Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Uma Krishnan
Email contact: kuma@pdx.edu (put USP 520 in subject line)
Office: 730B Urban Center (URBN)
Office Hours: By arrangement and through any mode (email, Google hangout, D2L chat, Skype). I am teaching as an adjunct and so arranging time, place and mode is critical. Email is the best way to arrange appointments.

Class location, date and time

This online class will meet for 11 weeks during Spring Quarter 2018 at:
https://d2l.pdx.edu

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate
a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503–725–4150, drc@pdx.edu, https://www.pdx.edu/drc.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage (https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety) for information.

**Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating/Domestic Violence & Stalking**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that federal, state, and PSU policies require faculty members to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. Similarly, PSU faculty are required to file a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child with whom they come into contact has suffered abuse, or that any person with whom they come into contact has abused a child. If you would rather share information about these experiences with an employee who does not have these reporting responsibilities and can keep the information confidential, please contact one of the following campus resources (or visit this link):

- Women’s Resource Center (503-725-5672)
- Queer Resource Center (503-725-9742)
- Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC): 1880 SW 6th Ave, (503) 725-2800
- Student Legal Services: 1825 SW Broadway, (SMSU) M343, (503) 725-4556

For more information about the applicable regulations please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus in your D2L.
**Prerequisites**

USP 519/419 – Population & Society

**Computer Skills:** The students in this class likely have a range of quantitative analysis skills. The course is designed to accommodate such variations. However, there is presumption that students have some familiarity with data analysis using an analysis package of their choice (e.g. Excel, SPSS, R, SAS etc.). Assignments will require data manipulation. Based on student needs, I will try to connect you to appropriate resources for popular analytical tools like the Excel, SPSS or SAS.

**Course Description**

USP 520 is a graduate-level required course for the Applied Social Demography Certificate Program. This course will cover fundamental concepts, measures and methods of demographic analysis. In addition to addressing the theoretical background of population research, the course introduces students to basic demographic concepts, components of population change, demographic data sources, and techniques of population analysis—including population estimates, forecasts, and projections. Further, the course is intended as a practical guide for aspiring demographers/planners/geographers who may be required to produce and/or evaluate population estimates or projections at the local, regional or state level during the course of their professional career.

**Course Objectives**

1. Students possess knowledge of fundamentals of population analysis and can identify and use appropriate sources of data to perform basic demographic analysis.

2. Students can analyze population changes along with strategies for interpreting population statistics.

3. Students know the demographic methods for studying the vital processes of mortality and fertility.

4. Students understand primary population estimation and projection techniques and can delve in depth into extrapolation and cohort-component models.

5. Students can use population information and analysis to develop, evaluate and revise population estimates, projections or forecasts.
Textbooks

The main textbook is by Rowland, T. Donald (2003) which we will follow closely, but you will find discussions in the other required book useful. Also, we will look at relevant reports & publications from the real world for empirical grounding of analytical techniques we will learn.

- Other readings will be available either via D2L or through the PSU Millar Library

Course Structure

This course is structured around ten modules (one module per week) with readings and activities that will act like scaffoldings for achieving all five of the course objectives through a process of learning, reviewing and reinforcing what you learn in earlier modules.

When you login to the D2L class room, you will be in the “Course Home” page- This page has the section Announcements that will hold all necessary instructions/reminders for the week. Move on to the “Content” page to access the respective week’s module- I will make available weekly modules sequentially!

Here’s a summary of the weekly cycle:

Sunday - Saturday: I will publish the weekly module on a Sunday and you have the flexibility of the week to cover the contents for the week. Each week’s module is arranged in two parts:
1. Overview

2. Activities & Assignments

Read through the Overview prior to doing the Activities & Assignments; this is the window for participating in activities which include:

- Participating in Class forum –through discussion posts (required)
- Participating in the help forum to ask questions or to respond as need may be (highly encouraged)

**Saturdays:** Discussion posts for the week are due.

**Mondays:** Class assignments (from the past week) are due at the beginning of the work week.

**Weekly cycle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Module Published</td>
<td>Assignments (if any) from prior week due</td>
<td>Participation in weekly discussion posts can start</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Participation in weekly discussion posts to be concluded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments/Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Syllabus Introduction to Population Analysis/Demographic Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Demographic Transition Theory Demographic Measurement Tools</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Demographic Descriptives Sources of Demographic Data</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Comparing Populations</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Measuring Fertility</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Measuring Mortality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Life Tables; Stable &amp; Stationary Population Models</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Migration: Concepts, Theories &amp; Measurements</td>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Population Estimation Techniques</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Population Projections</td>
<td>Assignment 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
<td>Finals</td>
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**Note:** This outline is tentative and subject to change

**Evaluation & Grading**

The course grade for graduate students enrolled in USP 520 will be determined based on the following evaluation:
Evaluation Component | Points
--- | ---
Participation in Weekly Modules | 20 Points (2 points/week)
Assignments | 30 Points (6 points/Assignment)
Mid Term | 25 Points
Final | 25 Points
**Total** | **100 Points**

**Participation**

Participation in the online class occurs through written engagements—so it is critical to participate substantively in the classroom discussion forums and the help forum. The exchanges will also help me assess the progress you all are making with the course material. Each week, I expect at least two posts in the discussion forum (this is separate from any questions you may have)—respond to the discussion topic by starting a new thread; then you can respond to your classmate’s posts. Individual discussion question responses count towards the class participation requirement. The assessment scheme for participation requirement:

- No posts (no participation) - 0 pts.
- Single post – 1 pts.
- Two or more posts – 2 pts.

