

# The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

## UG Course Syllabus

Population and Development in China [SOSC1780]

3 Credits

Note: **Basic concepts of economics** will be frequently used in understanding theories of economic development and population change. If you are not familiar with basic concepts such as opportunity costs, economy of scale, and price elasticity, you may encounter difficulties in understanding the lecture, reading assignments and hence examination.

**Putonghua** will be sometimes used for explaining specific terms/policies in China. For MC and essay questions, students need basic understanding of both HK and the Chinese Mainland.

**Name:** Zhongdong Ma

**Email:** [sojohnma@ust.hk](mailto:sojohnma@ust.hk) Rm 2348, office hour: by appointment

**(TA:** Daphne DENG email: [daphned@ust.hk](mailto:daphned@ust.hk) Rm 2359, Office hour: Tue 2:30-4:00 PM)

### Course Description

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of population growth, distribution, composition, major demographic processes and their relationship with economic development. Special attention is given to the demographic trends and policies in both the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong SAR. Students are required to have basic knowledge of development in the region and skills for calculation. They will be assessed according to their performance in the final exam, assignments, random quizzes and class discussion. The structure of the course is two-hour lecture followed by video on China and the region.

### Course Structure

1. Population Growth and Economic Development: Causes, Consequences, and Controversies
2. Population Composition by Age and Sex: Marriage Squeeze and Population Aging
3. Fertility Analysis: Trends, Levels and Explanations
4. Mortality Analysis: Causes, Epidemiological Transition, and Differentials in Mortality
5. Migration: Explanation and Evaluation of Its Impact

### Course Schedule

Lectures: Thursday: 12:00 PM– 2:50 PM, Rm 2502 (Lift 25-26)

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and predict demographic changes in China and the world
2. Calculate basic demographic indicators and analyze trends of demographic changes
3. Apply demographic and socioeconomic theories to explain population changes and economic development in China and the world

## Assessment and Grading

**Class attendance or quizzes (15%):** We expect that everyone can join the class in our regular class time. There are 3 to 4 short quizzes (MC questions) either at the beginning, in the middle or the end of the class.

**2 Individual Assignments (27%):** Calculations + short answer questions. Assignments will be due in two weeks of the release and the marks & comments will be sent back to students within three weeks of the submission.

**Class discussion (3%):** We expect that everyone can attentively listen to lectures. Students who actively participate in class discussion will get bonus points by asking or answering questions in or after class.

### Summary table:

| Assessment Task             | Contribution to Overall Course grade (%) | Due date          |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Class attendance or Quizzes | 15%                                      | Week 3 to Week 13 |
| Assignments                 | 27%                                      | Week 3 to Week 11 |
| Class discussion            | 3%                                       | Week 3 to Week 13 |
| Final examination           | 55%                                      | TBA               |

### Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

| Assessed Task     | Mapped ILOs       | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quizzes           | ILO1, ILO3.       | Quizzes are designed to assess students' foundational understanding of demographic changes in China and world (ILO 1), and the ability to apply demographic and socioeconomic theories to explain population changes and economic development (ILO 3).                                                                                |
| Assignments       | ILO2, ILO3.       | They aim to evaluate students' ability to calculate basic demographic indicators (ILO 2), analyze trends of demographic changes, and use the theoretical knowledge to explain key population and economic development issues and phenomena (ILO 3).                                                                                   |
| Class discussion  | ILO1, ILO3.       | In-class discussion encourages students to question, evaluate and explain demographic changes (ILO 1)/ economic development policies by applying demographic and socioeconomic theories (ILO 3).                                                                                                                                      |
| Final examination | ILO1, ILO2, ILO3. | Exam assesses students' understanding of demographic changes in China and the world (ILO 1), and the theories in demographic and socioeconomic. It also tests students' ability of critical thinking to analyze and discuss demographic patterns (ILO 2), economic development and global competition in China and the world (ILO 3). |

