GEOG2109 Changing Population Structure in Modern Society (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Dr. Qian Junxi

Objectives
This course aims to provide students with a fundamental understanding of human population issues and problems in our contemporary world from a geographical perspective.

Course Synopsis
This course aims to provide students with a fundamental understanding of human population issues and problems in our contemporary world from a geographical perspective. Major concepts, theories and definitions in Population Geography will first be introduced, and the patterns and trends in fertility, mortality and migration of human populations in different parts of the world will be illustrated. A variety of empirical cases from different geographical scale (from global, national to local) will be used to demonstrate how population issues are both shaped by and engender economic, political, social, cultural and environmental changes. Topics investigated in the course include: high level of fertility in poor countries, ageing population in advanced economies, and the HIV-AIDS pandemic and major health problems in different parts of the world. Policies adopted to address these population-related issues will also be discussed and analysed. In addition to a general delineation of Population Geography, this course will have a specific focus on the latest population changes and mobilities in China. It gives the students a broad overview of the implication of China, which is characterized by the world's largest population and unprecedented population mobility, for the understanding of population patterns in the world.

Lecture Topics
- Definition of population geography, and geographical perspectives in the research of population
- Major concepts, theories, definitions in Population Geography
- Data, tools and measurements in the research of population
- Patterns and trends in fertility, mortality, and growth of human populations in different parts of the world
- The composition of population I: gender issues
- The composition of population II: age and the challenges of an aging society
- The composition of population III: the urbanization of population
- Migration I: International migration and internal migration
- Migration II: causes; patterns; experiences; socio-cultural conflicts
- Migration III: refugees and asylum-seekers
- Policies to address population-related issues in different parts of the world

Assessment
Examination (two hours) 60%; Coursework 40%.

Learning Outcomes
Knowledge:
- Intellectual history, key concepts, theoretical orientations and debates in Population Geography
- Patterns and trends in population structures in different world regions and at various geographical (global, national and local) scales, with a specific focus on population changes in China
- Population-related issues as outcomes and causes of interrelated economic, political, social, cultural and environmental changes, with a specific focus on the implications of population changes and mobilities in China

Skills:
- Analytical skills to link population-related issues with economic, political, social, cultural and environmental processes across geographical scales and space.
- Ability to interpret empirical data related to demography and migration
- Critical reading, writing and presentation skills

Recommended Reading List
1. Weeks, John (2005) *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues.* Belmont: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
2. Bailey, Adrian (2005) *Making Population Geography.* London: Hodder & Stoughton Educational.
3. Newbold, K. Bruce (2010) Population Geography: Tools and Issues. New York： Rowman and Littlefield
4. Gould, W T. S (2015) Population and Development (2nd Edition). London: Routledge