



ENVG219

Geographical Perspectives on Population

S1 External 2015

Department of Geography and Planning

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Kristian Ruming

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Contact via kristian.ruming@mq.edu.au

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

DEM127 or ENV118 or ENVG111 or GEOS111 or GEOS114 or GEOS118 or MKTG127

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides an introduction to geographical perspectives on population issues and research, focusing on the Asia-Pacific region. Topics studied include historical and contemporary fertility and mortality patterns, migration, urbanisation, ageing, Indigenous populations, population-physical environment interactions, and the politics of population.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Have an appreciation of the evolving geographic patterning of the demographic processes and characteristics of human populations and how these interrelate in various ways with social, economic, political, cultural, technological and physical environmental factors (Learning Outcome 1)

Have an understanding of the basic concepts, definitions and measures used in population geography (Learning Outcome 2)

Be familiar and competent with some of the research methods used in population geography (Learning Outcome 3)

Identify and critically evaluate the political and policy drivers and outcomes of population

in Australia and globally (Learning Outcome 4)

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Due |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| <u>Group Tutorial Paper</u> | 10% | 20 March (Week 4 tutorial) |
| <u>Individual Tutorial Paper</u> | 15% | Week 6 or Week 12 |
| <u>Written Assignment</u> | 30% | 24 April or 15 May |
| <u>Tutorial Participation</u> | 5% | Weeks 2, 7, 8, 9 & 10 |
| <u>Examination</u> | 40% | Exam period |

Group Tutorial Paper

Due: **20 March (Week 4 tutorial)**

Weighting: **10%**

Date due: Tutorial – Week 4 (Friday 20 March)

Word length:

Internal: 10 pages per group, including figures (approx 2,000 words) plus presentation

External: 5 pages, including figures (approx 1,000 words)

Submission (internal students):

Hard copy of reports submitted in tutorials (no Turnitin)

PowerPoints to be emailed to Kristian by 11am on Friday 20 March

Submission (external students):

Email report to Kristian by 5pm Friday 20 March

Topic: Students will work in **small groups** to produce a population profile of a sub-national region. The case study sites could be:

- Two Suburbs within Sydney (Tutorial 1)
- Greater Capital City Statistical Area (Tutorial 2)
- NSW Statistical Local Areas Level 4 (Tutorial 3)
- States (Tutorial 4)

The profile should explore the **current demographic situation** and could cover such attributes

as:

- population size and distribution
 - age-sex structure
 - birth and death rates
- ethnic composition
 - labour force characteristics
 - socio-economic composition

In addition, the profile could also explore some of the **major changes** that have occurred in population over the past decade or so (e.g. rapid growth/decline, changing age or ethnic composition).

Each profile should also include at least **1 map** and **1 graph/table** which aid in illustrating the profile of the area.

Groups should **critically evaluate** the data available (i.e. what are the positives/negatives/challenges/limitations of the data?).

Each group will be required to give a 5-7 minute presentation on their case study in their tutorial (3-4 slides)

Internal students: Students in each group will receive the same mark. If you have concerns over the contribution of individual group members please contact Kristian (the earlier the better!).

External students: Kristian will email each external student their case study location at the beginning of Week 3. As external students will be working by themselves they are not required to do a presentation.

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Individual Tutorial Paper

Due: **Week 6 or Week 12**

Weighting: **15%**

Students have two options to choose from. Students must indicate which individual tutorial paper they intend to complete in the tutorial in Week 3. External students should email their selection to Kristian.

Option 1 – Asian Population issues: media analysis and population forum

Date due: Week 6 (Thursday 2 April - due to Good Friday Public Holiday)

Word length: 1,500 words

Submission (internal and external students):

Email report to Kristian by 5pm Thursday 2 April

The tutorial paper should include two parts: Part 1: Media Analysis and Part 2: Policy Analysis. To avoid repetition, countries will be allocated by Kristian at the **beginning of Week 4** (3 weeks before due date).

Part 1 (approx. 750 words)

Students should survey population issues being covered in newspapers in countries in Asia. See tutorial instructions on ilearn for more details (Week 5).

In your review you should try and discern any **patterns** in the material (e.g. an emphasis on a particular topic, particular views being espoused, etc). A typical structure could be:

- Outline the country/newspaper explored
- Provide an overview of the main population issues being covered in the media
- Discuss whether you think the issues are being reported in a neutral fashion or if particular political/social/cultural biases are being represented
- Relate how your findings relate to material covered in the lectures

You are required to find at **least 4 newspaper articles** associated with population issues (references will need to be provided). Try and find articles published in the last 3 years.

Part 2 (approx. 750 words)

Students should develop a short **policy brief** for the Minister for Population for a selected Asian country. The policy brief should be in the form of a brief report which outlines the country's **main population features, issues/problems and policies**. This section should draw on data illustrating some of the population characteristics of the country (population growth, distribution, birth rate, mortality, health, age and sex structure, ethnic composition, employment, migration, urbanisation, etc) and make links with other policy areas (eg health, economy, immigration).

