

*The University of Liverpool*  
Geography  
School of Environmental Sciences

ENVS221  
Population and Societies

# Module Handbook

First Semester, 2012-13



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## Module Aims

This module aims to provide a general introduction to the field of population geography, in which a basic demographic understanding of population change is placed within a spatial framework, allowing exploration of the nature and causes of national, societal and cultural differences in these changes. The module aims to move far beyond the basic population geography presented in GCSE and A-level syllabuses by providing: (i) greater breadth and depth of coverage; (ii) direct exposure to the population-related research of current staff; (iii) greater critical engagement with the material covered.

This module serves as the foundation block for those interested in pursuing a population geography 'pathway', which would include one or more of ENVS275 'Social and Cultural Geographies', ENVS218 'Environmental Sustainability', ENVS318 'Geographies of Children and Youth', ENVS311 'European Population Trends', ENVS315 'Human-Environment Interactions' and ENVS357 'Understanding Social Exclusion', potentially culminating in our MA in Population Studies. The module is also of relevance to those interested in pursuing a GIS/Spatial Analysis pathway via ENVS257 'Applied GIS and modelling' and ENVS363 GIS, potentially culminating in our MSc in Geographic Information Science.

## Module Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

- Understand and explain the main societal and cultural determinants of a wide range of demographic and other events, including **being born; leaving home; moving home; partnering; having sex; having children; experiencing well-being, falling ill and dying.**
- Describe and account for how these events lead to **spatial and temporal variations in population growth rates and structures**
- Critically examine **the relevance of the demographic and epidemiological (health) transitions to developing countries.**
- Critically **assess the future global population prospects**

Achievement of these outcomes will be assessed using coursework and examination.

## Teaching and Learning Strategies

The module will be taught by a specialist in the field of population geography, who will introduce both the basic building blocks of population geography and some of the research contributions in this field.

Module material will be delivered via a mixture of lectures, seminars and guided reading. All module materials will be posted to VITAL to support learning, including links to electronic copies of all key readings.

Student understanding of module material will be checked via interactive mid-lecture Q&A sessions, end-of-class 'post-it note' feedback and seminar discussions, and appropriate formative feedback provided.

A mid-semester summative assignment will also be used to monitor student progress, and to provide mid-module feedback on student progress.

Critical engagement with module material will be supported via lecture, seminar and reading material, and via the mid-semester summative assignment.

## Lecture Programme

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	THURS 27TH SEPT	<b>Population &amp; Societies</b> <i>Demography, geography, societies and their interface</i>
	FRI 28TH SEPT	<b>Having Children</b> <i>Sex, fecundability and the limits to fertility</i>
2	THURS 4TH OCT	<b>Having Children</b> <i>The proximate determinants of fertility</i>
	FRI 5TH OCT	<b>Death</b> <i>Surviving birth; trends in life expectancy and other measures of mortality</i>
3	THURS 11TH OCT	<b>Causes of population growth</b> <i>The Demographic Transition revisited</i>
	FRI 12TH OCT	<b>Moving Home</b> <i>Describing migration flows: Ravenstein and the mobility transition</i>
4	THURS 18TH OCT	<b>Moving Home</b> <i>Understanding migration flows: theories of migration</i>
	FRI 19TH OCT	<b>Moving Home</b> <i>Migration and scale: how does internal migration differ?</i>
5	THURS 25TH OCT	No lecture* (seminar week)
	FRI 26TH OCT	<b>MIGRATION SEMINAR/WORKSHOP</b> <i>Understanding migration: definitions, explanations and exemplars</i>
6	THURS 1ST NOV	No lecture: <b>essay completion week</b>
	FRI 2ND NOV	No lecture: <b>essay completion week</b>
7	<b>MON 5TH NOV</b>	<b>SUMMATIVE ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE</b>
	THURS 8TH NOV	<b>Health</b> <i>The changing disease burden and the epidemiological transition</i>
8	FRI 9TH NOV	<b>Health</b> <i>HIV/AIDS – has the tide turned?</i>
	THURS 15TH NOV	<b>Living arrangements</b> <i>The evolution of the family</i>
9	FRI 16TH NOV	<b>The Second Demographic Transition</b> <i>Individualisation and the Second Demographic Transition</i>
	THURS 22ND NOV	<b>Work</b> <i>Women, paid work, the domestic division of labour and fertility</i>
10	FRI 23RD NOV	<b>Partnering</b> <i>The changing nature of partnering and parenting</i>
	THURS 29TH NOV	No lecture* (seminar week)
11	FRI 30TH NOV	<b>SECOND DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION SEMINAR/WORKSHOP</b> <i>Personal, societal and stage agency in demographic behaviour</i>
	THURS 6TH DEC	<b>The Global future?</b> <i>The implications of post-transition trends</i>
12	FRI 7TH DEC	<b>The Global future?</b> <i>Malthus, Boserup and Sen</i>
	THURS 13TH DEC	<b>The Global future?</b> <i>The future for human-kind: demographic transition or Malthusian checks?</i>
12	FRI 14TH DEC	<b>Revision session</b> <i>Module review; Exam advice; Q+A session</i>

