

Syllabus

The name of the education: Population Development and Social Change, 7.5 Credits

Code: SO1FU25

Valid from: Autumn semester 2025 (2025-09-01)

Level within study regulation: Third cycle

Course modules: Population Development and Social Change, 7.5 Credits

1. Entry requirements

No Translation Available

2. Learning outcomes

After accomplishing this course, participants are expected to be able to:

Describe and explain basic demographic terms.

Provide an overview of main issues of population developments in Sweden.

Describe and explain the most common demographic methods and identify data sources that demographers commonly use. The student should also be able to discuss the advantages and shortcomings of different data sources.

Compare different demographic perspectives as they appear in the literature and describe how they have been applied in demographic studies.

Provide an overview of global population developments in historical and contemporary perspectives and discuss main forces behind these developments.

Identify and discuss problems arising from population ageing.

Provide an overview of Swedish population policies and analyze different approaches to population issues that exist internationally.

Write and present shorter scientific texts with demographic contents and policy relevance.

Critically review demographic data and literature relevant for a particular research question.

3. Content

The course offers an introduction to demography, i.e., to the field of population studies. It introduces students to the discipline and its theory, methods, and sources of data. Important societal issues related to population development, population structure (including population ageing), and population policy are studied both from a historical and a contemporary perspective. The course covers international issues in demography (relevant to rich and poor countries) as well as issues that are specific to Sweden.

4. Mandatory exams

The students have to participate actively in class discussion, including mandatory attendance and participation in two seminars.

5. Forms of examination

The examination consists of a written home assignment, a peer-review assignment, two group work assignments (formative assessment) and a final sit-in examination (summative assessment).

The final examination consists of a number of given questions whose purpose is to clarify to what extent the student has achieved the learning outcomes of the course.

Doctoral students must obtain at least a C grade on the final exam to pass the course. In case of a lower grade, a re-examination is possible. To pass the course, all parts must be passed. The final grade for the course is either Pass or Fail.

Plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration or use of AI

Part of your responsibility as a student is to know the rules for examination. Detailed information can be found on Stockholm University's website. Teachers are obliged to report suspected cheating and plagiarism to the Vice-Chancellor and the Disciplinary Board. Plagiarism and cheating is always a disciplinary matter and can lead to suspension. An example of plagiarism is copying a text verbatim or almost verbatim (including single sentences or lines of programming) and not indicating where it comes from. Always make sure that an acknowledgement and quotation marks are used when you submit text you did not write yourself. This even applies to texts you have written before (self-plagiarism). Cheating also includes, for example, the use of unauthorized aids, such as a mobile phone or generative AI, on a test. Having study groups together is stimulating and time-saving, but when it comes to examination assignments, you must be careful to work on your own (unless clearly stated otherwise), so as not to risk being counted as unauthorized collaboration. Generative AI, including ChatGPT, can be useful, for example in editing your own writing. However, the use of ChatGPT or similar tools in examination assignments without the examiner's explicit permission and without acknowledgement is considered cheating.

Interim

Students can request to be examined in accordance with this syllabus up to three semesters after it has ceased to be valid. The request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

Limitations

Those who have passed the course course SO7100 Population Development and Social Change 7.5 credits or SO7101 Population Development and Social Change 7.5 credits, or equivalent, cannot be admitted to the course. This also applies to the course unit Population Development and Social Change 7.5 credit within the course SO8040 Demography, Interdisciplinary Magister Course

6. Form of instruction

The course is given by means of lectures and seminars, with scope for interaction and student presentations.

Course literature

The updated list of course literature is available at least two months before course start