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PSC 395.02: Politics of Global Migration

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Course Description

The voluntary and forced migration of peoples within countries and across national boundaries will constitute one of the fundamental challenges of international relations and domestic politics in the 21st Century. In preparation for these challenges, this course explores recent and contemporary population movements from a multidisciplinary perspective. Geographical coverage will include Asia, North and Central America, Africa, and Europe. Attention will be devoted to policy issues surrounding economic and political migration; i.e., the relationship between state policy as a factor promoting or inhibiting migration, immigration, emigration, adaptation, and return as well as the impact of population movements on public-policy making in receiving and sending countries.

Course Objectives

Students should develop awareness of global migration patterns, processes, and implications; understanding of how local population movements are related to the emergence of a world migration system that involves intensified competition for skills and an expanding flow of people across national boundaries in ways that challenge the geopolitical framework of nation states; and individual and group analytical and problem-solving skills.

Course Conduct

Class sessions will be conducted in seminar format, with emphasis on student presentations, questions, and involvement in discussions based upon the assigned reading about the topic under discussion.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Class participation (including oral presentations and discussion leading): 25%
Mid-term examination: 25%
Final group project: 50% (written report of 15-25 pp. =40%; oral report =10%)

Required Texts

(2) Fac Pac available at UC Bookstore
Course Outline and Reading Assignments

27 January  
I. Introduction

II. Migration Theory

29 Jan.  
A. Concepts and issues

*UN, pp. 1-7  
*J. Rosenau, “Frontiers” (1997)  

1,3,5 Feb.  
B. Approaches and perspectives


8 Feb.  
III. International Population Movements: An Overview

*UN, pp. 8-23, 41-44  
*Bernstein, “Where’s the Romance of the Open Road?”  
*Angier, “Man vs. Woman: In History’s Travel Olympics, There’s No Contest”  
*R. Skeldon, “International Migration Within and From the East and Southeast Asian Region” in Robin Cohen (ed.), *Sociology of Migration* [SoM] (1996)
IV. Economic Migration

10, 12, 17 Feb. A. Rural-urban issues (Lucia video)

* Ma Xia, “Changes in the Pattern of Migration in Urban China” (1994)
* “Migrant Labor: At the Focurum of Social Change” (1997)
* “Relaxed,” “Cleanup,” “Hunt.”

19 Feb. B. Environmental “refugees”


22 Feb. C. South-North movement (Desouren video)

* B. Fulford, “Foreigners Kept at Bay” (1998)

24, 26 Feb. D. Professional migration/brain drain

* Gould and Findlay, “Refugees and Skilled Transients” (1994)
* A. Myerson, “With Techies Logged on Abroad” (1998)

1 March E. Circular migration

* R. Skeldon, “Hong Kong in an International Migration System” (1996)
* J. Smart, “Business Immigration to Canada: Deception and Exploitation” (1994)
* “Study Reveals No Staff Exodus in Hong Kong” 2 May 1997
* “Population Grows” “Emigration Falls” (1997-98)
3 March F. Global diasporas


5 March Mid-term examination

8-12 March Group-project preparation

22 March G. Global cities


24,26 March H. Gender and family issues/networks

*UN, pp. 45-49.
*S. Sassen-Koob, “Notes on the Incorporation of Third-World Women into Wage Labor Through Immigration and Off-Shore Production” in SoM
*M. McConahay,” The Baby Trade” (1990)
*M. Boyd, “Family and Personal Networks in International Migration” in SoM

I. Porous boundaries, undocumented migrants; state policy & attempts to control inflow

29,31 March

*UN, pp. 24-28, 33-37.
*K. Mizoguchi, “Mainlanders Stealing into Japan” (1997)
*M. Ogito, “Change in Laws Sets Off Big Wave of Deportations”
V. Political Migration

2,5 April  
A. Root causes

7 April  
B. Internally displaced populations
* “UNHCR at a Glance” (1997)
* J. Perlez, “Kosovo Refugees Trapped by Two Fears” (1998)
* M. O’Connor, “Kosovo’s Health System Dies” (1998)

9 April  
C. Official refugees, asylum seekers, and nonreturnees
* UN, pp. 38-40.
* “UNHCR at a Glance” (1997)

12 April  
D. Female refugees

14,16 April  
E. “Durable solutions”

1. Local integration; third-country resettlement
* J. Pomfret, “Agencies Caught between Battling Factions” (1997)
2. Repatriation
*J. Rogge, “Repatriation of Refugees” (1994)

19, 21 April F. State policy and attempts to control inflow
*“America’s Refugee Admissions Decline” (1997)

VI. Migrant Rights, Treatment, Responses

23 April A. Rights & treatment in receiving countries/cities
*J. Wong, “Migrant Workers Stretch Social Fabric” (1995)
*M. Ojito, “Report Says Immigrants are Jailed with Convicts” (1998)
*R. Suro, “Redrawing the Color Line” (1998)

23, 26 April B. Economic, social, and political adaptation

1. Enclaves

2. Bicultural competence
*M. Hopkins, “Becoming Bicultural” (1992)
3. Underclass assimilation
   *"Culture Eroding Ethics" (1996)

4. Citizenship?
   *"Two German Parties Reach Deal to Relax Law on Citizenship"
   (1998)

28 April C. Migrant contributions

1. Development in receiving/sending countries
   *UN, pp. 50-55.
   *M. Abella, “Asian Migrant and Contract Workers in the Middle
   East,” in CSWM, pp. 418-423.
   219-238.

2. Cross-national understanding & relations
3. Strength in diversity?

VII. The Search for Innovative and Effective (Policy) Approaches

30 April A. Constructing fences or opening borders?

   *J. Carens, “Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders,” in TM,
   pp. 405-427.

3 May B. Burden sharing


5 May Written group report due

5,7 May Group Projects:
12 May (8:00-10:00)

C. Addressing root causes
D. Temporary protection
E. Preparation for development & repatriation
F. Global Refugee Corps (GRC)
G. Other