STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology

Syllabus

Basic Demographic Methods
7.5 Credits

Code: SO1FU26
Finalized by: Institutionsstyrelsen, 2024-01-30
Valid from: Autumn semester 2024 (2024-09-02)
Level within study regulation: Third cycle

Course modules Basic Demographic Methods, 7.5 Credits

1. Entry requirements

No Translation Available

2. Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge, understanding, and competence:

- Use, describe and interpret, compare, and discuss the validity of the following:
- Simple ratios, probabilities and rates, crude and specific rates
- Lexis diagram
- Standardization
- Cohort life table
- Period life table
- Reproduction rates; parity progression rates
- Measures of central age; Measures of population change; dependency ratios
- Migration rates
- Basic cohort-component population projection
- Link theory and demographic methods that are appropriate for a specific demographic research question.

In terms of attitudes and values:

- Search for, compare and critically review demographic data relevant for a particular research question;
- Compare and evaluate basic methods used in research on demographic questions.
- Carry out work in a responsible way, including keeping realistic time schedules.

3. Content

Basic Demographic Methods (BDM), a course at advanced level, aims to develop students' analytical and interpretative skills by familiarizing them with basic concepts and measures in demography. Students will use, present and interpret basic demographic methods, including the life table, standardization, and population forecasting. Such knowledge is essential for work with statistical materials on populations and will be useful for most quantitative social science. As

the course is based on the idea of learning by doing, attendance is essential to attain the learning outcomes.

4. Mandatory exams

- Submission and completion of written individual course assignments
- Attendance is mandatory for all lessons on population projections
- Final examination

5. Forms of examination

The assessment consists of eight **individual** assignments and one **individual** exam, each to be submitted at a specific deadline. Assignment eight (8) is carried out in the lab with compulsory attendance.

The eight individual assignments consist of using, describing, presenting, comparing, as well as accounting for, interpreting and discussing the validity of the following:

1. Simple ratios, probabilities and rates, crude and specific rates.
2. Lexis diagram
3. Age standardization; Measures of population change
4. Cohort life table
5. Period life table
6. Measures of fertility
7. Measures of migration, population structure, and population change
8. Basic cohort-component population projection

Each of the 8 individual assignment receives a score between 1 and 10. The passing score for each exercise is 7. Students who fail an assignment may resubmit within one week. A re-submitted assignment can receive a score up to a limit of 7. An assignment submitted after the corresponding deadline can receive a score up to a limit of 7. The final exam has a maximum score of 80 points. A minimum of 56 points is required to pass the final exam. To pass the whole course, you must pass all the modules, i.e. a minimum of 7 points for each module, and the final examination. The weight of the individual assignments and the individual exam in the final assessment is 50% each.

The student’s final achievement (based on their performance in the individual assignments and the exam) is graded to *Pass* or *Fail*.

Students who have received a fail grade on an exam have the right to take additional exams as long as the course is offered in order to achieve at least a pass grade. Students who have received a fail grade on an exam twice from an examiner have the right to request that another examiner be appointed to determine the grade of the exam. Such requests should be made to the director of studies.

Examinations take place continuously during the course, and the final home exam must be submitted by the specified deadline. All other coursework must be submitted no later than one week after the end of the course period to be examined during the current course. If a student does not adhere to this deadline or submits at least one incorrect assignment, a new examination will only take place at the next exam session.

Plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration or use of AI

Part of your responsibility as a student is to be aware of the examination rules. Detailed information is available on Stockholm University's website here. Teachers are obliged to report suspected cheating and plagiarism to the rector and the disciplinary board. Plagiarism and cheating are always disciplinary matters and can lead to suspension. An example of plagiarism is to copy a text word for word or almost word for word (including a single sentence or lines of code) without indicating where it comes from. Always ensure the origin of the text or that quotations are used when submitting a text for examination that you did not write yourself. This also applies to texts you have written previously (self-plagiarism).

Having study groups together is stimulating and time-saving, but when it comes to examination tasks, it is important to work independently (unless otherwise clearly stated) to avoid being considered as unauthorized collaboration.

Cheating also includes, for example, the use of unauthorized aids such as mobile phones or generative AI during an examination. The use of generative AI or similar tools in exam tasks without the examiner's explicit permission and without confirmation is considered cheating.

Interim provisions

Students may request that examination according to this syllabus be completed up to three semesters after it expires. The request is to be directed to the Director of Studies.* *This regulation is valid for all assessed parts of the course.

Restrictions

Those who have passed the course SO7110 Basic Demographic Methods 7.5 credits or SO7115 Measurement Techniques and Demographic Methods, 7.5 credits or SO7111 Basic Demographic methods, 7.5 credits, the sub-course Basic Demographic Methods 7.5 credits within the course SO8040 cannot be admitted to the course Demography, Interdisciplinary Magister Course, or equivalent.

6. Form of instruction

Teaching is carried out in the form of lectures, seminars and exercises in class and on your own. In cases where teaching is compulsory, this is stated in the course schedule.

Course literature

The current reading list is available no later than two months before the start of the course.