Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2017-2018

Course size
Credits 5.0  Study time 150 h  Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019
A (semester 2)  Dutch  seminar: coached exercises  5.0 h
lecture  40.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
Lievens, John  PS04  lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

Bachelor of Science in Criminological Sciences
5  A

Bachelor of Science in Political Science
5  A

Bachelor of Science in Sociology
5  A

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Population studies, fertility, family formation, mortality, migration, population growth.

Position of the course
This course is a basic course. It aims to introduce students to the way of thinking, the concepts and the theories in Demography as one of the subfields of sociology. Central to the course is to enable students to acquire knowledge of, and insight into, demographic processes, their social determinants and potential consequences. The approach is predominantly sociological, but the multidisciplinary nature of demography ensures that students not only learn to make systematic use of relevant sociological concepts and theories, but also of concepts and theories from other relevant disciplines. Ample attention is also paid to the different methods of demographic analysis, the basic demographic indicators, and the correct definition and interpretation of the latter.

Contents
A. Social demography
1 Demography as a fundamental and applied science: goals, objectives and relation to other disciplines, different types of demographic analysis.
2 Fertility and family formation: trends and differentials; main analytical frameworks; the intermediate fertility determinants and the ways in which these are embedded in society; theories concerning the determinants of the wish for children.
3 Mortality and morbidity: trends and differentials; main analytical frameworks and theories.
4 Migration: overview of migration flows, world-wide and into Europe; theoretical models for migration; demographic and societal consequences of immigration.
5 The growth of world populations: historical overview; analysis of the relation between population and development.
6 Population policy

B. Technical demography
1 Sources of demographic data
2 The study of a population structure
3 Classical methods for the study of demographic processes: Lexis-diagram, the different types of process and analysis, different types of analysis; transversal, cohort and fictive cohort approaches.
4 Basic concepts and indicators of: fertility and family formation, mortality and morbidity, migration, and population growth.

Initial competences

Recommended
To have successfully completed components ‘Sociology’, ‘Contemporary Social Problems’ and ‘Statistics’, or to have acquired the competences targeted in these courses in another way. To take/have taken introductory courses in related areas such as economics, social history or bioanthropology may, additionally, enrich the student’s learning experience.

Final competences
1. To be able to handle different sources of demographic data.
2. To have insight into the main methods of formal demographic analysis. To be able to critically evaluate the use of formal demographic analysis in different situations.
3. To be able to select, correctly determine and interpret appropriate demographic indicators for a given basic question.
4. To be able to critically evaluate the use of demographic indicators in the general debate in society, identifying any possible misinterpretations.
5. To have insight into the relations between demographic structures and processes and biological, as well as cultural, social and economic structures and processes.
6. To be able to analyze demographic trends using the main concepts and theories regarding the determinants of demographic behavior.
7. To be able to follow national and international demographic trends, keeping an eye on their potential consequences.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods
Lecture, seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods
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Learning materials and price
Estimated cost: 30 euro

References
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Course content-related study coaching
- e-learning through Minerva: FAQ, exercises, demo’s, example of exams, forum
- individual guidance during office hours

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions, oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions, oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods
Emphasis lies on insight- and application-focused questions.
For students sociology: written and oral exam
For all other students: written exam

Calculation of the examination mark
Periodic assessment (100%).

Facilities for Working Students
1. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time.

(Approved)
2. Alternative time for feedback is possible.