

# History 499J: Historical Demography & Analysis

Winter 2010, Tuesdays 1:00 – 4:20 PM

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Hiebert

4 Credits

Genealogies and quantitative historical sources permit insightful explorations of social groups and cultures and how they have changed over time. In a step-by-step approach this course will explore the tools of historical demographic analysis using genealogical, census and church records. The emphasis will be on learning the practical skills of demographic analysis including how to construct and analyze genealogies.

This course will examine the Sommerfelder Church records of Manitoba to construct a picture of the changes that took place between 1800 and 1950. The analysis will pay special attention to issues of fertility and gender. Students will cooperate to create an analysis of these records using basic spreadsheets and other tools. All formulas and analytic tools will be supplied by the instructor. No advanced math skills are required.

Each class will explore a component of historical demographic theory and include guided class time working with real information. Students will be able to evaluate how historians work with statistics to glean insights as well as contribute to an actual historical demographic research project. Students will also learn how to construct and evaluate genealogies.

NOTE: This course will include lab work in Microsoft Excel. Basic computer skills are required.

## Topics

- Genealogies as a form of historical record
- Constructing genealogies
- Church records as a form of historical record
- Evaluating church records
- The point of demography: historical realities for everyone, not just the literate or elites
- Using demographic records to construct cultural history
- Cohorts and life courses
- Using simple statistics to develop pictures of historical groups.

## Texts

Course Pack and other readings as assigned

## Student Expectations & Weightings

Participation: 20%

Class Project: 60% (6 x 10%)

Genealogy Project: 20%