Course description
We will study the demographic approach to the study of the basic components of population dynamics (fertility & family dynamics, migration & mobility, mortality & morbidity)
We will introduce students to current scientific debates in demographic change and to provide the technical skills used in demographic research, by bringing in ‘core’ demographic methods and discuss specific research articles.

Learning outcomes
On successfully completing the course, student should:
- have the skills that allow to access and discuss contemporary research in the multidisciplinary area of demography and be familiar with some key contributions;
- be familiar with the most important demographic methods and techniques;
- be familiar with the most important demographic developments and challenges concerning demographic change;
- be prepared to carry doctoral work in the areas of demography and life course research.

Assessment
A review or (preferably) an empirical essay on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructor (to be handed in by 1 June 2019). A draft plan of the essay should be presented and discussed during Lecture 12.

Key Textbooks:
Lecture 1: Population dynamics, micro and macro issues and the demographic transition- Feb 5, 8:45-10:15

Fundamental measures of population dynamics (growth rates, crude rates, discrete and continuous time). The demographic transition: general patterns, explanations, its effect on age structure and the idea of demographic dividends or windows of opportunity. Demographic change and economic development.

Readings
- LB, Chapters 1-5
- W, Chapter 1

Additional readings

Lecture 2: Micro-foundations of demography; Age, period, cohort. Feb 5, 10:30-12:30

Discovery and explanation, micro-foundations of demographic change. The meaning of the three key temporal dimensions in demography: age, period, cohort. Lexis diagrams. Population data.

Readings:
- W, Chapter 2.
- Lee, R.D. 2001. Demography abandons its core, *paper manuscript*. Available at:
http://www.demog.berkeley.edu/~rlee/papers/FormalDemog.pdf


**Additional readings**


**Lecture 3. Mortality and the life table** – Feb 12, 8.45-10:15


**Readings:**

- **W** Chapters 3, 7, skim Chapter 8
Lecture 4: The life course approach to demography---the transition to adulthood – Feb 12, 10:30-12:00

Using individual-level life tables to study demographic events. Sequence analysis and related approaches. The transition to adulthood.

Readings:

Additional readings

Lecture 5. Fertility and its measurement – Feb 19, 8:45-10:15

Readings:
- **W** Chapters 4, 6

Additional readings

Lecture 6: **Family dynamics and the Second Demographic Transition** – Feb 19, 10:30-12:00
Demographic measures for household, family formation and dissolution. The dynamics of divorce, cohabitation and non-marital fertility. The notion of a Second Demographic Transition and related critiques. The Gender Revolution.

Readings:

**Additional readings:**
- W Chapter 9

**Lecture 7: Migration and population change** - Feb 26, 8:45-10:15
Measuring migration and its effect on population change. Theories of migration. Replacement migration and homeostasis.

**Readings:**

Additional readings:
- W, Chapter 11.

Lecture 8: Population policies - Feb 26, 10:30-12:00
Debates on population policies at the international and national level. Two contrasting fears: the “population bomb” and “demographic decline”. Causality issues: welfare states and population, Turkey, China.

Readings:

Additional readings:

**Lecture 9. Population projections** - March 5, 8:45-10:15
Basic techniques for population projections. The cohort-component approach. Uncertainty in population projections. The debate on global population change.

**Readings:**
- **LB, Chapter 6**
- **W, Chapter 5**

**Additional readings**

**Lecture 10. Computational demography** - March 5, 10:30-12:00
Agent-based computational demography and the empirical study of population change.

**Readings:**

**Additional readings:**


**Lecture 11. Digital demography** - March 12, 8:45-10:15
The role of “digital footprints” big data in demographic research. The digital revolution and demographic behaviour.

**Readings:**

**Additional readings:**

Lecture 12. Presentation and discussion of individual course projects - March 12, 10:30-12:00