

COURSE SYLLABUS
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
SYD4237 - Fall2024
1248 (Online)

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Course Description

Humans have been on the move for thousands of years. Early humans emerged out of the African Continent, populating vast regions of the globe in search for better resources, increased safety, better climates, and possibly (even) for the joy of exploration. Over the last few millennia, however, the world has become “smaller” thanks to political interconnectedness and technological advancements, which, facilitate the movement of people across difficult terrains, oceans, rivers, and even entire continents. In recent centuries, the institutionalization of nation states fostered changes in socio-political structures, international legal and trade regimes, and vast economic inequalities; which, have shaped the flow of people across international borders. But changes in the structures of governance and trade, however, have not stopped people from moving across international borders. Today there are an estimated 240 million international immigrants in the world, and like those early humans that emerged out of Africa, the conditions that have influenced their movement are varied and complex.

Why do people move? How are they accepted in their host country? What kinds of contributions do they provide? What is their relationship to the host society? What happens when they stay there or if they return to their home country? and why do they endure some of the harsh conditions they encounter? These are questions that we will seek to answer during this semester. To achieve this exploration of the immigrant experience, we will discuss theories and histories of migration; we will explore policy and legal ramifications; we will define who is and who is not considered an immigrant or refugee, and; we will delve into issues that migrants and refugees face today within the context of an ever-growing interdependency of world systems.

As we embark on this class, several refugee crises are taking place around the globe; as a result, we will pay close attention to migration and refugee related current events. We will also look at issues of identity in the new face of globalization and supranationalism, and we will look at our own American history of migration to draw comparisons to immigrant issues around the globe.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and evaluate theories of international migration
- Compare the historical processes and contexts of U.S. bound migration
- Understand migration policy and the policymaking process
- Describe the impacts of migration policy on migrants and refugees
- contextualize the relationship between migration and central institutions arrangements such as the family, the economy, religion, and government

Grading Policy and Procedures

Module Worksheets. During the semester students will be responsible for turning in 10 assignments. These typically include a combination of notes from the weekly readings, a series of quick “facts” that can be easily researched online, and an occasional short film analysis. Basically, these are your chapter notes. These short activities are given on a weekly basis and have a collective value of 40% of your total grade.

Film Analysis: students will write 3 film analyses, these are a single page response to an assigned documentary or film. Each film analysis is worth 5 points and collectively account for 15% of your grade.

Discussions: Students will be required to submit 3 discussion entries during the semester. These are based on informed opinion and assessment of available data. Entries are expected to be 200-300 words, and account for 15% of your total grade.

Migration Policy Paper: students will be expected to write a 2 page policy paper on an immigration issue. Policy papers usually follow a very specific format in its contextual approach and policy recommendations. Knowing how to write a policy paper is a very useful skill to have and this activity is designed to familiarize students with their format, style and utility. Your policy paper will account for 15% of your final grade.

Migration Profile: During the semester, students are expected to write a 3 page profile of an immigrant group. Students have freedom to choose a country and a group to analyze (i.e. Thai domestic workers in the UAE, or Mexican farmworkers in California, or Filipino nurses in NY, etc.). The profile must include as much statistical information as possible (how many, who are they, how long do they stay, how much was their trip, who paid for it, do they send money home, etc.), also, what are their conditions like, do they have protections from the state, are they discriminated, etc. This paper will account for 15% of your final grade.

Readings and Textbook

There is no class textbook associated with this class. Weekly reading assignments will be available through the CANVAS system. Some readings will be provided, while some others will need to be found through the University Library System.

Grading Scheme

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Due Dates and Class Flow

Although the class is run in asynchronous mode (meaning that students can work on their own terms and at their own time), I have divided the class content in two specific parts. The first five modules and Policy paper will close on October 9, and the remaining work, including modules 6-10, and final paper will close on December 3.

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)

*The professor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus at any time during the semester.

Semester Schedule

Module 1: Theories of Migration. Why do people move?

On this module we try to understand why humans move. Is human movement caused by politics, economics, family dynamics, environmental issues or other factors? We will also begin to identify the different types of migrants there are, according to international law and conventional definitions, as well as to understand the landscape of migration in the world today.

Learning Objectives

- Identify terminology and the current aspects of international migration
- Describe how social forces and structural conditions influence the process of human migration
- Explain sociological theories of Human Migration and why theorizing about migration is important

Directions

- Download your Module 1 Worksheet and complete it as you work through the module
- Read the required materials
- Watch required videos and documentaries
- Complete your module discussion entry and make sure to comment on another student's comment
- Submit your completed worksheet

Module 2: Exploring the American Migration Experience

For over four centuries, our continent and our nation have been shaped by the number of people who have migrated to our side of the world. Our American foundational myth and our notions of success, strength, and growth are largely connected to a long standing tradition of international migration. In this module we focus on the socio-historical characteristics of US-bound Migration, with a focus on the immigrants, their flows, settlement patterns, and conditions.