Parts 1 and 2 can either be completed separately or combined into a single report as long as all aspects of the assessment are addressed.

Option 2 – Australian Population Debate

Date due: Tutorial – Week 12 (Friday 29 May)

Word length: 1,500 words (plus presentation for internal students)

Submission (internal students):

Hard copy of reports submitted in tutorials (no Turnitin)

PowerPoints to be emailed to Kristian by 11am on Friday 29 May

Submission (external students):

Email report to Kristian by 5pm Friday 29 May

Students who choose to complete Option 2 will be allocated to one side of the population debate (Affirmative or Negative) by Kristian at the **beginning of week 10** (3 weeks before due date).

Debate topic: *"That Australia is dangerously under-populated"*

- Affirmative (agree that Australia is under-populated)
- Negative (disagree that Australia is dangerously under-populated)

Each student is required to submit a tutorial paper outlining the **main points for or against** (depending on which side of the debate you are allocated) the fact that Australia is currently under-populated. In your paper you should refer to issues associated with **immigration** (increased vs decreased), **fertility** (increased vs stable vs decreased) and **mortality** (issues of ageing) – all aspects of the population balancing equation! You can draw on newspaper, other media reports, reports from Government Department and industry, as well as academic publications.

Internal students will be required to present to the class their main findings/points in their Week 12 tutorial. The presentations will be used to facilitate a broader "class debate"

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Written Assignment

Due: **24 April or 15 May**

Weighting: **30%**

Students have two options to choose from. Students must indicate which written assignment they intend to complete in the tutorial in Week 3. External Students should email their selection to Kristian.

Option 1 - Research Exercise

Date due: 11am Friday 24 April (Week 7)

Word length: 2,500 words plus maps

Submission (internal and external students):

Reports (including coversheet) must be submitted to Turnitin before 11am (link available on ENVG219 ilearn page). Late submissions should be submitted to the "late submissions" link.

Topic: Using the country figures in the 2014 World Population Data Sheet (found in the Research Exercise folder in ilearn):

(a) **map**

(b) **describe** and

(c) attempt to explain **the geographic patterning of total fertility rates** across Asia.

- **Do not** include the countries of Western Asia in your analysis.
- For your map(s), use the choropleth technique. Notes on choropleth mapping and examples of the technique can be found in the Research Exercise folder on the ENVG219 ilearn site. The mapping process does not use GIS – rather you are expected to create the maps yourself (i.e. colour them in). While not overly sophisticated(!), this method gives you a better ‘feel’ for the data and the process of choropleth mapping. Two methods are suggested:
 - Method 1: you can print out the pdf maps of Asia available on ilearn and colour them in by hand.
 - Method 2: a jpeg file (Asia map) is also available on ilearn. This file can be opened in MS Paint (or similar programs) and coloured in using the 'fill with colour' tool. To help you, I have started a legend with 6 categories - you don't need to use all 6 for your maps. Use the 'text' tool to complete the map.
- There is no set number of maps required. The number of maps and the data you choose to map should illustrate factors influencing total fertility rates (you will not receive extra

marks for creating lots of maps!)

- Your *description* section should explore the *spatial differences/patterning* of various data across the region. This description should be used as a basis of your explanation.
- For the explanation part of the exercise you should draw on some of the social and economic variables in the Asia Population Data file, **plus** reading on the topic. What are the drivers of female life expectancy? Some of the references in the Lecture Reading List will help. Google Scholar/database searches will also lead you to useful references.
- **Do parts (b) and (c) separately** in your submitted paper under the sub-headings of “Description” and “Explanation”.
- Your report should include a brief introduction and conclusion.
- The weightings for the various parts of the assignment are as follow:
 - o (a) maps - 5 marks
 - o (b) description - 10 marks
 - o (c) explanation - 15 marks.

Option 2 - Essay Assignment

Date due: 11am Friday 15 May (Week 10)

Word length: 3,000 words

Submission (internal and external students):

Essays (including coversheet) must be submitted to Turnitin before 11am (link available on ENVG219 ilearn page). Late submissions should be submitted to the "late submissions" link.

Write an essay on the following **topic**:

“Migration is the critical population issue of our time”

Critically discuss this statement, illustrating your answer with reference to the Asia-Pacific region.

Your essay *could* explore:

- Definitions, types and scales of migration across the Asia-Pacific region
- Difference between male/female
- Differences between skilled/unskilled
- Data on migration across the region
- Policies and politics of migration
- Positives and negatives impacts of migration on individuals, communities and countries (of origin and receiving).

- The impact migration has on other aspects of the population system (e.g. fertility, mortality, ageing)

Note: the essay should not repeat material covered in lectures, but provide a detailed discussion of immigration in individual locations. Your essay should explore how the impact of immigration is dependent on the unique (geographical, social, cultural, political, and economic) characteristics of individual countries and regions.

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Tutorial Participation

Due: **Weeks 2, 7, 8, 9 & 10**

Weighting: **5%**

A series of tasks will be completed in tutorials in Weeks 2, 7, 8, 9 & 10. Students who complete these tasks will receive 1 mark per week.

