Sample Syllabus

POLITICS OF MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Course Description:

This course examines immigration from a comparative political perspective by drawing on countries of origin and destination in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and North America. It explores questions about international migration and membership in the contemporary world by drawing on theoretical, empirical, and normative perspectives. We will overview the major theoretical perspectives and concepts used to understand international migration. We will investigate what social science evidence tells us about the drivers of migration, refugees, migrant political behavior, and the impact of migration on origin and destination countries. We will think through questions of what states and societies owe to migrants and what is the morally right, just, or fair thing to do about issues of migration, citizenship, and border control.

Specifically, we will address the following questions: Why do people migrate? Who migrates? What are the sending and receiving countries? How does international migration affect society both at 'home' and 'abroad'? What do immigration and integration policies tell us about citizenship and belonging? How does the public perceive immigrants? What are some emerging trends in migration? We also investigate the role of race, ethnicity, class, and gender in mobility and immobility.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students will be able to

1. Identify different categories of people (citizen, migrant, refugee) in the context of migration and citizenship.
2. Identify the political, economic, social, and security determinants of human mobility.
3. Analyze the political and social responses of destination governments and societies.
4. Analyze the political and economic impacts of migration on origin and destination countries.
5. Explore the moral and ethical questions and issues posed by immigration.
6. Develop and strengthen analytical and critical thinking and writing skills.

Course Delivery:

The course will be delivered in lecture format, meeting twice a week for one and a half hours per session. The last ten minutes of each class will be dedicated to going over the questions that students posed the day before class. Lectures will also include active learning and think-pair-share activities with handouts that include clear instructions.

Course Logistics:

Tuesdays & Thursdays: Lectures

Required Materials:

The course packet will include all required reading materials.

Course Policies

GRADES

Migration Narratives (5%): Analyze a published migration narrative or, if you prefer, reflect on your own or your family's migration experiences (1–2 pages). Connect the narrative to concepts from the course. Personal disclosure is optional, and you will not be required to share sensitive information with classmates.

Course Participation (10%): Active participation includes contributing to course discussions, activities, in-class debates, and posting discussion questions the day before class.

Movie Resonance Post (10%): You will submit a movie resonance post based on the week of your choosing. Posts should be 700-800 words and include a brief summary of the main themes of the movie and a reflection on how the movie expands, reinforces, or otherwise interacts with lectures and course readings.

Midterm Exam (25%): The exam will include short essay questions covering Weeks 1-7.

International Migration Report (40%): This assignment has two parts. First, you will submit your report idea and outline for peer review. Second, you will complete a five-page memo analyzing current events on the politics of international migration in one country of your choice (excluding the United States) using concepts from the course materials. I will provide a detailed guideline.

Self-Reflection and Assessment (10%): Two 1-2 page self-reflection reports. The first will include a reflection on the work you did so far, the things you learned, and your plan for moving forward. At the conclusion of the course, you will complete a final self-evaluation covering your participation and performance.

Academic Integrity

Should you commit academic misconduct in this class, you will be held accountable according to University policies. Consult the institution's published academic integrity policy for details.

Accommodations

If you have a physical, psychiatric, emotional, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out coursework, contact the Student Disability Resource Center, who will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation are confidential.

Emergency or Illness

Should you experience a serious illness or personal emergency during this course that would prevent you from completing the required assignments, notify the professor immediately. Students who notify the professor may receive an incomplete grade in the course or pursue alternative actions, at the professor's discretion.

Course Schedule:

Readings should be completed before class. Readings marked (in-class discussion) will be discussed seminar-style, so it is especially important to read them ahead of time.

Week 1: Introduction

Session 1: Course Introduction

Syllabus and introductions.

Session 2: The Age of Migration

De Haas, Castles, and Miller, The Age of Migration (2019), Chapters 1-2.

Migration Policy Institute, "Top 10 Migration Issues of 2023."

Week 2: Foundations

Session 1: Migration Narratives

Migration Narratives assignment due.

