This course examines both implicit and explicit population policies from an international perspective. Of special interest are the assumptions that population policies make about the nature of the family and gender relations and the role of ideology in the science-policy nexus. The general approach is historical and at the macro level, although individual consequences of policies--proposed and actual--are considered. [Note: Given the course on Work and Family Policy (SOCY 699J) that I offer every few years, this course addresses family policy issues only in the context of population policies.]

We start with the first waves of the birth control and feminist movements and the extent to which these movements relate to one another. The relevance of the eugenics movement and its interest in "racial betterment" is also examined. Then we study the widespread concern in the 1930s about depopulation in Europe (when family allowances were introduced), followed by readings on the post-World War II family planning and international population movements. In addition to studying national concerns about the baby boom and subsequent low fertility in highly industrialized countries (and exceptionally low fertility in some European countries), we consider policies related to high fertility in less developed countries and their potential effectiveness. The relationship between population and the environment and the political tensions in linking the two in the international arena are examined. Finally, the politics of abortion and international migration are studied in social context.

The active participation of all members of the class is essential to the course’s success. The most important requirement, therefore, is that you do all the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss and debate the issues raised in them. Each student is to submit at least one discussion question per article (2 for books) via email to all on the class distribution list by Tuesday noon prior to Wednesday’s class.

In addition, the course requires 2 short papers (about 5-6 typewritten pages each, double-spaced) that reflect on the readings and a seminar paper based on additional readings. Specific issues to be addressed in the short papers will be provided at least one week before they are due. Seminar paper topics can focus on a population policy issue in one country or be comparative. The specific topics chosen must have the approval of the professor before starting. These seminar papers should be written in professional style, about 20-25 pages, plus references and tables/figures/diagrams as appropriate.

The final grade will be based on the following weighting scheme: class participation including weekly discussion questions (50%), short papers (15%), seminar paper (35%).
Please note:

Students will not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; assignments missed because of a conflict in this regard can be made up within a reasonable time. Also, students with disabilities should inform the professor of any special needs at the beginning of the semester.

From the administration: The University is one of a small number of universities with a student-administered Honor Code and an Honor Pledge, available at www.umd.edu/honorpage. The code prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures.

Students should also be aware that plagiarizing includes copying sentences verbatim from other sources without putting them in quotations and acknowledging their source. An alternative is to paraphrase (changing more than one or two words) and give the source.
OUTLINE OF COURSE AND REQUIRED READINGS

[Dates are when readings will be discussed in class]

8/31/05:

I. Introduction and overview.


9/7/05:

II. Defining "population policy" and its history.


III. Family planning, the first wave of feminism, and the eugenics movement.


9/14/05:


9/21/05:

IV. The fear of "underpopulation" in industrialized countries prior to 1945.


9/28/05: **SEMINAR PAPER TOPIC DUE--WITH WORKING INITIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

V. Concern about the "baby boom" in the United States.


10/5/05: **FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE**

VI. Family planning: origins of the movement and its effectiveness.


Simmons and Young. 1996. Family Planning Programs and Other Interventions to Assist Women: Their Impact on Women’s Status and Demographic Change, Honolulu: the East West Center, pp. 3-39.

In same pamphlet:
J. F. Phillips, AComment, @ pp. 40-46.
H. B. Presser, AFamily Planning Plus: On the Need to Broaden Our Research and Action Agendas, @ pp. 47-50.


10/12/05:

VII. International population conferences and the broadening agenda.


10/19/05:

VIII. The second wave of the feminist movement, reproductive rights, and women’s empowerment in relation to population issues in developing countries.

[edited book by Presser and Sen with relevant articles for this section will be distributed free]


10/26/05: SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE

VIII. Continued


11/2/05:

IX. Population and environment as joint policy issues.


11/9/05:

X. Current concerns about low fertility and aging in highly industrialized countries


11/16/05:

XI. The politics of abortion.


11/23/05: [Wed. before Thxgiving; may want to reschedule for earlier in day or week]

XII. International migration.


11/30/05: Brief seminar paper presentations by students.

12/7/05: Brief seminar paper presentations by students.

***************ALL SEMINAR PAPERS DUE by 3PM 12/12/05***************