University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Fertility & Family Planning
Sociology 904-001
Fall 2015

Larry Gibbs, Ph.D.
736 Oldfather Hall
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402-472-6047
Office Hours: Fridays 10:30 -11:30 am and by appointment
Class: Fridays 2:00 – 4:30pm, Sociology Conference Room (Room 707), Oldfather Hall

Course Description and Organization:

This course will explore human fertility from a sociological and demographic perspective. We will apply and review theories and conceptual frameworks used to fertility differentials in developing and developed countries, characteristics of family planning programs, and (in) fertility issues in the United States.

Course Requirements:

**Participation (10%)**: It is important to come to the seminar prepared. Participation should be ongoing and active.

**Reading essays (30%)**: I will post/email a question for the following topic’s reading. These questions are designed to help you think about the readings in a general way and guide you as you read the articles. Each student must prepare a *two-three page response* (single-spaced) to the questions to be turned in 10:00 am via email on the Friday we begin covering the topic. For each topic students will be asked to read 4-5 journal articles.

**Presentation of research proposal (10%)**: each student will make a 10-15 minute in-class oral presentation of their research proposal.

**Discussant (5%)**: each student will serve as a discussant for one other student. Each proposal must be revised with the class and discussant’s comments in mind.

**Research proposal (25%)**: the research proposal (15-20 pages, double-spaced) will give you the opportunity to examine a topic related to the scientific study of fertility. You should provide a research question(s), provide a rationale for the study, review the relevant literature, and describe the data, method and analyses that will be used to address the research question(s). The goal of the proposal is that it can be used to develop a dissertation or thesis proposal, journal article or conference paper.

**Final exam (20%)**: each student will answer two questions in-class, closed books and notes (compulsory question based on week’s 2 and 3 material and the other question based on any other topic of your choice during the semester)
Proposal Deadlines:

1. Submission of brief (2-3 pages, double spaced) research proposal that describes your research question and rationale, no later than SEPT 25th.
2. A first draft of proposal is due on NOV 6th. I will read, review and return it to you within 2 weeks.
3. On NOV 30th, you must give a copy of your research proposal to the classmate who will serve as the discussant to allow them time to read through paper for the presentation.
4. On DEC 4th each student will make a 10-15 minute in class oral presentation of their research proposal.
5. Each student must revise their proposal in light of the comments of the instructor and discussant. The final version is due on Friday DEC 11th by 5:00 pm via email.

Academic Integrity:

“The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: … Cheating; Fabrication or Falsification; Plagiarism; Abuse of Academic Materials; Complicity in Academic Dishonesty; Falsifying Grade Reports; and Misrepresentation to Avoid Academic Work.” (from the UNL Student Code of Conduct, http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code)

Grade Allocation:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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Right to Revision:

I reserve the right to modify any aspect of the course syllabus, including course requirement and grade allocation, at any time as need be.
Topic Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1 (AUG 28TH):
Introduction, Overview and Measurement


Week 2 (SEPT 4TH):
Demographic Transition Theory


Week 3 (SEPT 11TH):
Second Demographic Transitions & Fertility Theories for Developed Nations


Week 4 (SEPT 18TH):  Child preference/value of children


Week 5 (SEPT 25TH):  Family Planning & Reproductive Health


Week 6 (OCT 2TH):  Religion & Fertility


**Week 7 (OCT 9TH): Educational Influences on Fertility**


**Week 8 (OCT 16TH): Female Employment & Fertility**


**Week 9 (OCT 23TH): Race/Ethnic Differences in US Fertility**


**Week 10 (OCT 30th): Non-Marital Fertility**


**Week 11 (NOV 6th): Sexual Minorities & Fertility**


**Week 12 (NOV 13th): Stepfamily and Multipartnered Fertility (MPF)**


Week 13 (NOV 20TH): Childlessness & Infertility


Week 14(NOV 27TH): THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15(DEC 4TH): Men in Fertility Research


Week 16 (DEC 11TH): FINAL EXAM AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL