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Chapter 10 in Weeks on families and households

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Week 15 starts April 30

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Families and households, continued

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Week 16 starts May 7

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5/7 Review session ; no school on 5/9

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Exam 3 on 5/14 from 13:00 to 15:00

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