Course description
The relationship between the growth and spatial distribution of human population and environmental change is the subject of much concern and debate. Too often the relationship is portrayed in an overly simplified manner. This course draws on geographic perspectives to reveal the complex relationship between population, culture, and environment. The course begins with an introduction to population-environment debates, with particular attention paid to the theoretical underpinnings of various positions. We draw on the debates to investigate a wide range of issues, including environmental scarcity and conflict, climate change, food security, disease ecology, deforestation, and urbanization.

Course requirements
You must complete readings before the class for which they are assigned. Requirements include: population typology (25%); 4 reading responses (40%); a research project/presentation (30%), and participation (5%). Attendance is required. This is a discussion-based class.

There are three required films: “Paul Ehrlich and the Population Bomb,” “China’s Only Child,” and “A Walk to Beautiful”. All are available at JMC and through electronic course reserves.

Class web site
Class announcements, readings, and assignments will be posted on the class website at http://blackboard.dartmouth.edu. Please check the site regularly.

Honor Principle
As do all courses at Dartmouth, this course requires that you familiarize yourself with the guidelines of the Academic Honor Principle concerning independent work, proper citation of other’s work and general codes of learning. Please consult the Green Pages of the Dartmouth Student Handbook for additional details about the Honor Principle. Please see me if you have any questions about this issue.

Disabilities
Please feel free to discuss with me questions relating to disabilities at the earliest possible moment. I will make every effort to ensure a supportive learning environment.

Required readings (available at Wheelock Books)

Articles are available through e-resources, blackboard, or Google.

Mar. 30: Introduction to the course – geographical perspectives on population, culture, and environment

April 1: A look at (and beyond) the numbers

Kent, Mary M. and Carl Haub. 2005. Global Demographic Divide. Population Bulletin 60(4): 1-28. (e-resources) (You can use this reading as a resource throughout the quarter. It is not necessary to print it out, but keep it available on your computer.)

**April 3:** Theory and population geography


**FILM** “Paul Ehrlich and the Population Bomb” View before April 6 class

**April 6, 8:** Neo-Malthusians, Cornucopians, and their critics.


**April 10:** Demography and sustainable development


**April 13:** Population aging and decline -- environmental and social impacts


**FILM** “A Walk to Beautiful” View before April 15 class

**April 15:** Feminist (and anti-feminist?) perspectives


Film “China’s Only Child” View before April 17 class

April 17: Fertility and state policy


April 20: POPULATION TYPOLOGY DUE

April 22: Population, environment, and security – critical perspectives


April 24: Climate change and conflict


April 27: Cultural dimensions of climate change

RESPONSE DUE (April 22- 27 readings)


April 29: Population and water scarcity – neo-Malthusian explanations?


May 1: Population, water resources, and climate change in the American West

Davis, Bart. 2005. Western Growth Trends: Pressure on People and Resources. *Spectrum*. 78(2) (Blackboard)


Service, Robert F. 2004. As the West Goes Dry. *Science* 303(5661) (e-resources)

**May 4:** Environment, culture and drought – the Dust Bowl

**RESPONSE DUE** (April 29 – May 4 readings)

*The Worst Hard Time*

**May 6:** Environment, population, and disease


**May 8:** Disease environments – from the local to the global


Reidpath, Daniel D., Cate Burns, Jan Garrard, Mary Mahoney, and Mardie Townsend. 2002. An ecological study of the relationship between social and environmental determinants of obesity. *Health & Place* 8: 141-145. (e-resources)


**May 11:** The HIV/AIDS pandemic – security discourses


**May 13: **RESPONSE DUE (May 6-11 readings)

**May 15:** Deforestation -- a neo-Malthusian explanation?


**May 18:** Population-environment dynamics in an urbanizing world


LLana, Sara Miller. 2009. Amid mass migration to cities, Bolivians learn to adapt to urbanization. *Christian Science Monitor* 12 Feb. (e-resources)

**May 20-22:** Feeding 9-11 billion – was Malthus right? (Or, why are people hungry?)

**RESPONSE DUE** (May 15-22 readings)


Runge, C Ford and Benjamin Senauer. 2007. How Biofuels Could Starve the Poor. *Foreign Affairs* May/June (e-resources).


**May 27:** research presentations

**May 29:** presentations

**June 1:** presentations

Research paper due **JUNE 9**