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**SOC 220 Social Problems**  This course provides an in-depth study of current social problems. Emphasis is placed on causes, consequences, and possible solutions to problems associated with families, schools, workplaces, communities, poverty, race and ethnicity, age and gender inequality, population, war and terrorism, and the environment. SOC 220 is a college transfer course and also a required course for students majoring in Human Services Technology.

“Cross-Cultural Analysis of Major Demographic Issues”

**Module Description:**

This module will explore the major demographic issues facing a set of countries from a specific region of the World. This module will focus on South Asia and East Asia and the countries of India and China respectively. It will incorporate an individual or group (students may choose to work individually or in teams of 2) project that seeks to enhance the student’s overall understanding of primary demographic problems facing the major regions of the world and how that impacts global developments. This module is to be completed over a two week period culminating in a general presentation given by the students on their respective country. The primary goal for this module is to help students use the tools of demographers in order to develop an understanding of regional demographic issues that not only impact individual countries and regions but also the broader world. Particular emphasis will be placed on the cultural differences of each country and how those differences impact how each country implements domestic and international policies to address their unique demographic issues. A unique feature of this module is that countries used within the module can be changed each semester to alternately educate students about other regions and cultures around the world including those of South America, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe thereby making the module fully international.

**Objectives:**

Upon Completion, students will be able to:

1. Identify, describe, and explain the major demographic issues facing a particular country. Demographic issues include fertility and sex ratio, employment and labor, family planning and abortion, life expectancy and aging, mortality, migration (internal and external), food culture and agricultural issues, education, government population policy, social stratification, and religion

2. Compare and Contrast regional differences in regards to major demographic issues.
3. Identify, describe, and explain the primary domestic and international policies impacted by demographic issues of a particular country.

4. Apply this knowledge base of demography to connect current global events to the demographic trends of a particular country.

Methodology:

- **Discussion/Instructor Lecture/Student Presentations**
  Class discussion and lecture will focus on population and global inequality and will cover the primary factors that influence population increases, decline, and conflict. These will include, but are not limited to fertility and sex ratio, employment and labor, family planning and abortion, life expectancy and aging, migration (internal and external), food culture and food production issues, education, government population policy, social stratification, and trends in religion. In addition, the discussion and lecture will introduce students to the field of demography and how demographic theory helps explain population trends. Particular emphasis in lectures will be placed on the demographic trends taking place in the United States.

- **Audio/Visual Presentations**

- **Student Research**
  - Students will be assigned a specific demographic issue from the list below and will be required to conduct research on the selected trend using resources provided by the instructor.
  - fertility and sex ratio
  - employment and labor
  - family planning and abortion
  - life expectancy and aging
  - mortality
  - migration (internal and external)
  - food culture and food production issues
  - education
  - government population policy
  - social stratification
  - trends in religion and religious issues

Evaluation:

1) 2 page research paper that compares and contrasts the selected demographic trend(s) with the same demographic trend(s) of the United States. A grading rubric will be handed out in class that will guide students in their research.

2) Discussion, DVD, and required reading quiz
3) **Presentation** to be delivered during class. Students will be provided with a grading rubric.

The Project will be worth 25% of a student’s final grade.

**Resources:**

*Required Readings* (India and China)


*Reference Material* (on reserve in Library)


*Internet Resources*

**U.S. Census Bureau International Data Base**

[http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php](http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php)

**CIA World Fact Book**


**International Monetary Fund**


**Asian Development Bank (ADB)**


ADB Statistics


**Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**


ASEAN Stats
http://www.asean.org/22122.htm
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

http://www.asean.org/18770.htm
Food and Agricultural Organization.

http://www.fao.org/
Statistics

Country Profiles

International Labour Organization

Countries

Statistics and Databases

United Nations

UNData

http://data.un.org/
Crime, education, energy, environment, finance, food and agriculture, gender, health, HIV/AIDS, human development, indicator databases, industry, information and communications technology, labor, national accounts, official development assistance, population, refugees, tourism, trade.

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

http://www.unescap.org/

http://www.unescap.org/about/index.asp
ESCAP Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 2009

ESCAP Publications, Subject: Population: These would be useful for finding topics to explore.

http://www.unescap.org/publications/titlebysubject.asp?id=9
ESCAP Committee on Social Development

World Bank
http://www.worldbank.org/
World Bank Data By country, by Topic
http://data.worldbank.org/
World Bank Country Pages: East Asia & Pacific
http://worldbank.org/eap

World Health Organization
http://www.who.int
Data and Statistics
http://www.who.int/research/en/
Countries
http://www.who.int/countries/en/