POLITICS OF MIGRATION AND MEMBERSHIP  
Spring 2018  

Preliminary draft syllabus

The UN estimates that there are 254 million migrants in the world and projects that the level of net migration to the world’s more developed regions will remain at over 2 million per year though 2050. As the foreign-born population of the United States has reached 40 million (13% of the country’s population), political candidates increasingly compete for votes in immigrant communities while other politicians call for more restrictive immigration policies and tougher border controls. Increasing migration within and to the European Union prompted cooperation to lift border controls among signatories of the Schengen convention controls and free movement provisions of European Citizenship as well as tightened asylum policies and increasing policing along the external EU border. However, rapidly increasing numbers of asylum seekers and growing numbers of intra-EU migrants have prompted the establishment of anti-immigration political parties and challenged EU cooperation on migration and asylum policies. Moreover, after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US and the attacks in Madrid and London, international migration has been increasingly considered a security issue. As millions of refugees flee Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, safe havens and no-fly zones are declared, economic sanctions are tightened, invasions are staged and international relief efforts are mounted.

International migration presents policy makers (and the citizens that vote for them in democracies) with difficult policy dilemmas. Immigration can address labor and human capital shortages as well as shore up public pension coffers of rapidly aging populations but liberalizing immigration policies can also trigger political backlashes driven by public concerns about economic competition and concerns over social and cultural integration of newcomers. Likewise, policymakers from states experiencing net emigration may appreciate the economic remittances that contribute to their countries’ economic development (and to government revenues) but they may remain concerned about the “brain drain” of some of their most able citizens as well as “political remittances” in the form of opposition émigré political movements that can lead to violent revolution or less effective, but just as deadly, terrorist attacks.

This graduate seminar examines the domestic and international politics of migration and considers the dilemmas faced by local, national and international policymaking bodies addressing population movement. After examining the historical context and theories of international migration, we will consider comparative political analysis of labor migration to advanced industrial states, the question of state control over migratory flows, including increasing human smuggling and trafficking. We will then examine the impact of migration on international politics with particular emphasis on international security, the influence of emigrants on political change in home countries, refugee policies and the potential for international cooperation on migration. We will then shift from politics of control and security to comparative analysis of political incorporation, naturalization and citizenship rights. At the end of the course, we apply the comparative perspectives gained to an examination of the politics of U.S. immigration policy, recent efforts to enact comprehensive immigration reform and executive actions on immigration in lieu of reforms.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for the course.

Required texts:


Anna Boucher and Justin Gest, Crossroads: Comparative Immigration Regimes in a World of Demographic Change (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018)
Recommended:


Additional required readings: The bulk of the readings not in the above books will be journal articles and policy reports that will be posted on Blackboard. Unless noted, all required articles can also be accessed on-line at a under "e-journals" or through Lexis/Nexis. Readings that are not available in the UAlbany e-journal collection and are marked with an asterisk (*) will be made available on Blackboard. The instructor will assign several additional readings after the course begins – refer to the syllabus posted on Blackboard for all assignments and required for each session.

Knowledge of current events related to international migration

All students should keep abreast of recent developments with respect to international migration by reading a high quality daily news source with good international coverage (e.g. New York Times; Wall Street Journal; Financial Times; Washington Post) supplemented by a weekly newsmagazine, such as the Economist. Additional online world news sources include: BBC World News https://www.bbc.com/news/world; Reuters World News https://www.reuters.com/news/world/; NPR World https://www.npr.org/sections/world/

Guest speakers: We may have guest speakers join the class throughout the semester -- mostly by Skype or Zoom but also in person. Especially given that some guests may be connecting from different time zones or may only be able to come for the day, we may not be able to arrange some of their visits to coincide with our Wednesday evening classes. Students will be asked to come to meetings with guests outside of class periods and in order for these visits to be worthwhile most students will need to commit to out-of-class-times (that will be scheduled at the most convenient times for speakers and students). For in-person visits, interested faculty and other graduate students will be invited to join as well.

