

Sociology 997: Demography Seminar “DemSem”

Spring 2021

Tuesdays 12:15-1:30

Instructor: Jenna Nobles, Professor of Sociology

Email: jnobles@ssc.wisc.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30

Course credit: 1-2, default is 1

Requisites: Graduate / professional standing

This course introduces students to cutting-edge research in population science via seminar from scholars at research and teaching institutions around the world. The course spans the major subject area dimensions in population science: health and mortality, fertility and fecundity, and migration, with an emphasis on research themes of particular focus among scholars affiliated with the Center for Demography and Ecology and the Center for Demography of Health and Aging. These include: biodemography, health across the lifecourse, environmental and spatial demography, inequality and stratification, family, reproductive health, health policy, and sociogenomics.

Course requirements:

Students are expected to attend seminars each week for the duration of the seminar, engage in discussion, and ask follow-up questions of faculty and students in attendance. In some cases we will circulate research papers in advance to read before the seminar. Students are expected to meet with **at least two** visiting speakers during speakers' visits to discuss (a) students' research, (b) speakers' research, and (c) the practice of population science as a profession. Professor Nobles will circulate a sign-up sheet at the beginning of the semester.

Please note that one credit is the normal load and does not require consent; registering for 2 credits demands consent of the instructor.

Students registered for one credit are expected to attend regularly and engage in constructive criticism of the work being presented by faculty, fellow students and visiting scholars. Consistent with the course credits and the UW-Madison Credit Hour Policy, the total time students will spend in course meetings (75 minutes weekly), reading, preparing for seminars, and meeting with visiting scholars will total 45 hours for the semester.

Students registered for two credits are expected to fulfill all expectations of the one-credit course. In addition, they will prepare a research paper over the course of the

semester that advances their own research agenda using the theoretical insights from the population sciences and the tools of demographic analysis. They will meet with Professor Nobles once a month during the semester to discuss progress. Consistent with the course credits and the UW-Madison Credit Hour Policy, the total time students will spend engaging in course learning activities will be 90 hours for the semester. Registration for two credits requires consent of Professor Nobles.

Grading:

Grades for the course will be assigned on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis, contingent on attendance and participation in required activities.

Learning objectives:

The course has five learning objectives.

1. Students will learn about major theoretical debates in the population sciences.
2. Students will consider and critique applications of new methodological tools in the population sciences, advancing their quantitative and qualitative literacy, as well as their capacity for inquiry and analysis.
3. Students will learn to constructively critique the presentation of research in population sciences, strengthening their own oral communication skills. Learning to ask constructive, thought-provoking questions in research seminars is needed to subsequently provide great *answers* to questions in their own research presentations.
4. Students will meet and engage with leading population science scholars within and outside of UW-Madison. Beginning to build a professional network is an essential step toward post-degree employment.
5. Students will practice describing and discussing their own research and research interests with these scholars, facilitating oral communication skills, as well as the specific skills needed when on the academic or non-academic job market.

Schedule:

All seminar meetings will be held virtually. Speaker names below link to their online research profiles.

January 22, 2021: "Climate Migration across Contexts, Gender, and the Life Course," Fernando Riosmena (University of Colorado, Boulder)

**Please note that this session will be held from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Friday, January 22.*

January 26, 2021: “The Impact of Expanding Public Health Insurance on Safety Net Program Participation: Evidence from the ACA Medicaid Expansion,” Lucie Schmidt (Williams College)

Co-sponsored by the Center for Demography of Health and Aging

February 2, 2021: “The Gendered Consequences of COVID-19: Initial Insights for American Families,” Leah Ruppner (University of Melbourne, Australia)

**Please note that this session will begin at 3 p.m.*

February 9, 2021: “Racialized Differences in Wage Growth within Firms: Testing a Theory of Organizational Ethnoracism,” Mosi Ifatunji (UW-Madison) and “The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Rental Market: Evidence from Craigslist,” Max Besbris (UW-Madison)

February 16, 2021: “Digitizing and Text-Mining the Toxic Past: The IT Revolution, Civic Transparency, and Environmental Health,” Merlin Chowkwanyun (Columbia)

February 23, 2021: “A New Look at the Separation Surge in Europe: Contrasting Adult and Child Perspectives,” Thomas Leopold (University of Cologne) with response by Betty Thomson (UW/Stockholm University)

March 2, 2021: “Black Women’s Health Matters: Theoretical, Conceptual, and Empirical Considerations,” Christy Erving (Vanderbilt)

March 9, 2021: “Covering Undocumented Immigrants: The Effect of a Large-Scale Prenatal Care Intervention,” Laura Wherry (New York University) with response by Tiffany Green (UW-Madison)

March 16, 2021: “Incorporating Equity Value Judgements into Causal Decomposition Analysis,” John Jackson (Johns Hopkins University) with response by Felix Elwert (UW-Madison)

March 23, 2021: “Family Background, Occupational Returns to College, and the Rise of the Comprehensive Welfare State: Evidence from Danish Monozygotic Twins Born 1931–1979,” Kristian Karlson (University of Copenhagen) with response by Eric Grodsky (UW-Madison)

March 30, 2021: “Demography: Fast and Slow,” Francesco Billari (Bocconi University)

April 6, 2021: “Spring Break” - no seminar this week.

April 13, 2021: “Intergenerational Correlations in Longevity,” Adriana Lleras-Muney (UCLA) with response by Jason Fletcher (UW-Madison)

April 20, 2021: “Understanding the Impacts of State-Level Abortion Restrictions,” Ushma Upadhyay (University of California, San Francisco)

April 27, 2021: “Demographic Perspectives on COVID-19: One Year Later,” Jennifer Beam Dowd (University of Oxford)