Professor Brainerd
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Office hours:
Monday 1:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesday 2 - 4 pm
and by appointment

**Course description:** This course examines issues in global health and population in developing and formerly socialist countries, with a focus on econometric methods and applied microeconomic theory. The principal goal is for students to become proficient in evaluating empirical analyses and in applying economic reasoning to health- and population-related issues. The course covers selected topics in two related areas: (1) the economics of health, and (2) the economics of population and the family. The topics we will cover in the economics of health include the determinants and consequences of changing population health, approaches to the design and evaluation of policies to address health problems, mortality and economic crisis, and the economics of HIV/AIDS. The topics we will discuss in the economics of population include intrahousehold allocation, marriage and fertility, causes and consequences of unbalanced sex ratios, the economics of abortion, and gender discrimination.

**Prerequisites:** Economics 251 and Economics 255

**Course requirements:** Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, class presentations, short evaluative papers on journal articles, and an empirical research paper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentations (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short papers (4)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Course materials:** Course readings are primarily from academic journals. Articles marked with a * on the reading list are required while all other readings are optional. There is no textbook for this course, but it will be useful to have an econometrics textbook such as Wooldridge’s *Introductory Econometrics* for reference. In addition, some useful articles on econometric methods include:


Course outline and assigned readings

I. OVERVIEW: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON POPULATION AND THE CURRENT STATE OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND POPULATION


II. ECONOMICS OF HEALTH

A. Theory: human capital and health


B. Effect of health on economic development

1. The effects of poor health: nutrition and productivity


2. The effects of poor health: schooling and health


C. Mortality and health effects of financial crises


D. Economics of HIV/AIDS

1. Consequences


2. Interventions: what works?


III. ECONOMICS OF POPULATION AND THE FAMILY

A. The economic approach to the family: theory


B. Bargaining within families and intrahousehold allocation


C. Causes and consequences of unbalanced sex ratios


D. Determinants and consequences of fertility change

1. Theory


2. Effects of population policies


3. Fertility, education and income


4. Economics of abortion


E. Future of global health and population