Population geography differs from other subfields in that it focuses on the geography of people – their settlement and migration patterns, and their impact on the social, political, economic, and cultural landscapes. The landscape itself is not the focus of research, setting this apart from other fields of human geography. However, population research contributes strongly to every other geographic subfield.

Each week we will discuss theoretical and/or empirical studies in the field of population geography. Some of the articles are considered seminal works and will be regularly cited by more recent studies. These articles will be posted on the course BlackBoard site by week that they will be discussed. Each week you will need to read all the articles and post a readings response on a discussion board. The reading responses are due by the Monday evening before each class. This will help you be prepared to be actively involved in class discussions. Each week you will take turns leading discussions on particular articles. I will create discussion boards each week to allow you to continue discussions throughout the week.

There are two additional writing assignments for this course. As a midterm paper and presentation, you will be choosing a population geographer and writing a review of his or her research in terms of topics, paradigms and methodologies. This will involve more than just obtaining and submitting a copy of this person’s curriculum vitae. You will need to read articles he or she has written in order to intelligently discuss his or her work. Select a scholar who is at least an associate professor, assuring that the person has a substantial publication record. You will need to discuss at least 10 articles beyond what we read in class if you select someone whose work we are discussing.

As a final project, each of you will also be writing a research paper that will follow the format of a journal article. It will include a conceptual framework (existing or one you develop), a literature review to support your framework, and some form of empirical study, quantitative or qualitative, to address a question within your framework. Research papers will be presented to the class at the end of the semester. All papers are due on the day of the final (May 22) by 8:15. No incompletes will be given except in cases of legitimate emergencies (hospitalization, death in the family or the like)!!! Research papers can link to other courses you may be taking. I encourage you to link it to your thesis research or to test a potential thesis topic.

Week 1
Introduction to course/Intro to Census Bureau website
Week 2  Population Geography and Migration Theory

Week 3  Migration Processes

Week 4  Population Geography Research Methods I

Week 5  Population Geography Research Methods II
Week 6  Population Geographies of Labor

Week 7  Age-Cohort Specific Patterns

Week 8 – Midterm presentations and papers due.

Week 9  Immigrants and Refugees I: Theoretical and Methodological Considerations

We have the following 3 weeks off – 2 Tuesdays for Spring Break (04/02-04/10) and 1 week for AAG. Use this time to work on your papers, especially if you will not be at AAG.

Week 12  Immigrants and Refugees II: Migration and Race and Ethnicity

Week 13 Immigrants and Refugees III: Settlement Patterns

Week 14 Immigrants and Refugees IV: Transnational and Undocumented Migrants

Week 15 Immigrants and Refugees V: New Immigrant Gateways
Week 16    Final presentations

May 22 Final papers due