

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)

Instructor

Dr. Melissa Knox

Email: Message me via Canvas (preferred) or knoxm@uw.edu

Class Meetings: T/Th 8:30-10:20 in THO 325

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:10-10:50 am on Zoom

COVID-Related Details

In ECON 448, lectures will be offered in-person. Most will not be recorded, but pre-recorded lectures are available for remote viewing, as needed. Office hours will be offered on Zoom. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas. There are no in-person exams.

Please stay home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 and check these links frequently to find the most up to date guidance

CDC Guidelines for Quarantine and Isolation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html> (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>)

UW Face Covering Policy: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/face-covering-requirements> (<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/face-covering-requirements>)

UW Quarantine and Isolation Guidance: <https://ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance> (<https://ehs.washington.edu/covid-19-prevention-and-response/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance>)

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the subject of international economic development, with a focus on population issues. Since I am an economist, we will be focusing on the topics and tools of economics, and the body of knowledge so far, as created by economists. Topics include demography, poverty and income inequality, fertility choice, sex selection, marriage choice and the role of women, parental investments in child health and education, including discrimination against girls.

Learning Objectives

- Students should be able to apply economic theory to identify and discuss the issues surrounding the topics listed above, and apply economic models to answer questions about these topics.
- Students should be able to comment on articles in the popular press and review articles in economic journals dealing with population and development, explaining and expanding upon the economic analysis they contain.
- Students should be able to apply data and data science methods to pose and address questions and problems that are relevant to these topics.
- Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to execute the life-cycle of an empirical project in population economics, including problem formulation, data collection or generation, data manipulation, analysis, and communication.

Course Organization

This course will combine lecturing on traditional microeconomic theory with in-depth discussion of real-world issues. This is not an easy course in terms of the reading and writing required. Please be prepared to spend a lot of time reading, and writing about, difficult material.

Text

There is no text for this topic. Lectures will be based on textbook excerpts, journal and newspaper and magazine articles, and my own knowledge of the subject. All readings will be available as PDFs in Hypothesis (integrated with Canvas). If you need more accessible options, please let me know. It's a goal of mine to make all course readings accessible, but I'm not there yet, unfortunately.

Prerequisites

The explicit prerequisite for this course is a grade of 2.0 or higher in Econ 300. However, we will be reading papers from economic journals, and while we will be reviewing the concepts of regression analysis and interpretation, some familiarity with data analysis at the level of Econ 382 is strongly recommended. Please discuss your background with me if you are not sure about your preparation.

Note: I am re-designing this course to be part of the CAS data science minor and as such, we will have assignments that use the R statistical programming language (specifically RStudio) this quarter. You do not need to be familiar with R or RStudio, but you should be prepared to do a little extra work at the start of the quarter to begin using this software.

Evaluation

You will be graded on 4 problem sets (which are a hybrid of data analysis and traditional modeling and calculation problems), Hypothesis comments, and one 10-page research paper and its associated preliminary assignments. All students who pass the course will receive W credit.

Class grades will be calculated as follows:

Class Participation - 5%

Problem sets (4 + first week assignment) – 28%

Hypothesis postings (drop lowest 20%) – 17%

Papers (includes all intermediate steps for full credit) – 50%

I expect the class median to be approximately 3.3 and will curve grades as needed.

Problem Sets

It's nearly impossible to learn the tools of economics without working problems. I will assign a problem set for each of the four modules. They will be due about a week after we complete the module. You may work with other students, but please submit your own work. Some parts of the assignment may be graded for completion rather than accuracy.

Papers/Projects

We will discuss the paper requirements in depth in the second week of classes. We will work together as a class to brainstorm ideas for our first papers.

Due Dates

I will post due dates for problem sets and papers for the sake of timely grading, but I intend to be flexible given the challenges we are all facing this quarter. I am trying out a new method of granting extensions. You may reequest a due date extension of up to one week for any assignment, and all extension requests are automatically granted. Please fill out [this form](https://forms.gle/yJ6eWQXasTB7NvBk6) [\(https://forms.gle/yJ6eWQXasTB7NvBk6\)](https://forms.gle/yJ6eWQXasTB7NvBk6) while logged in to google with your UW NetId to request an extension.

