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. Basic concepts of economics and knowledge of development in the region are required for the exams. Students are assessed according to their performance in the final exam, assignments, random quizzes and class discussion.

**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. Migration: Explanation and Evaluation of Its Impact
5. Mortality Analysis: Causes, Epidemiological Transition, and Differentials in Mortality

**Instructor:** Zhongdong Ma (Rm. 2348, 2358-7829, sojohnma@ust.hk)
Office hour: after lecture or by appointment

**TA:** Daphne DENG (Rm 2359, daphnedy@ust.hk)
Office hour: Wednesday 1:30-2:30 PM or by appointment

**Lectures:** Friday: 9:00 AM– 11:50 AM, Rm. LTD
two-hour lecture followed by video on China and the region

**Assessment:**
- Assignment (2) 30%
- Class attendance or Quizzes 12%
- Final Exam (MC, Calculation, essay Qs) 55%
- Class discussion 3%

**Website:** [https://canvas.ust.hk/](https://canvas.ust.hk/)

**Reference Books:**
https://shahroodut.ac.ir/fa/download.php?id=1111128678

Readings (on CANVAS):

1. 中国人口迁移 1982-2015 变动趋势，人口科学，2019，马忠东
6. Ma, Zhongdong, 2011, Immigration Transition and Return Migration in Hong Kong, Social Transformations in Chinese Societies, Vol 7, No. 1

Main problems encountered by previous students

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Honesty. I expect all of my students to behave in an honest manner. This means no cheating or taking other people’s work and acting as though it is your own. Students who violate the school’s policies on academic integrity will fail the course.

4. Class attendance / discussion. We expect that everyone can join the class in our regular class time. There are regular quizzes either at the beginning, in the middle or the end of the class that account for 15 percentages of the total marks. There were excellent students who missed lecture(s) and were unable to answer questions in the exam, even with lecture notes. Students who actively participate in class discussion will get bonus points.

5. 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 description during lecture, it is your responsibility to take notes on the detail explanation of concepts and theories. RVC lecture recording is provided upon special request in the lecturing period. It would be provided to all for revision just before the exam period.

What should I do if I encounter some problems mentioned above?

You should spend extra time and efforts on learning basic concepts of economics, understanding basic Putonghua, and/or improving your writing skills, which are all important to your future life and career. Importantly, you should attend class on time, switch off your social media programs on your electronic device and and refrain yourself from chatting with friends. If you are unwilling or unable to do so, it is probably best for you to find a different class. In the past years, there were several students who frequently travelled outside HK, missed many classes, obtained a low grade but begged a higher one for passing. We can never entertain such an unreasonable request.