**Assignments**

Assignments for this course will be in the Do section of the weekly module. Each week, I will post reminders in the News section if assignments are due. There are 5 assignments to be done in Week 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10. Each is worth 6 pts. These are graded for completion and not accuracy—in other words, it is OK if you make mistakes on the assignment— the key is to do them fully. These are an integral part of learning and deepening your understanding of the course material.

It is the student’s responsibility to turn the assignments in on time. Students who do not turn the assignments in on time will be subject to a 10% late point deduction. Additionally, students may not turn in any assignments that have already been turned back to the class without a pre-arranged agreement with the instructor.
Exams

Exams will consist of problem sets covering class material covered in lecture, readings, and assignments. Note that I will make available the Mid-term beginning of Week 5 (Monday) and the final at the beginning of Week 11. You are expected to turn in the exam no later than the end of the respective weeks. I prefer not to give make-ups but contact me in case you are facing circumstances that make it impossible to take the exam during that window. I will work with you.

Grading Scale

The course grade for students enrolled in USP 520 will be determined according to the PSU grading scheme and the evaluation components are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>93 to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td>90 to 92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>87 to 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>83 to 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td>80 to 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
<td>77 to 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>73 to 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td>70 to 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td></td>
<td>67 to 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>63 to 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
<td>60 to 62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep in mind that the generalized grading rubric is as follows:
- An ‘A’ assignment demonstrates original thought and synthesis of ideas in a cogent and clearly written manner. Outstanding work.
- A ‘B’ assignment offers above average analysis with appropriate evidence to support ideas and is clearly written. Good work.
- A ‘C’ assignment shows a level of understanding where analysis is limited to basic arguments and writing is competent. Adequate work.
- A ‘D’ assignment misrepresents the material or is so poorly written that as presented, obscures the analysis. Inadequate work.

**Student Conduct**

All students are governed by Portland State University’s ‘Student Code of Conduct’, which details the university rules regarding academic integrity and honesty for this course. The Student Code of Conduct indicates that all forms of student academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating dishonesty, and plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action. As a result, keep in mind that submitted course materials are expected to be original work and your own work. For more information, check out the following link: [http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct](http://www.pdx.edu/dos/codeofconduct)

For additional relevant PSU policies click on Course Introduction (in the Course Content tab) and navigate to “Portland State University Policies.

Plagiarism has no place in this classroom. Information related to avoiding plagiarism and examples of citations can be found at the following links:

[http://guides.library.pdx.edu/cite](http://guides.library.pdx.edu/cite)

Citation Style Guide: [http://www.library.arizona.edu/search/reference/citation.html](http://www.library.arizona.edu/search/reference/citation.html)

**Netiquette**

We will be in an online classroom and our primary means of communication is written. Use the written mode to your advantage and to the advantage of the class. Make sure you maintain civility through your post and that you treat the posts from fellow classmates and the instructor with respect. I will email in advance of the official start of the class, a Word document with framework for Netiquette agreement- let me know if you have concerns on any of the items.
Course Policies

I. Student are expected to:

- Keep up with course materials and participate regularly, actively and courteously in the discussion forums;
- Seek help (instructor, help forum, Google Hangout, in person appointment) when you do not understand a topic or if you find yourself falling behind in coursework for various reasons;
- Complete homework and assignments on time;
- Abide by standards of academic integrity and student code of conduct;
- Avoid plagiarism;
- Practice netiquette;

II. Instructor is expected to:

- Provide course materials on time;
- Maintain an active presence in the online classroom and foster safe, civil and non-discriminatory environment that furthers the course objectives;
- Respond to questions/issues in a timely fashion; I will respond to your queries within a 48 hr. window;
- Be fair in evaluation and grading homework and assignments;
- Practice netiquette;
- Foster enthusiasm for online learning;

Notice – we are even in expectations😊
Anything confusing in this syllabus?? Of course not😊

If by any chance you have questions about the course or the syllabus, post your questions in the Week 1 Module.

Where? Post your questions in the “Course & Syllabus” question” topic that can be found under subheading Do. This will help everyone, because if you have questions, others probably do too.

Also, contact me as often as needed. I am here this quarter to support you through this exciting course, so let’s keep in communication … often!

Contact reminders:

Dr. Uma Krishnan can be reached via:

1. email: kuma@pdx.edu or D2L email
2. Office: 370B Urban Center (URBN) (By Appt.)