Learning Objectives

- Identify historical waves of migration to the United States
- Describe how social forces and structural conditions influence the process of human migration
- Explain how identities are formed in the context of migration

Directions

- Download the Module 2 Worksheet
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete Module Worksheet and submit for grade
- Collaborate in the discussion board (graded)

Module 3: Family and Migration

On this module we explore the relationships between family structure and the process of migration. Specifically, we look at the role of the family in the decision-making process, as well as the effects that migration has on family structures across international borders.

Learning Objectives

- Identify sociological explanations about family and migration
- Describe how social forces and structural conditions influence the process of human migration
- Explain the effects that migration has on families across political borders

Directions

- Download the module Worksheet
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete Worksheet and submit for grade

Module 4: Migration, work and the Economy

On this module we look at the relationship between immigrants and labor, including the markets that employ them, the conditions they encounter and their impact on those areas of work. We also explore the immigrants' economic landscapes, with an eye on whether immigrants take jobs from local residents, receive disproportionate benefits, and whether they help to depress wages for other workers.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the relationship between migration and economic conditions
- Compare ideas about the cost/benefits of migration to the US Economy
- Explain the influence that labor markets have on workers across political borders

Directions

- Download the Module Worksheet
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete Module Worksheet and submit for grade
- Complete Film Analysis 2. and submit for grade

Module 5. Assimilating to a new way of life

Are immigrants becoming American? Are immigrants learning English? Are they working with, living among, socializing around, or marrying members of the "native born" population? In this module we focus on the pressures immigrants face as they settle into their new homelands. In context, we will explore what it means to "assimilate" and whether or not there are other ways of creating new forms of American identity.

Learning Objectives

- Describe role of assimilation in the nation building process of the US
- Explore the repercussions of policies aimed at assimilating immigrants to US Culture
- Understand current trends in assimilation, integration and immigrant incorporation

Directions

- Download the Module Worksheet
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete the Module Worksheet and submit for grade

Module 6. A look at the state of International Refugees

Is there an International Refugee Crisis? What are conditions like around the globe for international refugees? What are the structural conditions that create such crises? On this module, we explore the conditions for millions of people who have been forced to leave their homelands. We look at the actors and the conditions involved in the process and the kinds of "fixes" that the world has put into place to protect them.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the concept of refugee and what makes it different from a migrant
- Explore the structural conditions that lead to the creation of international refugees
- Explain how the processing of refugee incorporation works in the US
- Discuss the lived experiences of refugees around the world

Directions

- Download the Module Worksheet
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete Worksheet and submit for grade
- Complete discussion # 2 for a grade

Module 7. Integration of Refugees in the Host Countries

Learning Objectives

- Identify indicators of integration.
- Explain the types of integration strategies used by various countries.
- Understand the social environments that refugees reside in.

Directions

- Read the articles and watch the assigned videos.
- Download the worksheet articles.
- Complete the worksheet and submit it for the grade.

Module 8. Managing US refugees and Asylum Seekers

On this module we focus our attention on the United States' process for international refugees and asylum seekers. Students will take a "hands on" approach to understanding how Refugees and Asylum seekers are received in the country, how they are processed and resettled, and the kinds of institutional actors that take on the process.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee under US Law
- Explore the process of refugee resettlement in the country
- Explain the role played by institutional actors in the refugee resettlement process
- Discuss the numbers, demography, and conditions that refugees face in the US

Directions

- Download the Module Worksheet
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete Worksheet and submit for grade

Module 9. Exploring Intersectionality in Migration

How does Identity change in the Diaspora? How does gender identity shape the migration experience? Should governments make accommodations for members of minoritized populations? This module focuses on intersectionality through the eyes of immigrants of LGBTQ identities.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the historical relationship between US migration and state efforts to mitigate immigrant flows based on gender, class, and ethnicity
- Describe the concept of intersectionality and its importance
- Explore the structural conditions that affect LGBTQ immigrants
- Comprehend the lived experiences of LGBTQ immigrants in the US

Directions

- Download the Module outline
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete Module outline and submit for a grade
- Watch assigned documentary and turn in analysis for a grade

Module 10. Bienvenido a Miami

Early American sociology focused largely on issues of immigration, assimilation and identity. Historically Cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York became epicenters of U.S. bound migration, absorbing millions of immigrants whom made the country their new home. Miami Stands out as the new frontier of immigration and migration scholarship. On this module we focus on the conditions that make the city Unique in its context of migration, exploring the historical significance and the political ramifications of migration in the Magic City.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the historical process of immigration to the City of Miami
- Explore the economic and political repercussions of Miami's migration experience
- Understand relationship between theory and Miami's context of migration

Directions

- Download the Module Outline
- Read provided materials
- Watch recommended videos and documentaries
- Complete Module Outline and submit for grade
- Complete Discussion 3 for a grade