

Syllabus

The name of the education: Population change: fertility, mortality and migration 7.5 Credits

Code:SO1FU36

Finalized by: Institutionsstyrelsen vid Sociologiska institutionen, 2024-08-27

Valid from: Spring semester 2026 (2026-01-19)

Level within study regulation: Third cycle

Course modules: Population change: fertility, mortality and migration , 7.5 Credits

1. Entry requirements

Basic eligibility for doctoral studies

2. Learning outcomes

After accomplishing this course, participants are expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge and understanding:

Analyze population development, historical as well as contemporary patterns, with respect to fertility, mortality and migration in various contexts based on relevant theories as well as empirical data. Discuss probable development in the next few decades based on today's demographic trends

Describe and discuss changes in the family patterns in the developed world since the 1960s. Explain the connection between these changes, female employment, and various welfare state (family policy) models

Contrast trends related to different causes of death, describe and explain gender differences and differences across socio-economic groups in mortality as well as the changes over time

Compare and evaluate different migration theories; identify, describe and analyze the driving forces of migration in Sweden, in Europe and in a global context

In terms of accomplishment and competence:

Write and present shorter scientific texts with demographic contents.

In terms of values and approach:

Search for, compare and critically review demographic data and literature relevant for a particular research question

Comment on texts with demographic content

3. Content

The course aims to familiarize students with fertility, mortality and migration – that is, the main processes through which populations change - by focusing on population developments in Sweden and Europe from the end of the 1800s onwards, with some attention to the major population trends and issues in poorer countries. The course is structured in three parts. The

section on family dynamics with emphasis on fertility and relevant theories addresses the role of norms and attitudes and the links between (female) employment, family policies and childbearing. The section on mortality considers both biological and social aspects of morbidity and mortality. The migration section considers the causes and consequences of international and internal migration for individuals and societies.

4. Mandatory exams

Students are expected to do the following:

Complete assigned reading before each class meeting

Participate actively in class discussions

5. Forms of examination

The examination consists of individual home assignments and/or oral examination. In the first part of the individual examination, questions from each of the three sections of the course must be answered. The student's achievement is evaluated separately for each exam questions based on a criterion-referenced assessment, as Pass or Fail, as specified below:

Pass = For this grade the student must demonstrate good knowledge of the theories covered in the course and be able to apply them wherever relevant

Fail = For this grade the student demonstrates only general understanding of the literature and basic knowledge of the main topics covered in the course

In the second part of the individual examination, the student is expected to write a brief reflection of about 2 pages as a mandatory part of the examination even though the reflection will not be graded. In the reflection, the subject of the student's PhD thesis must be linked to fertility, mortality or migration, and highlighted in what way the thesis is expected to contribute to the field. The reflection must also describe how the new knowledge, gained in the course, will be used in the thesis work (such as a new theoretical angle, new article idea, revised research design).

To receive a pass grade in the course, the grade "pass" is necessary regarding the answers on the questions for the three sections of the course and the reflection (of 2 pages) has to be submitted. Students with the grade "fail" are entitled to take another exam as long as the course is provided in order to achieve the grade "pass". Students who have been graded with "fail" twice by an examiner have the right to request that another examiner be appointed to determine the grade for the course. Such requests should be presented to the director of studies. If a written exam is submitted after the specified deadline, the examination will take place in connection of the course being provided the following semester or at the deadline specified for re-examination.

Plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration or use of AI

Part of your responsibility as a student is to know the rules for examination. Detailed information can be found on Stockholm University's website [here](#). Teachers are obliged to report suspected cheating and plagiarism to the Vice-Chancellor and the Disciplinary Board. Plagiarism and cheating is always a disciplinary matter and can lead to suspension. An example of plagiarism is copying a text verbatim or almost verbatim (including single sentences or lines of programming) and not indicating where it comes from. Always make sure that an acknowledgement and quotation marks are used when you submit text you did not write yourself. This even applies to texts you have written before (self-plagiarism). Cheating also includes, for example, the use of unauthorized aids, such as a mobile phone or generative AI, on a test. Having study groups together is stimulating and time-saving, but when it comes to examination assignments, you must be careful to work on your own (unless clearly stated otherwise), so as not to risk being counted as unauthorized collaboration. Generative AI, including ChatGPT, can be useful, for example in editing your own writing. However, the use of ChatGPT or similar tools in examination assignments without the examiner's explicit permission and without acknowledgement is considered cheating.

6. Form of instruction

The course is given by means of lectures, with scope for interaction and student presentations.

Transitional provisions

Students can request examination in line with this syllabus up to three semesters after it has ceased to apply. Such requests should be presented to the director of studies. All compulsory course requirements are to be handled accordingly.

Restrictions

Those who have passed the course SO7120 Population Processes 7.5 ECTS, SO7121 Population Processes 7.5 ECTS, the course moment 1M13 Population Processes 7.5 ECTS in the course SO8040 Demography, Interdisciplinary Magister Course or the doctoral course SO1FU21 Population Processes cannot be admitted to the course.

Course literature

The updated list of course literature is available at least two months before course start