



**Sociology 2131a (670)
Population and Society
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: D. Maynard
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

The course will examine major issues in the field of population studies, including patterns of marriage and cohabitation, childbearing, health, mortality and population aging. Particular attention will be paid to the implications of population patterns for other social institutions and for social policy

Antirequisite(s): The former Sociology 2232; Sociology 2236F/G.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50
Breadth: Category A
Subject Code: SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

POPULATION AND SOCIETY SOC2131A 670 Fall 2025

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course will examine major issues in the field of population studies including patterns of marriage and cohabitation, childbearing, immigration, health, mortality and population aging. Particular attention will be paid to the implications of population patterns for other social institutions and for social policy. Antirequisites: the former SOC2232, SOC2236f/g. 3 lecture hours, half-credit course.

INSTRUCTOR

Prof. Donna K. Maynard
Office/Office hours: TBA, but both in person and zoom hours available
E-mail: dmaynar3@uwo.ca

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

Weeks, John R. 2020. Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues, 13th Edition. San Diego: Nelson Education.

Please note that this text should be available both new and used, and the 12th edition is acceptable as well. No electronic or other supplemental resources are required for this text. Please feel free to save money and buy a used or older copy.

Here is a link to the publisher's page for information on maximum cost to directly order a new hard copy:
<https://www.cengage.ca/c/population-an-introduction-to-concepts-and-issues-13e-weeks/9780357360576/>

‘Various’: As listed on the course schedule, this refers to the occasional high quality report or data from something like Statistics Canada or the UN, or a link to a fun or cultural resource, song, skit etc. These will all be short in terms of length and the links will be provided on the lesson tabs each week.

Not Required but highly recommended: Kerr, Don and Roderic Beaujot. 2016. Population Change in Canada, 3rd Edition. Oxford University Press.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is asynchronous, with online provision of learning materials, and online participation, but with **in-person, synchronous exams**. Students are expected to consume materials and participate asynchronously, with only a couple of due dates/test dates in the semester that have to be met.

Like all of your courses, this course is mounted and accessed through OWL Brightspace. Its organized with a LECTURE content tab for each week that will contain your slides and videos for lectures, any multimedia, links, participation opportunities for that topic etc. There will also be a TESTS content tab containing test deets, midterm signup sheet, feedback after test returns etc., and a Participation content tab

Sept 26	Truth and Reconciliation Week L4 Mortality	94 Calls to Action, various (links provided) Weeks Chapter 5: The Health and Mortality Transition
Oct 03	L5 Mortality continued	Various (links provided)
Oct 10	Catchup week	No new readings
Oct 17	MIDTERM EXAM WEEK	<i>Review material for the first 6 weeks of class</i>
Oct 24	Participation for the first half of the course is due (by 1159pm) L6 Fertility	NA Weeks Chapter 6: The Fertility Transition
Oct 31	L7 Fertility/Families and Households in Canada	Various (links provided)
Nov 07	Fall Reading Week	<i>No readings (snicker*)</i>
Nov 14	L8 Migration	Weeks: Chapter 7 The Migration Transition
Nov 21	L9 Migration in Canada	Various (links provided)
Nov 28	L10 Age/Sex Structure	Weeks Chapter 8: The Age Transition
Dec 05	L11 Population Aging in Canada	Various
Dec 09	Participation for the second half of the course is due (by 1159pm)	NA
Final Exam Period	FINAL EXAM	<i>Review material from last 6 weeks of material</i>

**the above indicated readings and lecture timing may be modified slightly throughout the term*

TESTS

This course involves two tests that are equal in weight and emphasis. These tests are designed to finish and test each ‘half’ of the material in the course. The first is scheduled during regular ‘class’ time, and the last is scheduled during the final exam period by the Registrar.

Both tests will involve two sections made up of 1) multiple choice and 2) essay questions. All tests will focus on untested material since the last test. The tests are not cumulative!

The tests will be closed book, **in-person**, synchronous, on paper.

Students will be required for the Midterm test, to sign up for the available test time that works best for them (see the TESTS content tab of our course owl page) then attend and take the test at the assigned time. Once the midterm is scheduled officially, you must attend or qualify for a makeup through a formal process.

Note the Midterm is a **Designated assessment**, which means you can only miss it and qualify for a makeup by filing a documented absence request (a form of academic consideration request) and having permission granted – you cannot use an undocumented version of the request. This is also true of the final exam in this course (like all final exams across all courses)

PARTICIPATION

Each week students will have options to pose and answer questions, provide and consume resources, short multimedia, personal experiences etc. and sometimes simply react to the course material through the forums function of owl. Links to the forums for each topic will be provided on the L lesson tab for each. Just like in a live class, students are not required to ‘participate’ in everything, but a minimum standard will be discussed in terms of amount/quality etc. of participation. While participation doesn’t have to be done immediately or in any particular order topic-wise, there is a due date that corresponds to the end of each half of the course material. Participation for each half needs to be complete by the due date. Each half will be marked separately such that students will receive 2 separate participation grade that may vary between them.

A quick note about AI: There are officially no acceptable uses for AI use in this course. Any use of AI for participation, even just to ‘get ideas’ is considered academic misconduct, but is also just so against your own learning interests in this case. This course should give you some interesting ideas about how the world works/what it looks like in a way that is very relatable. The participation is supposed to be the part where you relate to it. Please be better than the temptation to have AI tell you what to think or how to express something - instead please just cover the course material and ‘get ideas’ from your brain/interacting with ideas that came from other students’ brains/ the world around you etc. then just express your thoughts ideas memories etc. as you have them – I just want engagement here – I’m evaluating how knowledgeable you are about the material on the exams not the participation ok?

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.