

China's Population and Development

Sample

(Subject to Changes)

Instructor Ke Shen
Course Code SOCI110033.01
Credits 3
Total credit hours 42
Language of Instruction English

1.Course Description

China has been undergoing two exceedingly rapid transformations in the past half a century: a demographic transition with dramatic decrease in fertility and mortality, and an economic transition from a planned economy to a market economy. The compressed demographic transition has made China a country with a very low population growth rate and accelerating population aging, and unprecedented economic reform has lifted China to the ranks of middle-income countries. These two historical transformations are not independent of each, but have been closely intertwined. Thus, this course not only introduces various demographic events and socio-economic reforms, but also explores the linkages between population change and socio-economic transformation. We raise a series of questions: What are social and economic implications of one-child policy? How will China's imbalanced sex ratio at birth influence the marriage market? Will China lose the competitive edge in labor-intensive industry in the near future due to low fertility rates? How can China accommodate the expanding elderly population in the context of frequent migration of young people? Investigations into these questions may provide students with a deeper understanding on China's contemporary society.

2.Course Objectives

This course aims to introduce basic concepts and theories in demography, discuss the interconnection between demographic change and socioeconomic transformation, and also explore the socioeconomic consequences of population policies in China.

3.Course Schedule

Course Schedule (Please supply the details about each lesson):

Lecture 1 Introduction to Demography and Chinese Population (A brief introduction to the demographic transition in the world and China)

Lecture 2, 3 Fertility Measures and Fertility Transitions (period and cohort measures of fertility, China's fertility decline and underlying reasons, comparison between China's fertility transition and that of other countries)

Lecture 4 Evolution of Fertility Policies and Policy Implications (Shift from one-child policy to three-child policy, socioeconomic impacts of family planning policy,

effectiveness of pro-natal policy)

Lecture 5 Mortality and Health (Mortality measures, mortality transition pattern and underlying factor, health care reform and its impacts)

Lecture 6 Demographic Transition and Economic Surplus (Demographic transition theory, the relationship between population growth and economic development)

Lecture 7 Population Aging and Social Security System (Population aging process, the relationship between population aging and economic development, social security reforms)

Lecture 8 Migration, Urbanization and Hukou Reform (Urbanization process and newly emerging migration pattern, the origin of Hukou system and recent reforms)

Lecture 9 Family Change and Family Policy (Family changes and the underlying factors, the socioeconomic consequences of family change, family policy)

Lecture 10 Social Inequality and Generational Imbalance (Trends of social inequality, inequality in public transfers by gender, women's contribution in domestic arena)

Lecture 11 Social Change and Marriage (New features of marriage market, marriage squeeze, divorce and re-marriage)

Lecture 12 Student Presentations

4. Grading & Evaluation

The course grading is comprised of: Class attendance and discussion (20%), presentation (40%), Term paper (40%).

5. Readings

Wang, Feng. 2011. The Future of a Demographic Over-achiever: Long-term Implications of the Demographic Transition in China. *Population and Development Review* 37: 173-190.

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Cai, Yong. 2010. China's Below Replacement Fertility: Government Policy or Socioeconomic Development. *Population and Development Review* 36 (3): 419-440.

Gu, Baochang, Wang, Feng, Guo, Zhigang and Zhang, Erli. 2007. China's Local and National Fertility Policies at the End of the Twentieth Century. *Population and Development Review* 33(1): 129-147.

Wang, Feng, Cai, Yong, Shen, Ke and Gietel-Basten, Stuart (2018). Is demography just a numerical exercise? Numbers, politics and legacies of China's one-child policy.

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- Cai, Yong. 2013. China's New Demographic Realities: Learning from the 2010 Census. *Population and Development Review* 39(3): 371-396.
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- Wagstaff, A., Lindelow, M., Gao, J., Xu, L., and Qian, J. 2009. Extending health insurance to the rural population: An impact evaluation of China's new cooperative medical scheme. *Journal of Health Economics*, 28(1), 1-19.
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- Chan, K.W. 2010. The Household Registration System and Migrant Labor in China: Notes on a Debate. *Population and Development Review* 36(2): 357-364.
- Zhang, L. 2012. Economic Migration and Urban Citizenship in China: The Role of Points Systems. *Population and Development Review* 38(3): 503-533.
- Wang, X., Hui, E.C., and et al. 2015. The new urbanization policy in China: Which way forward. *Habitat International*, 47: 279-284.
- Shen Ke, Cai, Yong, Wang, Feng and Hu, Zhan. 2021. Changing society, changing lives: Three decades of family change in China. *International Journal of Social Welfare*. 30: 453-464.
- Chen, F., Liu, G., and Mair, C. A. 2011. Intergenerational ties in context: Grandparents caring for grandchildren in China. *Social Forces*, 90(2), 571-594.
- Cheung, A.K.L. and Yeung, W.J.J. 2015. Temporal-spatial patterns of one-person households in China, 1982-2005. *Demographic Research*, 32(44): 1209-1238.
- Xie, Yu, Dong, H., Zhou, Xiang, and Song, Xi. 2022. Trends in social mobility in postrevolution China. *PNAS*, 119(7): e21174711.
- Sonali Jain-Chandra, Niny Khor, Rui Mano, Johanna Schauer, Philippe Wingender and Juzhong Zhuang. 2018. Inequality in China – Trends, Drivers and Policy Remedies. *IMF Working Papers* 18/127.
- Zhu, H. and Walker, A. 2018. Pension system reform in China: Who gets what pensions. *Social Policy & Administration*, 52: 1410-1424.
- Tian, F.F., Qian, Y. and Qian, Z. 2018. Hukou Locality and Inter-marriages in Two Chinese Cities: Shanghai and Shenzhen. *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, 56, 12-20.
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- Raymo, J.M., Park, H., Xie, Y., and Yeung, W.J. 2015. Marriage and Family in East Asia:

Continuity and Change. *The Annual Review of Sociology*, 41: 471-492.

Course Director's Academic Background:

Ke Shen is a professor of demography at Fudan University. She received the doctoral degree in Economics at Peking University in 2011. Professor Shen's main research areas include population aging, intergenerational and gender inequalities, family changes, and population policy. Her publications have appeared in leading venues in her field in the world, such as *Population and Development Review*, *Demography*, *Demographic Research*, the *Journal of Economics of Ageing*, *BMC Geriatrics* and others.