\* Please reserve the lecture slots on Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Oct and 29<sup>th</sup> Nov in your diary, in case they are needed due to staff illness or over-run of earlier lectures

**Venues:** Thursday lectures: Eleanor Rathbone Hearnshaw Lecture Theatre, 2-3pm  
Friday lectures: Rendall Lecture Theatre 8, 3-4pm  
Friday seminars: Central Teaching Laboratory Flexible Teaching Space, 3-5pm

## Seminar/Workshop Programme

During this module TWO seminars will be run, one in week 5 and one in week 10.

Each seminar will involve a set of guided group activities and discussions, centred upon material that you have read or prepared in advance. The purpose of each seminar is to provide you with support for your learning, both by helping to guide your study, and by providing you with a chance to check your understanding of the material you have studied.

Full details of each seminar, including any readings or other preparatory tasks, will be circulated one week in advance of the relevant seminar.

## Assessment

The Module will be assessed via a mid-semester summative assignment and an end of semester exam.

The **summative assignment**, worth 33% of the module mark, will be distributed, in paper and on VITAL, at the beginning of week 2. It will involve the writing of a c. 1500-word critique of two published research papers. The deadline for submission of this assignment will be the start of week 7 (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November). Assignments submitted after this deadline will be penalised 5% per working day late. Assignments submitted more than five working days late will be awarded a mark of zero.

The **exam**, worth 67% of the module mark, will be two hours long, and will require students to answer TWO questions from a choice of six. A sample exam paper is given below. In addition, last year's exam papers may be found on VITAL.

## Sample Exam Paper

Time allowed: Two Hours

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **TWO** questions.

You are strongly advised to divide your time equally between the two questions, as **EACH QUESTION IS WORTH 50 MARKS**.

1. What are Bongaart's 'Proximate Determinants', and how have their relative contributions to falling fertility rates in China changed over time?
2. Offer a critique of Notestein's Demographic Transition Model. Does it still have a valid role to play in understanding current population trends?
3. Outline the main 'laws of migration'. To what extent does the available evidence support the existence of these laws?
4. How have patterns of partnership formation and dissolution changed in Western Europe since 1945? What are the underlying causes?
5. How and why does the epidemiology of AIDS in Western Europe differ from that in Sub-Saharan Africa?
6. The global future is one of unsustainable population growth. Discuss.

## Reading

**You should expect to spend around eight hours per week reading for this module** (i.e. at least two book chapters or journal articles per lecture, plus seminar and assignment related reading).

No one textbook covers all of the material in this module. However, any of the following will provide useful insights to most of the main themes of the module:

Livi Bacci, M (2007) *A concise history of world population*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford : Blackwell. Sydney Jones Short Loan HB871.L79

Poston D L and Leon F B (2010) *Population and society : an introduction to demography*, Cambridge : Cambridge University Press.  
Sydney Jones Short Loan HB849.4.P85

Dyson T (2010) *Population and development: the demographic transition*, London : Zed Books.  
[electronic book]

Gould W T S (2009) *Population and development*, London : Routledge.  
Sydney Jones Library HB884.G69 and [electronic book]

Pearce F (2010) *Coming population crash: and our planet's surprising future*, Boston : Beacon Press.  
[electronic book]

Poston D L and Micklin M [eds] (2005) *Handbook of population*, New York : Kluwer Academic.  
[electronic book]

The above books are all listed in the University Library Catalogue reading list maintained for this module: <http://library.liv.ac.uk/search~S8/v?SEARCH=envs221>

To supplement these core texts, additional topic-specific reading lists will also be issued in class and through VITAL.

## Websites

Use the following sources to help build-up a portfolio of up-to-date case studies, ready for use in the exam...

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>UN Population Division</b> <a href="http://www.un.org/esa/population/">http://www.un.org/esa/population/</a>	Data and publications on global populations and trends
<b>UN Population Information Network</b> <a href="http://www.un.org/popin/index.html">http://www.un.org/popin/index.html</a>	Data and publications on global populations and trends
<b>Population Reference Bureau (US)</b> <a href="http://www.prb.org/">http://www.prb.org/</a>	Analysis and data on global population trends
<b>UN AIDS</b> <a href="http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/">http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/</a>	Links to data and reports on the Global AIDS epidemic
<b>US Census Bureau</b> <a href="http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/">http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/</a>	Source of international population data
<b>Eurostat (European Commission)</b> <a href="http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/introduction">http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/introduction</a>	Data and reports on European population trends
<b>UK Office for National Statistics</b> <a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/index.html">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/index.html</a>	Data and reports on the UK population
<b>World Mapper</b> <a href="http://www.worldmapper.org/index.html">http://www.worldmapper.org/index.html</a>	Excellent visualisation of many aspects of global life