## Grading Rubrics

### Class discussion

| Score (Level achieved) | Answer Instructor's Questions                                                                                                                            | Ask Question                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advanced (3%)          | Actively and correctly answers instructor's questions to show a critical and analytical thinking and comprehensive understanding of the course contents. | Actively asks challenging questions with extensive thinking and exhibits great effort towards comprehensive understanding and analyzing socioeconomic issues. |
| Good (2%)              | Actively answers instructor's questions with small errors, partially demonstrate the ability to think and analyze socioeconomic issues.                  | Actively asks questions and exhibits great effort towards analyzing socioeconomic issues.                                                                     |
| Acceptable (1%)        | Occasionally answers instructor's questions with some errors.                                                                                            | Occasionally, it asks questions and exhibits the effort towards analyzing socioeconomic issues.                                                               |
| Not Shown (0%)         |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                               |

#### Final Grade Descriptors:

| Grades | Short Description        | Elaboration on subject grading description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A      | Excellent Performance    | Demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of demographic and socioeconomic theories, expertise in demographic indicators calculation, and significant prediction and analysis in the trends of demographic changes and economic development.                                                                                                |
| B      | Good Performance         | Shows good knowledge and understanding of demographic and socioeconomic theories, competence in demographic indicators calculation, and the ability to analyze and predict the trends of demographic changes and economic development.                                                                                               |
| C      | Satisfactory Performance | Possesses adequate knowledge of demographic and socioeconomic theories, competence in key demographic indicators calculation, and some capacity to analyze and predict the trends of demographic changes and economic development.                                                                                                   |
| D      | Marginal Pass            | Having threshold knowledge of demographic and socioeconomic theories, potential to calculate basic demographic indicators and make basic evaluations and analysis in the trends of demographic changes and economic development.                                                                                                     |
| F      | Fail                     | Demonstrates insufficient understanding of demographic and socioeconomic theories and lacks the necessary skills to calculate demographic indicators. Shows limited ability to estimate or analyze the trends of demographic changes and economic development and exhibits minimal effort towards achieving the course requirements. |

#### Course AI Policy

The use of Generative AI is NOT allowed. Students are required to finish assignments all by his/her own.

#### Communication and Feedback

Marks and feedback on assignments will be sent back to students within three weeks of submission.

Quizzes marks will be released via Canvas within a week of submission.

Students who have further questions about the feedback, including marks should consult the TA within five working days after the feedback is received.

### Resubmission Policy

Resubmission of assignments may be allowed only when acceptable reasons and related evidence is provided. Requests for resubmission must be raised before the release of marks.

### Required Texts and Materials

#### Reference Books:

Todaro, M.P, *Economic Development* (11th ed), 2010, Mass.: Addison Wesley.  
<https://shahroodut.ac.ir/fa/download.php?id=1111128678>

Weeks, J. R. 2008. *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*. Belmont, CA : Wadsworth Publishing Co. (on CANVAS)

#### Readings (on CANVAS):

1. 中国人口迁移 1982-2015 变动趋势, 人口科学, 2019, 马忠东
2. Feature Article, *Fertility and Mortality Trends in Hong Kong, 1971 to 2000*, Apr 2002, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR
3. Feature Article, *The Mortality Trend in Hong Kong, 1981 to 2015*, Dec 2016, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR
4. Feature Article, *Marriage and Divorce Trends in Hong Kong, 1991 to 2016*, Jan 2018, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR
5. Feature Article, *Fertility Trend in Hong Kong, 1981 to 2017*, Dec 2018, Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C&SD, HKSADR
6. Ma, Zhongdong, 2011, Immigration Transition and Return Migration in Hong Kong, Social Transformations in Chinese Societies, Vol 7, No. 1

### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

### Additional Resources

**Lecture notes and recording.** A few years ago, our division had an explicit policy of not distributing any lecture notes to students. For your concentration in the class, I will distribute the outline of the notes to you in the course website. While ignoring numbers and simple descriptions during lecture, it is your responsibility to take notes on the detailed explanation of concepts and theories. **RVC lecture recordings are provided upon special request in the lecturing period. It would be provided to all STUDENTS for revision just before the exam period.**