

**Demography and Contemporary Societies**

Code: 104240  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503710 Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning	OB	2	1

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: catalan (cat)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Other comments on languages**

Catalan will be the language of first choice in teaching, but use of Spanish or English by students is welcomed.

**Teachers**

Victoria San Juan Bernuy

**Prerequisites**

No special requirements

Equal treatment for the students coming from the two degrees where this course is taught:

Geography, Environment and Territorial Planning (compulsory)

Social and Cultural Anthropology (optional)

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

Course objective: The basic objective of the subject is to introduce students to the basic features of the study of human populations, both in terms of the DEMOGRAPHIC METHOD and of the KNOWLEDGE of the most general demographic phenomena; as well as its interrelation with historical, territorial and environmental contextual elements.

- a) Introducing the students to the main demographic indicators
  - Calculation of indicators: methods and data sources.
  - Demographic information available: data banks on the Internet
- b) How is the behavior of real populations.
  - Understanding the historical process of shaping populations and demographic systems
  - Interactions of the demographic system with other spheres of human activity, environment and planning.
- c) Reinforcement of the logical and analytical elements in relation to population studies.
  - Demographic approaches for the interpretation of social information.

## Competences

- Combine distinct techniques and methods of representation and spatial analysis in elaborating materials for transmitting results.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Combine distinct techniques and methods of representation and spatial analysis in elaborating materials for transmitting results.
2. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
3. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

## Content

1. Introduction to the course, contents and methodology
2. Introduction to Demography.
3. Sources of demographic data: censuses and other population stock sources
4. Sources of demographic data: vital statistics and surveys.
5. Indicators and interpretation in Demography
6. History of the World Population. The Theory of the Demographic Transition
7. Main mortality indicators.
8. Main indicators of fertility
9. Drawing a demographic pyramid and structure indicators.
10. An example of applied demography: housing and population
11. World population growth and geopolitical implications. World population prospects.
12. Societal challenges: aging, fertility, gender and family structures.
13. Environmental challenges: population, urbanization, resources, climate change

## Methodology

The course will last approximately 12-13 weeks, at a rate of 3 hours per week, which sum up 50 hours of joint work in the classroom.

The weekly work will consist of two types of sessions:

- A first session of 1,5 hours will be TE type (lectures), that is, sessions in which teacher will keep the main role through the presentation and explanation of the different topics, including the use of ICT (internet access, power-point presentations ). Student participation will be encouraged through questions and small debates.

- A second weekly session (1,5 h) will be of the PAUL type, practical work in a lab computer classroom, in which the teacher will coordinate the individual or small groups work. In these practical sessions public online statistical sources will be presented and handled, problems of calculation of urban, demographic and housing indicators will be solved, as well as relevant texts or other material of interest will be discussed.

Every weekly lab work will end with an assignment. All assignments will take part of the course final evaluation, together with 2 partial exams.

University teaching intranet will be used (Campus Virtual). There, students will be able to access all documents needed for the lectures and lab sessions. It will also be the place for students to deliver the assignments before successive deadlines.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	23.5	0.94	3, 2
Problems in computer lab	23.5	0.94	1, 2
Type: Supervised			
Individual or small groups tutoring	10	0.4	3
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous work on assignments	20	0.8	1, 2
Compulsory reading	25	1	3
Studying for exams	20	0.8	3
Supplementary recommended reading	15	0.6	2

## Assessment

Evaluation is a continuous process, based on partial exams and evaluation of assignments.

- The evaluation of theory and concepts (lecture classes) will be carried out through two partial exams. They will consist of 4-5 short questions, which will combine theoretical and conceptual aspects, with practical questions.
- The evaluation of the lab sessions will be done through assignments, at a rate of one per week or every two weeks, approximately. A reasonable deadline period will be set for every assignment (approx. 2-3 weeks). Contribution of students in final discussion during lab sessions will be considered as well.
- There will be an evaluation of the questionnaire on the obligatory bibliography.

Qualification: The qualification of the two partial exams weights 35% of the total value (17.5% + 17.5%), the evaluation of the required reading another 15% and the evaluation of the assignments counts for the remaining 50%.

To pass the course it will be necessary to have obtained an average score of 5 or more (up to 10) in the exams, with a grade of 4 or more in both of them.

The final grade of the course is the weighted average of all the marks (exams and joint practical notes), the possible range being from 0 to 10. Assignments delivered after the indicated period will not be accepted and will be considered not performed (grade 0, zero) . Failure to attend a partial exam will mean a "Not Evaluable" course grade. The subject is considered Suspended when the final average grade does not reach 5.0.

The evaluation evidences indicated above can be reevaluated. There will be a re-evaluation of the partial exams that will take place on the date fixed by the teaching coordinator of the degree. The exams and the

assignment dossier can not be reevaluated jointly; the student must pass exams or either assignments. Only those exams and assignments carried out and / or delivered within the established deadlines may be re-evaluated.

Assignment reports will be individually delivered by each student, although a cooperative work can be done during its elaboration in or out of the classroom.

#### Plagiarism

The copying or plagiarism of material, both in the case of works and in the case of exams, constitute a crime that will be sanctioned with a zero to the activity. In the case of recidivism, the entire subject will be suspended. Let's remember that a "copy" is considered a work that reproduces all or most of the work of one or more classmates. "Plagiarism" is the fact of presenting all or part of a text of an author as its own, without mentioning the sources, be on paper or in digital format. See UAB documentation on "plagiarism" at:

[http://wuster.uab.es/web\\_argumenta\\_obert/unit\\_20/sot\\_2\\_01.html](http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html).

The evaluation procedure is the same for students retaking the course.

### Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Evaluation of required reading	15%	0.5	0.02	3
Final redaction of Assignment reports	50%	10	0.4	1
Partial exams (theory)	35%	2.5	0.1	3, 2

### Bibliography

Compulsory reading: LIVI-BACCI, M. (2009) Historia mínima de la población mundial. Barcelona: Crítica.

Handbooks of Demographic Analysis

ARROYO, A., E. MANZANERA, Y A. PASCUAL -EdS- (2007), Estadísticas demográficas y sociales. Difusión estadística. Jaén: Universidad de Jaén.

PRESSAT, R. (1983). El análisis demográfico. Madrid: FCE.

TAPINOS, G. (1988). Elementos de demografía. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.

Population dynamics.

CABRÉ, A. (1999), El sistema català de reproducció, Barcelona, Proa.

THUMERELLE, P.-J. (1997) Las poblaciones del mundo, Madrid: Cátedra

REQUES, P. (2001). Población, recursos y medioambiente:¿ el final de los mitos. *Santander: Ed. Universidad de Cantabria*.

More references during classes