Session 2: Theories of Migration

De Haas, Castles, and Miller, The Age of Migration (2019), Chapter 3.

Week 3: Migration, Identity, and Forced Displacement

Session 1: Migration, Ethnicity, and Identity

De Haas, Castles, and Miller, The Age of Migration (2019), Chapter 4.

Session 2: Forced Migration I

Betts (2010) "The Refugee Regime Complex," Refugee Survey Quarterly 29(1): 12-37.

Chimni (2000) "Globalization, Humanitarianism and the Erosion of Refugee Protection," Journal of Refugee Studies 13(3): 243-263.

Good Authority, "Americans See Afghan and Ukrainian Refugees Very Differently" (goodauthority.org).

Optional film: Flee (2021)

Week 4: Forced Migration and Ethics

Session 1: Forced Migration II

Neumayer (2005) "Bogus Refugees? The Determinants of Asylum Migration to Western Europe," International Studies Quarterly 49(3): 389-409.

(podcast) Ufahamu Africa, Ep. 172: A Conversation with E. Tendayi Achiume and Eleanor Paynter on Race, Refuge, and Border Justice.

Session 2: Ethics of Immigration

Fine (2013) "The Ethics of Immigration: Self-Determination and the Right to Exclude," Philosophy Compass 8(3): 254-268.

Song (2018) "Political Theories of Migration," Annual Review of Political Science 21: 385-402.

Week 5: Gender and Migration Beyond the West

Session 1: Gender and Migration

Sert and Turkmen (2022) "Gender, Mobility, and Displacement: From the Shadows to Questioning Binaries," in Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies.

Gerard and Pickering (2014) "Gender, Securitization, and Transit: Refugee Women and the Journey to the EU," Journal of Refugee Studies 27(3): 338-359.

Optional film: Persepolis (2007)

Session 2: Migration Policies Beyond 'Western Liberal Democracies'

Natter (2018) "Rethinking Immigration Policy Theory Beyond 'Western Liberal Democracies,'" Comparative Migration Studies 6(1): 4.

Norman (2020) "Migrant and Refugee Mobilisation in North African Host States," Journal of North African Studies 26(4): 679-708.

Good Authority, "How Authoritarian Regimes Use Migration to Exert 'Soft Power' in Foreign Policy" (goodauthority.org).

Week 6: Public Attitudes and Integration

Session 1: Public Attitudes Toward Immigration

Hainmueller and Hopkins (2014) “Public Attitudes Toward Immigration,” Annual Review of Political Science 17: 225-249.

Adida (2010) “Too Close for Comfort? Immigrant Exclusion in Africa,” Comparative Political Studies 40(10): 1370-1396.

Session 2: Integration

Wallace Goodman (2012) “Fortifying Citizenship: Policy Strategy for Civic Integration in Western Europe,” World Politics 64(4): 659-698.

Brubaker (2001) “The Return of Assimilation?,” Ethnic and Racial Studies 24(4): 531-548.

Good Authority (formerly TMC), “The Muslim Effect on Immigrant Integration in France” (goodauthority.org).

Optional film: Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)

Week 7: Political Economy and Diasporas

Session 1: Political Economy of Migration

Peters (2015) “Open Trade, Closed Borders: Immigration in the Era of Globalization,” World Politics 67(1): 114-154.

De Haas (2005) “International Migration, Remittances, and Development: Myths and Facts,” Third World Quarterly 26(8): 1269-1284.

Session 2: Emigration and Diasporas

Sökefeld (2006) “Mobilizing in Transnational Space: A Social Movement Approach to the Formation of Diaspora,” Global Networks 6(3): 265-284.

(podcast) The Migration and Diasporas Podcast, Ep. 52: The Price of Diaspora Engagement.

(podcast) The Migration Oxford Podcast: Politics of Emigration.

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 8: Regime Type and Diaspora Politics

Session 1: Regime Type and Migration

Tsourapas (2021) “Global Autocracies: Strategies of Transnational Repression, Legitimation, and Co-Optation in World Politics,” International Studies Review 23(3): 616-644.

