This writing intensive course is designed for students who wish to gain first-hand experience doing research. The entire semester is devoted to the completion of a research paper, the topic of which can be decided by each student in consultation with the professor. The only stipulation is that the topic must relate to one of the three fundamental demographic processes—fertility, mortality, or migration.

While undertaking the research project, we will meet twice a week to discuss the assigned readings. The first part of the course will center on research methodologies. Readings from *Projects in Ethnographic Research* will guide our methodological discussions. Ideally, some of these methods will be used in the students' own research. The rest of the course will center on the theoretical readings assigned for each meeting. The main topics are fertility, infertility, migration, and census and ethnic identity.

**Required Readings**
Additional readings will also be provided by the instructor.

**Assignments**
Each student will be responsible for presenting and leading a discussion on several (approx. 4) articles throughout the course of the semester. Prof. Childs will provide guidelines. Each student will also be responsible for presenting their research results as a “conference paper” (more on this later) during the last week of class.

The majority of the course’s workload is a research paper that is divided into writing assignments that are due throughout the semester. Each writing assignment represents a component of a term paper (problem statement, theoretical background, data and methods, analysis and conclusion). The cumulative end-product of the assignments will be a carefully structured and well-argued research paper that has been critiqued and revised throughout the semester. Below is a description of each component of the paper. Whenever you turn in a new assignment you will also turn in a revised edition of the previous assignment. All papers should conform to the specified page limit (graduate students are exempt from this rule). Papers should be double-spaced with one-inch margins all around, and printed in a normal size font (e.g., Times Roman 12-point).
1. Problem Statement (2 pages + annotated bibliography)
The first assignment is a problem statement that defines the topic that you wish to investigate during the course of the semester. Write a brief essay that includes a clear statement of the problem to be investigated, preferably phrased as a hypothesis, and a justification for why you think the problem is worthy of investigation. Attach a brief annotated bibliography (minimum of five sources) of scholarly books or papers that you think contain important background information on your chosen topic. Each entry of the annotated bibliography should consist of a proper citation and a short paragraph describing the work’s objectives, the academic perspective of the author (e.g., anthropology, sociology, political science), and a summary of conclusions.

2. Literature Review and Theoretical Background (5 pages)
In the second paper you will review the literature on your chosen topic and present the theoretical perspectives pertaining to the research question. You need not constrain yourself to anthropological theories; feel free to explore the perspectives of other disciplines (sociology, demography, geography, economics, etc.) Summarize what is already known about the topic, and emphasize those perspectives that you feel are helpful with respect to your own research.

3. Data and Methods (5 pages)
The third paper is on data sources and methods. The first part should be a discussion of the sources and types of demographic data that provide some empirical background to the question you are investigating. Make sure to include some critical thoughts on data reliability and validity with respect to the sources you wish to consult. The second part of this paper should be a proposal of demographic (statistical analysis) and/or anthropological methods (e.g., interviewing, participant observation) that you plan to employ. Make sure to justify why your chosen methods may yield data that helps you answer the research question.

4. Analysis and Conclusions (10 pages)
In this concluding paper you will present and analyze your data (demographic, ethnographic, or both), and then draw conclusions that are supported by that data. You will then write a well-reasoned argument in which you connect your problem statement with the data and the conclusions that you draw from the data, and then summarize your findings in terms of how they reflect on the theoretical orientations sketched out in the earlier part of the paper. This final assignment brings together all previous components in the form of a logically structured, accurately referenced, and coherently argued term paper.

Assessment:
Class Participation (summarizing articles and leading discussions, 20 percent of total grade)
Paper Presentation (conference style presentation of your research, 15 percent of total grade)
The majority of your grade (65 percent of total grade) will be determined on how you progress through the research process, and on the merit of your final research paper. I will provide feedback after each paper to let you know where you stand.
Late papers and assignments will be penalized a full grade per class period unless otherwise excused.