Description of requirements:

1. Class participation: All students are expected to attend all classes, complete all assigned readings in advance of class and be prepared to discuss them, including cold calls. The base line grade for class participation is a D. Routine attendance with minimal participation will earn a C. Regular contributions to class discussion that are appropriate and draw on readings will earn a B. Students who are consistently well prepared to discuss the assigned readings nearly every class and actively participate in discussions will receive an A for class participation.

2. Personal statement: All students are asked to submit a 250-word statement describing their background, academic interests and research objectives as they relate to this course. These should be posted on the discussion forum on Blackboard. Although mandatory, the assignment will not be graded; its purpose is for students (and the instructor) to get to know one another better.

3. Reaction memos: Students will submit four brief memos (of approx. 700 words) in which student react to required weekly readings of four selected class sessions. Students need not cover each and every reading for the week in these memos. The point is to focus on and analyze what you see as important, interesting issues in the reading. The memo should be analytical, not just a summary. These reaction memos are intended generate informed class discussion, so they must be written and submitted before class. Students should email their memos to the instructor (must arrive in the instructor’s mailbox before class) but it would be also appreciated if students hand in a hard copy. Each reaction memo is worth 5% of the course grade. Excellent papers will receive 5 points, good 4 points, failing 3 points. A total of four reaction memos must be submitted for full credit. Students may choose which week’s readings to review, however, reaction memos chosen must be distributed in the following manner:

One on or before 2/13
One on or before 3/6
One on or before 4/10
One on or before 5/8

If students do not hand in the required reaction memo by the date specified above, the overdue memo will be considered a failed assignment. They will not receive credit for the missing reaction memo.

4. Team Project: TBA

5. Term paper: PhD Students are expected to write a paper of about 6,000 – 7,000 words (double-paced, 12 pt, one inch margins). PhD student papers should demonstrate a command of the theoretical literature relevant to the topic selected and develop an analytical argument related to debates in that literature. Students may do any one of the following: 1) a paper that is based on secondary sources; 2) a paper based mostly on primary sources or 3) a paper based on the analysis of existing data sets or data that the student has collected. Masters students are expected to write a paper of about 5,000 words. Masters students may opt to model their papers on policy reports published by the Migration Policy Institute, Brookings Institution, Center for Immigration Studies, etc. or articles found policy-oriented journals such as Washington Quarterly, etc. All students are expected to draw on material from the syllabus but students should also incorporate significant additional research on the topic chosen (which would be reflected in a majority of references to material not listed as required reading on the syllabus). All students may select a topic of their own choosing as long as it is within the confines of the course and approved by the instructor. For those students having difficulty selecting a topic, a good approach would be to consider a paper topic that delves into the details of one aspect of one of the session topics. At the very beginning of the course, students should carefully review the entire syllabus and scan readings for possible topics. Students are expected to submit a paper topic by Feb. 13. Students are expected to submit a full paper proposal comprised of a 100-150 word abstract, outline and preliminary bibliography by Feb. 27. Students should submit a rough draft of their paper (at least half the total length) by April 17. If students miss the deadline for the proposal or the rough draft, a half letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade for the paper. Students will give a brief presentation (15 minutes max) of their paper project to the class, which will contribute to the overall grade for the paper. Seminar papers are due on the last day of class, May 8.

Grading:

Reaction memos about 20%
Team project about 10%
Term paper about 50%
Class participation about 20%

Grade Scale:

A 90 and above
A- 88-89
B+ 85-87
B 80-84
B- 78-79
C+ 75-77
C 70-74
C- 68-69
D+ 65-67
D 60-64
E Below 60

Late assignments will be penalized.

Academic integrity

All students are responsible for understanding and following the university’s rules on academic integrity (see http://www.albany.edu/eltl/academic_integrity.php.) Students must properly reference all sources, including assigned readings, in all written assignments. References to all sources must be clearly indicated. Direct quotations must be marked with double quotation marks (e.g. "...") and the source cited. Indirect quotations must have sources cited. Sources require citation each time they are referred to.
Class Schedule:

1/23 Introduction

Required:


"Top 10 Migration Issues of 2018," Migration Information Source, Migration Policy Institute https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/migration-information-source/top-10-migration-issues-2018 (each issue has a short article accessible through hyperlinked title; pay special attention to issues numbered: 2,3,7,8 and 10.)


