

Department of Political Science
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
University at Albany

RPOS 399

Politics of International Migration

Spring 2018 Syllabus

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Class: MWF 9:20-10:15am (BB141)

Office Hours: MW 10:30am-12pm and by appointment (Uptown Campus, HU016)

Course Description

Immigration shook recent European politics at the local, national and EU levels. In March 2014, the National Front swept to victory in 12 French cities as a champion of anti-immigration messages. Two months later, the National Front secured another electoral victory in the European Parliament Election. Chancellor Angela Merkel's handling of the refugee issue contributed to her Christian Democrat Party's serious setback in the March 2016 regional elections. In retrospect, many British voters seemed to have expressed their unease about immigration through casting ballots in the 2016 Brexit referendum. The increasing polarization on immigration shocked many, because not long ago, politicians in many liberal democracies were able to weave immigration into the narratives of national self-understanding like a consensus. Former President Woodrow Wilson once said, "We came to America, either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better the ideals of men, to make them see finer things than they had seen before, to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite." On the contrary, many politicians in the post-WWII Federal Republic of Germany had for a long time insisted, "Germany is not a country of immigration" (Wir sind kein Einwanderungsland). How does such national self-understanding influence today's immigration politics? To what extent do various discourses in the debates reflect immigration history and the trajectories of immigration policies? Amidst the climate of immigration debates during recent primary and general elections, how many Americans still pride themselves of the ethos of America being a "country of immigration" that harbors "the tired and the poor?" Inspired by these questions, this course discusses immigration politics from the perspective of citizenship ideas and national self-understanding. We focus on past and present immigration politics in selected liberal democracies, including France, Germany, Israel and the US. We pay special attention to labor migration, family reunification, border control and international displacement. Prerequisite: RPOS102 strongly recommended.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Summarize key concepts and issues regarding immigration politics.
- Distinguish different challenges and policy responses regarding immigration in major migration destinations, especially the cases covered in the course.
- Critically evaluate the quality of arguments regarding key immigration issues.

Required Readings

- Stephen Castles et al. *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World* 5th ed. (Guilford Press, 2013).
- All the other readings will be available on Blackboard.

Learning Activities and Grading System

1. Class Participation 15%
2. Group Wiki 15% (Due May 4 Friday 9:20am)
3. Quizzes 20%
4. Midterm Exam 25% (March 9 Friday 9:20-10:15am)
5. Final Exam 25% (May 17 Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm)

The course follows UAlbany sample grading scale, which can be found at the bottom of the webpage: <https://www.albany.edu/uhs/grading.php>

Assignment Policy

All assignments should be submitted according to the required format. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade. Late submissions will not be accepted, except for religious observance (which needs to be cleared with me in the first two weeks of the semester) or documented medical or family emergency (with a doctor note or one from dean).

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated. For more information about plagiarism, please review the webpage: <http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm>.

Accommodation

Students with special needs due to physical, learning, or other disabilities and wish to be accommodated accordingly must submit the supporting documentation from the Disability Resource Center (<http://www.albany.edu/disability/> Campus Center 137) to me (in person) during the first week of class. Please also *remind me* before each relevant event (e.g. midterm, final and assignment due dates).

Class Etiquette

- Every action in this course is expected to be mature and professional. Please behave and speak in a way that shows respect to your peers, instructor and yourself.
- Please use electronic devices in a responsible and professional manner. Failure to do so consistently will influence your class participation grade. Please read a study that finds how using electronic devices influences learning negatively: <http://www.yorku.ca/ncepeda/laptopFAQ.html>. You can also find two summaries of this study in the folder of Class Etiquette on Blackboard.

Weekly Readings

January 24: Syllabus and Course Overview

January 26: Basic Concepts

- John Torpey, "Coming and Going: On the State Monopolization of the Legitimate "Means of Movement", " *Sociological Theory* 16:3 (1998), 239-259.

January 29: Theories

- Gary P. Freeman, "Modes of Immigration Politics in Liberal Democratic States," *International Migration Review* 29:4 (1995), 881-902.

January 31: Liberal Paradox

- Christian Joppke, "Why Liberal States Accept Unwanted Immigration," *World Politics* 50:2 (January 1998), 266-293.

February 2: Historical Overview of Immigration Control

- Ian Goldin et al., "Managed" Migration in the Twentieth Century (1914-1973)," in: *Exceptional People: How Migration Shaped Our World and Will Define Our Future*, (Princeton University Press 2011), ch.3 (pp.69-93).

February 5: Post-WWII Labor Migration to Europe

- Castles et al., pp.93-99, ch.5.

February 7: French and German Experiences

- Rogers Brubaker, "Immigration, Citizenship, and the Nation-State in France and Germany: A Comparative Historical Analysis," *International Sociology* 5:4 (1990), 379-407.

February 9: Group Wiki (Part I)

- Wiki in Plain English <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dnL00TdmLY>
- What is a Wiki <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Q7O3Rx7-t0>
- Wikipedia About <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:About>

February 12: The American Experience

- Daniel Tichenor, "Immigrant Voters in a Partisan Polity," in: *Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America* (Princeton University Press 2002), ch.3 (pp.46-86).

February 14: Post-WWII Immigration to North America

- Castles et al., pp.89-93, ch.6.

February 16: Group Wiki (Part II)

- Plagiarism Tutorial <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1HI0i-Br4Y>

February 19: Immigration and Citizenship Ideas I

- Kunal M. Parker, "Introduction," in: *Making Foreigners: Immigration and Citizenship Law in America, 1600-2000* (Cambridge University Press 2015), ch.1 (pp.1-21).