Mirilovic (2015) “Regime Type, International Migration, and the Politics of Dual Citizenship Toleration,” International Political Science Review 36(5): 510-525.

Session 2: Politics from Afar

Adamson (2016) “The Growing Importance of Diaspora Politics,” Current History 115(784): 291-297.

(podcast) Scope Conditions, Ep. 12: Voter Suppression Goes Global, with Elizabeth Iams Wellman.

Good Authority, “This Is Why the Two Leading Candidates for Guatemala’s Presidency Came to the U.S. to Campaign” (goodauthority.org).

Week 9: Migration and Citizenship

Session 1: Citizenship, Multiculturalism, and the Nation-State

Bloemraad, Korteweg, and Yurdakul (2008) “Citizenship and Immigration: Multiculturalism, Assimilation, and Challenges to the Nation-State,” Annual Review of Sociology 34(1): 153-179.

Bloemraad (2006) “Becoming a Citizen in the United States and Canada,” Social Forces 85(2): 667-695.

Session 2: Migration Management I

Pallister-Wilkins (2015) “The Humanitarian Politics of European Border Policing: Frontex and Border Police in Evros,” International Political Sociology 9(1): 53-69.

Jones (2012) “Why Build a Border Wall?” NACLA Report on the Americas 45(3): 70-72.

(podcast) The Migration Oxford Podcast: Automating Immigration in the Digital Age.

Good Authority (formerly TMC), “This Is What’s Really Happening to Kids at the Border” (goodauthority.org).

Week 10: Migration Management and Immobility

Session 1: Migration Management II

Adamson and Tsourapas (2020) "The Migration State in the Global South," International Migration Review 54(3): 853-882.

(podcast) Scope Conditions, Ep. 9: Strategic Indifference as Refugee Policy in the Global South, with Kelsey Norman.

Session 2: Immobility

Schewel (2020) "Understanding Immobility: Moving Beyond the Mobility Bias in Migration Studies," International Migration Review 54(2): 328-355.

Good Authority, "Good to Know: Issue Importance in Politics" (goodauthority.org). (in-class discussion)

Week 11: Emerging Topics I

Session 1: Strategic Acquisition of Citizenship in the Global South

Shachar (2017) "Citizenship For Sale?," in The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship.

Balta and Altan-Olcay (2015) "Strategic Citizens of America: Transnational Inequalities and Transformation of Citizenship," Ethnic and Racial Studies 39(6): 939-957.

Session 2: Climate Change and Migration

Piguet, Pécoud, and de Guchteneire (2011) "Migration and Climate Change: An Overview," Refugee Survey Quarterly 30(3): 1-23.

Good Authority, "The Effects of Climate Change Will Force Millions to Migrate. Here's What This Means for Human Security" (goodauthority.org).

Week 12: Emerging Topics II

Session 1: Technology, Surveillance, and Migration

Molnar (2020) "Technology on the Margins: AI and Global Migration Management from a Human Rights Perspective," Cambridge International Law Journal 8(2): 305-330.

Longo (2018) Selections from The Politics of Borders: Sovereignty, Security, and the Citizen After 9/11. Cambridge University Press.

Session 2: Transnational Repression and Diaspora Control

Tsourapas (2021) "Global Autocracies" (revisit Week 8 reading, focus on repression strategies).

Moss (2016) "Transnational Repression, Diaspora Mobilization, and the Case of the Arab Spring," Social Problems 63(4): 480-498.

Week 13: Migration Report Workshop

Session 1: International Migration Report: Outline Presentations and Peer Review

International Migration Report outlines due for peer review.

Session 2: Workshop, cont'd

No new readings. In-class peer feedback and revision.

Week 14: The Future of Migration

Session 1: Migration Governance in a Changing World

Betts and Kainz (2017) "The History of Global Migration Governance," Refugee Studies Centre Working Paper Series.

Session 2: Course Wrap-Up and Review

No new readings. Course synthesis and reflections.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REPORT DUE: See course calendar