Global Demographics

Meeting Dates: October 13th and 26th (FALL)
Hours: 9am-3pm, with 1 hour for lunch

It is hard to know what to make of the many messages we are receiving these days about the state of global population. One day we open our newspapers (or websites) to headlines that proclaim a new era of aging populations and extremely low birth rates, raising fears about declining populations and economic crises. The next day we read that global population is set to rise by another two billion or more over the next several decades and that the earth may not sustain such high numbers. One day there are headlines discussing unprecedented levels of global migration and the forces pulling migrants to new lands. The next day, we read about the violence inflicted on migrants by resentful natives (or, in the case of Norway most recently, the violence inflicted on young members of a political party perceived to be pro-immigration).

These messages are just the latest wave of a centuries-long debates over the relationship between population and national prosperity, over the causes of and solutions to, poverty, and over the proper role of the state in shaping population trends. In this seminar, we will examine many aspects of today’s demographic trends and debates, explore how they echo earlier historical moments, and consider the ethical dilemmas involved in making and enacting population policies.

Professor Tyrene White, Swarthmore College

Tyrene White received her B.A. from Middle Tennessee State University (1978), and her M.A and Ph.D from Ohio State University (1983, 1985). She is the author of China’s Longest Campaign: Birth Planning in the People’s Republic, 1949-2005 (Cornell, 2006), and many articles on rural politics and population policy in China. She is the editor of China Briefing: The Continuing Transformation (2000) and co-editor of Engendering China: Women, Culture, and the State (1994). Her current research is on the local political influence of Chinese NGOs and on the use of litigation to improve the status of Chinese women. She teaches courses on contemporary China, East Asia, and global population issues, and introductory courses in comparative politics at Swarthmore College.

Both the Fall and Spring seminars will be held on the Swarthmore College Campus. The school district will provide substitute coverage, and lunch will be provided by the program. Teachers will also receive preparatory readings and articles prior to the start of each seminar.

Natural History in the Crum Woods

Meeting Dates: March 8th and April 11th (SPRING)
Hours: 9am-3pm, with 1 hour for lunch

In this seminar, teachers will gain an overview of the Crum Woods as a representative of the Piedmont area of the United States. Through short lectures, they will explore the natural history and environmental issues associated with the area. In addition, there will be opportunities for plant, soil or insect identification. Participants should be prepared to spend time in the woods and should thus dress appropriately, with warm and comfortable clothing.

The seminar will also explore nature journaling techniques: sketching to learn form and structure, photography to aid identification and focus attention, and writing to various prompts to pursue ideas raised by immediate observations.
Professor Betsy Bolton, Swarthmore College

Betsy Bolton specializes in eighteenth and nineteenth century literature, especially that of the Romantic period; her courses feature poetry, fiction, drama, and many kinds of non-fictional prose, from diary entries to essays. She also teaches courses in the English Department’s creative writing offerings. She is the author of *Women, Nationalism, and the Romantic Stage: Theatre and Politics in Britain, 1780-1800*. Her current book project is *The Epic Ambitions of Romantic Lyric*.

In her Swarthmore course entitled Writing Nature—Digital Storytelling, Professor Bolton aims to “push the students deeper into the woods, beyond being there passively, have them start to learn and observe more deeply, and understand patterns that are affecting places where they are.”

**What is Teachers As Scholars?**

Teachers As Scholars (TAS) is a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation program, with local programs at more than 25 universities across the country. Through the program, teachers immerse themselves in scholarly topics and issues, regardless of the grade level they teach or their areas of content expertise. TAS is driven by two beliefs: 1) that K-12 teachers are inherently interested in ideas and their transforming potential, and 2) that providing time for teachers to reflect with their colleagues and an experienced scholar on serious, thoughtful ideas and scholarship in the field is critical for a teacher’s renewal and for their students’ learning.

Swarthmore College is partnering with the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District to provide two seminars, with additional financial support from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Together, we strengthen our commitment to each other as a community of fellow educators and scholars.