1. Administrative Information

Instructor: Professor Cathy Yang Liu
Time: Tuesday 7:15 – 9:45 p.m.
Location: Classroom South 203
Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4 p.m. or by appointment
Office: AYSPS 329
Email: cyliu@gsu.edu
Phone: (404) 413-0102
Website: http://cathyyangliu.wordpress.com/

2. Course Objectives

(1) Theory and knowledge of how demography relates to urban development and public policy;
(2) Using census data for analysis of local and regional changes;
(3) Effective strategies for analysis and presentation of data;
(4) Efficient communication of research findings.

This graduate-level course addresses the role of demography in urban development, including measurement of the changing people and their urban activities, and emphasizing in general the temporal perspective that demography brings to bear on urban change. The course also addresses in depth the census data that are the primary tool for measuring local and regional changes. Substantive topics to be addressed include homeownership, household formation, immigration, racial and ethnic change, educational attainment, employment, transportation, poverty issues, and urban spatial structure. The course places emphasis on the interface between theory, measurement, and communication of meaning. With demographic tools we can unlock a wealth of insights that lay buried in mountains of census data. Access to adequate data is not a problem; instead, access to genuine insight is the continuing challenge, and the solution is proper data selection and design of appropriate comparisons. In essence, how can we first discover the dynamics of urban population change and then explain it simply enough to important decision makers (policy makers, voters, executives, judges, and juries).
3. Course Requirement and Evaluation

Class sessions will be a mixture of lectures, class discussions/debates and computer lab sessions. Course grades will be determined as follows:

(1) Three Assignments (individual) 25%
   Assignment 1 5%
   Assignment 2 10%
   Assignment 3 10%
(2) Lead class discussion on topic of choice 10%
(3) Final Project presentation and report (group) 30%
(4) Final Examination (individual) 25%
(5) Class Participation (individual) 10%

**Individual Assignments**: Three individual assignments will be given along the course of the class. These assignments are practical tasks which ask you to utilize the tools learned in class to locate and analyze data, create tables and graphs, as well as answer specific questions.

**Class Discussion Leader**: you will choose one topic from February 10 class to April 7 class to prepare a class presentation that synthesize the reading materials and any other additional materials related to topic, as well as facilitate classroom discussion with me.

**Final Project report and presentation**: students will work in groups of 3 in the final comprehensive project. Use the skills learned in the course, achieve data from original sources, and explore topics of interest through coherent narrative interpretations. The final report should be accompanied by necessary tables and graphs (*additional instructions will be provided*).

The report will be about 20 pages double spaced excluding appendix and references. The presentation should be around 30 minutes and use power point. If you want, a one-page briefer can be handed out to the class for your presentation. All members of the team must be involved in researching and presenting the materials.

**Final examination**: will consist of 3-4 essay questions. They will draw on the class lectures and reading materials and require students to synthesize materials learned throughout the course.

*Assignments, reports and exams are due in HARD COPY at the beginning of class or ELECTRONICALLY to BrightSpace by the specified time. Late assignments will be graded down substantially, and a passing grade will not be assigned unless all requirements are completed.*

**Class participation**: students are expected to read materials before class, attend each class and to participate actively in class discussions. I will have periodic quizzes and attendance checks during the semester. Those with 3 or more absences will not get a passing grade for the course.
*Student attendance is mandatory. It is recognized that students may be unable to attend class as a result of observance of recognized religious holidays of the student’s faith, serious illness, or family emergencies. In such cases, students are responsible for the missed material, and are encouraged to obtain class notes from other students.*

4. Course Materials

**Required Text:**


Other readings will be available online or provided by instructor.

5. Course Policies

   (1) Please advise the instructor if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated and provide documentation from [GSU Disability Services](#).

   (2) All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to [GSU’s Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

   (3) The University has very specific policies on [Dropping Classes and Voluntary Withdrawal](#) from courses, with possible penalties for withdrawals after the first two weeks of courses. For the only exception to this policy, see the [Hardship Withdrawal](#) information on the Dean of Students website.

   (4) This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Guest lectures and field trips might be scheduled along the way and students will be notified in advance.

   (5) Turn off cell phones and keep them off the desk during lectures. Text messaging during class is strictly prohibited and grounds for dismissal.

   (6) Final grades will not be posted or given out over the phone or via email.
6. Course Schedule

January 13  Course Introduction and Overview

Topics: Syllabus and Administrative details
- Demographic transition – explanation and challenges
- People vs. places
- Temporal urban development
- Communication with data

January 20  Demographic Analysis for Policy and Planning  (*Assignment #1 Issued)

Topics: Demographic Dynamics
- Complexity of Population Change
  - A future perspective
- Rates x Composition Projection Model

Read:  Myers book, Chapter 12

January 27  Using Census Data for Local Portraits I  (*Assignment #1 DUE)

Topics: 100% vs. sample data
- Summary tabulations vs. microdata
- Data sources available online
  - American Factfinder
  - Social Explorer

Read:  Myers book, Chapters 2, 3

February 3  Using Census Data for Local Portraits II

Topics: The geographic hierarchy of data availability
- Census block, census tract, city, county, and metropolitan area
- Data sources available online continued
- Strategies of presentation

Read:  Myers book, Chapters 4, 5

**February 10  Population Characteristics I**

Topics: Age, gender and population pyramids
Marital status and household formation

Read: Myers book, Chapters 7, 8

**February 17  Population Characteristics II**  (*Assignment #2 Issued*)

Topics: Race and Hispanic origin
Migration and residential mobility

Read: Myers book, Chapters 9, 10

**February 24  Housing the Population**  (*Assignment #2 DUE*)

Topics: Local housing stock
Homeownership
Residential overcrowding and housing affordability
The filtering process

Read: Myers book, Chapter 6
March 3      Income and Poverty

Topics: Educational attainment
       Different types of income
       Poverty status and its definition

Read:  Myers book, Chapters 11

The Re-Emergence of Concentrated Poverty: Metropolitan Trends in the 2000s by Kneebone et al, Brookings Report, November 2011

March 10    Labor Market Analysis   (*Assignment #3 Issued)

Topics: employment/unemployment and labor-force participation
       Industries and occupations
       Self-employment

Read: Myers book, Chapter 13


March 17     NO CLASS – Spring Break

March 24    Group Project Introduction and Diagnosis   (*Assignment #3 DUE)

(*Group project Introduction due!)

March 31    Transportation and Commuting

Topics: Place of residence and place of work
       Travel mode
       Commute time
       Demographics and traffic congestion


April 7 Immigrant Experience

Topics: General immigration
Upward mobility and assimilation
Immigrant settlement and local change
Immigrants in urban housing and labor market


April 14 *Final Project Group Presentations*

April 21 NO CLASS – prepare for Finals (*Final Project Report DUE)

April 28 *Final Examination DUE at 5 p.m.*
(Exam will be issued by 5 p.m., April 23)