

Course title: Family in Aging Societies

Instructor: Chia Liu

Department: Sociology

注意：本密集課程僅能停修；停修期限為 2024/12/30。

Students who wish to drop the course can only apply for **class withdrawal** before **2024/12/30**.

1. Course description:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of population processes and their implications for successful aging. Focusing on key demographic dynamics including fertility, mortality, and conjugal partnership, the course delves into their multifaceted impacts on family structures, population aging, and global inequalities. Through a blend of theoretical and empirical explorations, discussions, and debates, students will gain a nuanced understanding of demographic changes and their broader ramifications.

2. Course objectives:

a) Critically apply the fundamental principles underlying population dynamics, including fertility, mortality, and changing family patterns to questions of population aging

b) Analyze the interplay between population processes and critical societal factors such as population aging, family dynamics, and global disparities.

c) Develop theoretical frameworks for understanding sustainable and successful population aging and its implications for various domains.

d) Demonstrate data literacy skills necessary for analyzing demographic trends and interpreting population-related datasets.

e) Assess strategies and policies aimed at promoting sustainable populations as well as addressing emerging challenges in a global context.

3. Course outline:

**Class 1** Introduction: Aging societies around the world (Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:20pm to 4:10pm)

Reading: Bloom, D. E., Canning, D., & Lubet, A. (2015). Global population aging: Facts, challenges, solutions & perspectives. *Daedalus*, 144(2), 80-92.

Lee, R., & Mason, A. (2010). Some macroeconomic aspects of global population aging. *Demography*, 47(Suppl 1), S151-S172.

**Class 2** The decline of marriage & fertility, and longer life expectancy (Dec 27th 1:20pm to 4:10pm)

Reading: Chapter 1 of Popenoe, D. (2020). *Disturbing the nest: Family change and decline in modern societies*. Routledge.

Chang, M. H., Molla, M. T., Truman, B. I., Athar, H., Moonesinghe, R., & Yoon, P. W. (2015). Differences in healthy life expectancy for the US population by sex, race/ethnicity and geographic region: 2008. *Journal of Public Health*, 37(3), 470-479.

Chapters 23 of Zhao, Z., & Hayes, A.C. (Eds.). (2017). *Routledge Handbook of Asian Demography* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315148458>

**Class 3** Research presentation (Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 1:20pm to 4:10pm)

**Class 4** Well-being in older ages (a. Jan 2nd 1:20pm to 4:10pm)

Reading: Courtin, E., & Knapp, M. (2017). Social isolation, loneliness and health in old age: a scoping review. *Health & Social Care in the Community*, 25(3), 799-812.

**Class 5** Demographic realities and social inequalities (Jan 3rd 1:20pm to 4:10pm)

Reading: Zaninotto, P., Batty, G. D., Stenholm, S., Kawachi, I., Hyde, M., Goldberg, M., ... & Head, J. (2020). Socioeconomic inequalities in disability-free life expectancy in older people from England and the United States: a cross-national population-based study. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series A*, 75(5), 906-913.

### **Extension readings**

Chapters 19 and 21 of Zhao, Z., & Hayes, A.C. (Eds.). (2017). *Routledge Handbook of Asian Demography* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315148458>

### **Grading system**

Attendance: 20%

Participation: 50%

Final report: 30%

### **Final report**

Write a 500-600 word short report on **one** of the following topics in the context of Taiwan:

1. The decline of marriage and the rise of childlessness

2. Grandparent-grandchild relationship
3. Intergenerational households

The report should succinctly describe the current state of affairs in Taiwan, citing relevant published figures and existing research on the topic. The report should conclude with research directions or policy recommendations.