Internal students are required to submit their task at the completion of their tutorial in these weeks.

External students are required to email their tasks to Kristian by Friday of Weeks 2, 7, 8, 9 & 10.

The tutorial tasks will be posted on ilearn 1 week before they are due.

Overall attendance at/contribution to tutorials will be taken into consideration when allocating final grades.

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Examination

Due: **Exam period**

Weighting: **40%**

A two hour examination will be held in the examination period at the end of session. Students will be required to complete **two essays** based on the lecture and tutorial program. Students will be given the opportunity to select the essay topics from six options. Previous examination papers are available from the Library.

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Delivery and Resources

Submitting your assignments

Your **written assignment** (Research Exercise or Essay Assignment) must be submitted on (or before) 11.00am on the due date listed (before lecture). **All written assignments (not tutorial papers) must be submitted to Turnitin.** A link for each written assignment is available on the ENVG219 iLearn page. Your assignment must be submitted with a Cover Sheet (available from ENVG219 iLearn page). Students must complete all the details on the Cover Sheet and sign the declaration regarding academic honesty that is part of the cover sheet.

All students must keep a clean electronic copy of their assignment.

Late penalties: Please note that the penalty for late submission of assignments is 10% per day. This penalty will be applied unless you are granted an extension.

Extension requests: Circumstances that affect your ability to complete assignments by the due date must be discussed with Kristian. Appropriate supporting documentation may be required. Ensure that this is done before the due date.

Tutorial tasks

Detailed information on the requirements of the Tutorial tasks can also be found on the **ENVG219 ilearn page**. For internal students all tutorial papers are submitted in their tutorial (except Individual Tutorial Paper 1 which needs to be emailed to Kristian due to Good Friday Public Holiday). External students need to email Kristian their task by the due date.

Written style

All assignments should be written in 12 point font with 1.5 spacing. All work must be appropriately referenced. You can use any referencing style you like, however, it must be correct!

Technology used and required

ENVG219 make extensive use of web-based teaching support using ilearn (<https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>). Access to the Internet and regular access to the unit's ilearn website is essential. Material relating to tutorial tasks is available on the ENVG219 ilearn site.

Unit Schedule

| Wk | Date | Lecture Topic | Tutorial | Assessment |
|----|----------|--|---|--|
| 1 | 27 Feb | Introduction: The Study of Population and The Population System | <i>No Tutorial</i> | |
| 2 | 6 March | Counting People: Population Data / Measuring Populations Overview of World Population: Past, Present and Future | Simulating population change using Intlpop and research time (1 mark tutorial participation) | |
| 3 | 13 March | Theorising Population: Classical Demographic Transition Theory | Group Tutorial Paper Scaled population profiles - Group work | - Students to indicate assignment preference |
| 4 | 20 March | Process Element 1: The European Fertility Transition Re-examined and Transition in other Developed Countries | Group Tutorial Paper - Tutorial Presentations | Group Tutorial Paper (10%) - Kristian to allocate case study countries for Tutorial Paper 1 (Monday) |

| | | | | |
|----|----------|---|--|---|
| 5 | 27 March | Process Element 1: Fertility Transition in Less Developed Countries | Tutorial Paper (option 1) Tutorial Paper 1 Preparation <i>- only students completing option 1 need to attend</i> | |
| 6 | 3 April | GOOD FRIDAY - no lecture | GOOD FRIDAY - no tutorial | Tutorial Paper – option 1: Asian Population Issues (15%) (Due Thursday 2 April) |
| 7 | 24 April | Process Element 2: The Mortality Revolution in More Developed Countries | Class Discussion – Lessons from China for the Less Developed World (1 mark tutorial participation) | Written Assessment – option 1: Research Exercise (30%) |
| 8 | 1 May | Process Element 2: The Mortality Revolution in Less Developed Countries | Population Scenarios <i>(1 mark tutorial participation)</i> | |
| 9 | 8 May | Process Element 3: Drivers, Scale and Outcomes of Migration | International Migration <i>(1 mark tutorial participation)</i> | |
| 10 | 15 May | Australian Population System I (Fertility/Mortality/ Migration) | Class discussion – Geographies of Population in Australia (urban/rural/sea change) (1 mark tutorial participation) | Written Assessment - option 2: Essay Assignment (30%) <i>- Kristian to allocate side of debate for Tutorial Paper 2</i> |
| 11 | 22 May | Australian Population System II (Fertility/Mortality/ Migration) | Tutorial Paper (option 2) Debate preparation <i>- only student completing option 2 need to attend</i> | |
| 12 | 29 May | Outcomes of the Population System I: Population Ageing | Tutorial Paper (option 2) Class Debate – Australian Population Growth | Tutorial Paper – option 2: Australian Population Debate (15%) |
| 13 | 5 June | Outcomes of the Population System II: Population, Politics and Australia's Population Future Unit review | Review | |

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy

applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.