Browse the US DHS Yearbook of Immigration Statistics at: https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook

1/30 Migration in World History

Required:


Recommended:


Patrick Manning, *Migration in World History* 2nd ed. (Routledge, 2013)
2/6 Disciplinary Perspectives on Migration Theory

Required:

Frank Bean and Susan Brown, “Demographic Analyses of Immigration”
Philip Martin, “Economic Aspects of Migration”
David Scott Fitzgerald, “The Sociology of International Migration”
James Hollifield and Tom Wong, “The Politics of International Migration”
David Abraham, “Law and Migration” (Chs. 2,3,4,7,8 of Migration Theory: Talking Across Disciplines)


Recommended:


Castles, De Haas and Miller, The Age of Migration, Ch 2.

2/13 The Politics of Immigration Policymaking

Required:


Boucher and Gest, Crossroads, Chs. 1-3, pp. 1-65.

Recommended:


2/20 Labor Migration

Required:

Boucher and Gest, Crossroads, Chs. 4-5 (pp. 66-114)


Look at: European Migration Network

Recommended:


2/27 Forced Migration, Asylum-seekers and Refugees

Required:


**Recommended:**

Castles, De Haas and Miller, *The Age of Migration*, pp. 221-230.

**3/6 Unauthorized Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking**

**Required:**


“Irregular migration” Migration Data Portal at: [https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/irregular-migration](https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/irregular-migration)


2018 Global Slavery Index, “overview” of findings at: [https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/global-findings/](https://www.globalslaveryindex.org/2018/findings/global-findings/)


Human Trafficking Factsheet: [https://www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking](https://www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking)

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, US Department of State [https://www.state.gov/j/tip/index.htm](https://www.state.gov/j/tip/index.htm)

especially: “Methodology,” “Global Law Enforcement Data,” “TVPA Minimum Standards,” “Tier Placements and Regional Maps”

Recommended:


3/13 Immigrant Policies and Political Integration

Required:


Boucher and Gest, Crossroads, Chs. 6-8 (pp. 114-186).


3/20 Spring Break

3/27 Homeland Political Participation and Transnationalism


Recommended:
4/3 Citizenship and Dual Nationality

Required:


Highly recommended, especially for PhD students considering dissertation research on migration and citizenship:


Recommended:


4/10 The Politics of Unauthorized Migration and Border Control

**Required:**

*Castles, De Haas and Miller, The Age of Migration, pp. 215-220,

Daniel Tichenor, “The political dynamics of unauthorized immigration: Conflict, change, and agency in time,” Polity 47:3 (July 2015), 283-301.

Rey Koslowski, The Evolution of Border Controls as a Mechanism to Prevent Illegal Immigration (Migration Policy Institute and European University Institute, February 2011) posted at: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/bordercontrols-koslowski.pdf


Practical Measures to Reduce Irregular Migration, European Migration Network, October 2012, read Executive Summary, skim Sections 1-7 (pp. 7-64) http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/irregular-migration/0a_emn_synthesis_report_irregular_migration_publication_april_2013_en.pdf


**Recommended:**


4/17 Migration, Mobility and Security

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**4/24 Regional Cooperation on International Migration and Border Control**

**Required:**

*Castles, De Haas and Miller, The Age of Migration*, pp. 230-35.


Frontex: European Coast Guard and Border Agency [http://frontex.europa.eu](http://frontex.europa.eu) Read: About Frontex: “forward,” “vision, mission and values” and “origin and tasks”


**Recommended:**


5/1 Global Cooperation on International Migration, Refugees and Border Control

**Required:**


Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Final Draft July 13, 2018 (34 pp.)
[https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf)

Global Compact on Refugees, Advance Version, July 20, 2018 (24 pp.)

Take a look at: UN4RefugeeMigrants [https://refugeesmigrants.un.org](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org)

Take a look at: Global Forum on Migration and Development [http://www.gfmd.org](http://www.gfmd.org)

Take a look at: Global Migration Group [http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org)

**Recommended:**


5/8 Reforming US Immigration Policies

**Required:**


*Rey Koslowski, “The American Way of Border Control and Immigration Reform Politics,” manuscript.

**Recommended:**