February 21: Immigration and Citizenship Ideas II

- Castles et al., ch.3, pp.230-233.
- Yasemin N. Soysal, "Toward a Postnational Model of Membership," in: *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe*, (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago 1992), ch.8 (pp.136-162).

February 23: Group Wiki (Part III)

- Alison J. Head and Michael B. Eisenberg, “How Today’s College Students Use Wikipedia for Course-Related Research,” *First Monday* 15:3 (2010).

February 26: Labor Migration

- Castles et al., ch.11.
- MPI (Migration Policy Institute) Global Remittances Guide <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/global-remittances-guide>

February 28: Labor Migration & Urban Diversity

- IOM (International Organization for Migration), “World Migration Report 2015: Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility,” (International Organization for Migration 2015), read pp.34-73.

March 2: Family Reunification – East Asia

- Caren Freeman, “Chosŏnjok Maidens and Farmer Bachelors,” in: *Making and Faking Kinship*, (Cornell University Press 2015), ch.1 (pp.31-68).

March 5: Family Reunification – US

- Castles et al., pp.156-158.
- USCIS on Family of US Citizens <https://www.uscis.gov/family/family-us-citizens>

March 7: Midterm Review

March 9: In-Class Midterm

March 12, March 14, March 16: No Class (Spring Break)

March 19: Migration and Human Security

- Castles et al., ch.9.
- Hildegard Bedarff, “Climate Change, Migration, and Displacement: The Underestimated Disaster,” (Greenpeace 2017), read pp.19-33.

March 21: UNHCR

- Castles et al., pp.163-165, 221-230.
- The Refugee Project <http://www.therefugeeproject.org/#/1986>

March 23: Non-Refoulement

- Joseph H. Carens, “Refugees,” in: *The Ethics of Immigration* (Oxford University Press 2003), ch.10 (pp.192-224).

March 26: UNHCR & RSD

- UNHCR Who We Help <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c11c.html>
- UNHCR Persons of Concern <http://www.unhcr.org/ph/persons-concern-unhcr>
- UNHCR Global Appeal 2016-2017 <http://www.unhcr.org/publications/fundraising/564da0e3b/unhcr-global-appeal-2016-2017-populations-concern-unhcr.html>
- UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2018, pp. 4-15.
- RSD Self Help Kit

March 28: Refugees and Asylum in US

- Resettlement in US <http://www.unhcr.org/resettlement-in-the-united-states.html>
- US Refugee Admissions Program <https://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/admissions/index.htm>
- US Reception & Placement Program <https://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/receptionplacement/index.htm>

March 30: Refugees and Asylum in Germany

- AIDA Report on Germany, (2016), read pp.13-39, 44-46.

April 2: No Class (Easter)

April 4: Refugees and Asylum Policy in EU

- Castles et al., pp. 181-193.
- Massimo Bordignon and Simone Moriconi, “The Case for a Common European Refugee Policy,” (Bruegel Policy Contribution Issue n8 2017).

April 6: Refugees and Asylum Policy – EU & Turkey

- Lesley Dudden and Kadir Ustun, “EU-Turkey Refugee Agreement: Too Big to Fail,” (SETA Foundation 2017).

April 9: UNRWA

- Riccardo Bocco, “UNRWA and the Palestinian Refugees: A History within History,” *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 28:2-3 (2009), 229-252.

April 11: Watch Documentary “Hotline” (2015)

April 13: Rethinking Refugees and Asylum

- Christina Boswell, “The Liberal Dilemma in the Ethics of Refugee Policy,” in: Anthony M. Messina and Gallya Lahav (ed.), *The Migration Reader: Exploring Politics and Policies*, (Lynne Rienner 2006), ch.14.4 (pp.664-682)

April 16: The Migration Industry

- Castles et al., pp. 235-238.
- Sarah Maslin Nir, “The Price of Nice Nails,” *The New York Times* (May 7, 2015). <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/nyregion/at-nail-salons-in-nyc-manicurists-are-underpaid-and-unprotected.html>

April 18: Immigration Debate – US

- Janice Fine and Daniel Tichenor, “An Enduring Dilemma: Immigration and Organized Labor in Western Europe and the United States,” in: *Oxford Handbook of the Politics of International Migration* (Oxford University Press 2012), ch.22 (pp.532-572), read pp.532-535, 537-538, 553-566.
- George Borjas, “Yes, Immigration Hurts American Workers,” *Politico*, September/October 2016. <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/09/trump-clinton-immigration-economy-unemployment-jobs-214216>

April 20: Watch Documentary “The Other Side of Immigration” (2008/2009)

April 23: Immigration Debate – France

- Kimberly J. Morgan, “Gender, Right-Wing Populism, and Immigrant Integration Policies in France, 1989-2012,” *West European Politics*, 40:4 (2017), 887-906.

April 25: Immigration Debate – Germany

- Castles et al., p.107 & ch.12 (pay special attention to Germany).
- Kai Arzheimer, “The AfD: Finally a Successful Right-Wing populist Eurosceptic Party for Germany?” *West European Politics* 38:3 (2015), 535-556.

April 27: Watch Documentary “The New Germans” (2017)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n87ZHRFXdA>

April 30: Brexit and Immigration

- Swati Dhingra et al. “Brexit and the Impact of Immigration on the UK,” in: *Brexit 2016: Policy Analysis from the Centre for Economic Performance* (Centre for Economic Performance 2016), pp.34-53.

May 2: Ethics of Immigration?

- Michael Walzer, “Membership,” in: *Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*, (New York: Basic Books Inc. 1983), pp.31-63.

May 4: Presentations

Group Wiki due 9:20am

May 7: Presentations

May 9: Presentations

May 11: No Class (Reading Day)

May 17 (Thursday): Final Exam

Time: 10:30am-12:30pm

Location: TBA