Accommodations


Students receiving accommodations from Disability Resources for Students (DRS) should contact me about any needed disability accommodations as soon as possible. Students with a disability who do not yet have a DRS plan should contact them immediately at disability.uw.edu.















Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) [\(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) [\(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) [\(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) [\(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).



Course Outline

1. Introduction to Population (Weeks 1-2)
 1. Population growth and development
 2. Poverty
 3. Empirical tools
2. Fertility (Week 3-4)
 1. Development and fertility
 2. Contraception & sex selection
3. Family Formation (Weeks 4-6)
 1. The economics of marriage
 2. Intra-household decision-making
4. Mortality and Health (Week 6-7)
 1. The decline of mortality
 2. Hunger, health and productivity
5. Investing in Children (Week 8-10)
 1. Parents and child health
 2. Child health, schooling, and future outcomes
 3. Child labor





Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Mar 29, 2022	 ECON 448 A Sp 22: Population And Development (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2712723&include_contexts=course_1547181)	8:30am to 10:15am

Date	Details	Due
Fri Apr 1, 2022	 PRB, Population Handbook Chapters 1-5 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248920	due by 11:59pm
	 The Bomb that Didn't Explode (Podcast) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248930	due by 11:59pm
	 First Week Data Assignment (Must Be Submitted) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7280461	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 5, 2022	 Goal Setting https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7270453	due by 11:59pm
	 Perkins, et al., Ch.7 "Population" in Economics of Development https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248917	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 6, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718425&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
Thu Apr 7, 2022	 Nafziger Chapter 6 (see description for pages) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248916	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 12, 2022	 Ray Chapter 9.3.3 (pp 307-317) https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248928	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 13, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718426&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:30am to 10:55am
Thu Apr 14, 2022	 Becker Chapter 5 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248904	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 17, 2022	 Problem Set 1 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248921	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 19, 2022	 Ray Appendix A https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248927	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 20, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718427&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
Thu Apr 21, 2022	 Khandker et al. Handbook https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248912	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Apr 24, 2022	 Rosenblum Feminist Economics https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248929	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 24, 2022	 Data Statement https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7331416	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 26, 2022	 Miller The Economic Journal https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248915	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 26, 2022	 Perkins et al. Chapter 7 "Population" in Economics of Development Part 2 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248918	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 27, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718428&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
Thu Apr 28, 2022	 Qian WIDER Working Paper https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248926	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 1, 2022	 Anderson "The Economics of Dowry and Bride Price" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248903	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 1, 2022	 Problem Set 2 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248922	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 1, 2022	 Weiss "The Formation and Dissolution of Families" in Handbook of Population and Family Economics https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248931	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 4, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718429&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
Sun May 8, 2022	 Jayachandran "The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing Countries" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248911	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 8, 2022	 Lundberg, Pollak, and Wales "Do Husbands and Wives Pool Resources?" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248913	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 8, 2022	 Pomposh Raina "For Indian Women, Divorce is a Raw Deal" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248919	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 8, 2022	 Midterm Evaluation https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7270457	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 Theory Statement https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7331417	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 11, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718430&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
Wed May 18, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718431&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
Sun May 22, 2022	 Cutler, Deaton, Lleras-Muney "The Determinants of Mortality" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248905	due by 11:59pm
	 Problem Set 3 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248923	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 25, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718432&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
	 Glewwe "Why Does Mother's Schooling Raise Child Health in Developing Countries?" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248909	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 29, 2022	 Jayachandran and Kuziemko "Why Do Mothers Breastfeed Girls Less than Boys?" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248910	due by 11:59pm
	 Qian "Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248925	due by 11:59pm
	 First Draft https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7331418	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 1, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718433&include_contexts=course_1547181	9:10am to 10:55am
Sun Jun 5, 2022	 Gertler "Do Conditional Cash Transfers Improve Child Health?" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248908	due by 11:59pm
	 Maccini and Yang "Under the Weather" https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248914	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 Problem Set 4 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7248924)	due by 11:59pm
	 Final Evaluation (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7270487)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 8, 2022	 Melissa's Office Hours (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2718434&include_contexts=course_1547181)	9:10am to 10:55am
Thu Jun 9, 2022	 Final Paper (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1547181/assignments/7331420)	due by 11:59pm