

Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



DEMO3570 Theories of demographic and family change

[30h] 4 credits

Teacher(s): Dominique Tabutin
Language: French
Level: Third cycle

Aims

To present and analyse the various theories and explanatory currents on fertility, mortality, migrations and nuptiality, together with the relationship between population and development.

To provide students with a critical understanding of the current theoretical and explanatory situation in social and economic demography.

Main themes

- General terminological items (e.g. theory, explanation, causality and levels), and a brief history of theorisation and explanatory research in the field of demography.
- The theory of demographic transition, an element of the theory of modernisation: From the primitive version to more recent versions (importance and limitations).
- The main theoretical approaches to fertility: From microeconomic and psychological theories to various macro-structural theories, classifications and typologies, a detailed examination of the main dominant currents, and the search for a unified theory.
- Explanatory currents of mortality: Economic, medical, nutritional and socio-cultural; a wide range of explanations in time and space depending on gender and age; and the need for, and difficulties related to, causal integration.
- An overview of the theory of migration, including theories of supply and demand, and micro- and macro-approaches.
- The main contemporary paradigms: Pure, undiluted Malthusianism, anti-Malthusianism and qualified Malthusianism; and illustrations of the current situation as regards the relationship between population, development and the environment.
- The importance, difficulties and dangers involved in searching for a general, unified, universal theory of demographic change.

Content and teaching methods

The course will include professorial lectures, directed reading and expositions.

Seminar time will be given over to an in-depth analysis of an approach, or of concrete situations drawn from the literature.

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Assessment: This will be based on personal and group work.
 Syllabus and articles.

Other credits in programs

DEMO3DA	Diplôme d'études approfondies en démographie	(4 credits)	Mandatory
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