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PSCI 431.01: Politics of Global Migration

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Course Description

The proactive and reactive migration of peoples within countries and across national boundaries constitutes 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 includes Asia, North and Central America, Africa, and Europe. Attention initially will be devoted transnationalism and associated economic, social, and political transformations. After exploring key dimensions of transmigration, we will focus on connecting transmigration, transnational competence, global health, and sustainable development.

Course Objectives

Students should develop familiarity with approaches to and dimensions of transnationalism as well as its potential transformative effects in the 21st Century; awareness of global migration patterns, pressures, processes, and implications; understanding of how population movements are related to the emergence of a world mobility system that involves an expanding flow of people across national boundaries in ways that challenge the geopolitical framework of nation states and are facilitated by transnational competence; the ability to connect transmigration and transnational competence with global health and sustainable development; familiarity with the arguments and issues behind current debates and conflicts over policies that impact migration, health, and development; and enhanced individual and group analytic and problem-solving skills.

Course Conduct

Class sessions will emphasize student presentations, questions, contributions, and involvement based upon the assigned reading about the topic under discussion.

Course Requirements and Assessment

3-page film review (due 16 Oct.): 20%
Debates (1): 10%
Discussion facilitator performance (2): 20%
Individual research project (due 4 Dec.): 30%
Class/discussion participation, including presentation of research project: 20%

Late papers will be penalized by one + or – grade (e.g., from B+ to B) and by an additional + or – for each scheduled class that passes without submission. For credit/no-credit grading, students must attain an overall grade of D- to receive a “CR.” Reported final grades will reflect pluses and minuses. See the Catalog’s policy on incompletes, disability accommodations, and plagiarism. The instructor will deny late-drop petitions (after the 31st day of instruction).
Required Reading*
Steven Vertovec, *Transnationalism* (Routledge, 2009) [TN]
Peter Koehn & James Rosenau, *Transnational Competence* (Paradigm, 2010) [TC]
All other readings on e-reserve (password = psci431)

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

28-30Aug  
I. Introduction & Overview

*Angier, “Man vs. Woman: In History’s Travel Olympics, There’s No Contest”
*TN, pp. 1-24

II. Transnationalism & Transformations

4 Sept.  
A. Transnational Social Formations
*TN, Chapter 2

4 Sept.  
B. Transnational Economic Formations
* TN, Chapter 5
* Cave, “Better Lives for Mexicans Cut Allure of Going North” (2011)
* Castaneda, Massey, “Do-It-Yourself Immigration Reform” (2012)
* Martin, “Immigrants Are Crucial to Innovation” (2012)

6 Sept.  
C. Transnational Religious Transformations
* TN, Chapter 6
* Crossette, “Testing the Limits of Tolerance” (1999)
* Schweder, “Engaging Cultural Differences” (2002)

6 Sept.  
D. Transnational Political & Environmental Transformations
* TN, Chapter 4
* X. Yin & P. Koehn, “Immigrant Transnationals and U.S. Foreign Policy” (2011)
* Zezima, “Running for President of Haiti, but Stumping in US”’10

11 Sept.  
E. Transnational Socio-cultural Transformations
* TN, Chapter 3
* C. MacKinnon, “Can Fatherhood Be Optional?” (2001)
* Roberts, “More Africans Enter U.S. Than in Days of Slavery” (’05)
III. Transmigration

13 Sept.  
A. Framework for Analysis  

18 Sept.  
B. Environmental Migration  
*A. Suhrke, “Environmental Degradation and Population Flows” (’93)  
**“50 Million ’Environmental Refugees’ By 2020, Experts Say” (2011)  
*Brooks, “3,000 Police Storm Rio’s Biggest Slum” (2011)

Lucia video – 90 min.

20-25 Sept.  
C. Economic migration  
1. Internal  
*Arnold, “China” (2012)  
*Yardley, “In One Slum, Misery, Work, Politics & Hope” [Mumbai]  
*Yen, “Long-distance Moves in US Hit Record Low” (2011)  

27 Sept.  
2. Porous boundaries and undocumented migrants  
* “Vast US-Canada Border Suddenly Poses a Problem” (2001)  
* Geranios, “Agents Urge Civilians to Report Suspicious People” (’10)  
*Porter & Malkin, “Mexicans at Home Abroad” (2005)  
*Lacey, “Money Starts to Trickle North” (2009)  
*Preston, “Tweak in Rule to Ease Path to Green Card” (2012)

2 Oct.  
3. Professional/skill migration  
* Rai, “Indians Find They Can Go Home Again” (2005)  
* DeParle, “Rising Breed of Migrant Worker: Skilled, Salaried, & Welcome” (2007)  
*Skelton, “Skilled Migration, Brain Drain, and Policy Responses” (’08)  
*Connell, Migration and Globalisation of Health Care, pp. 94-122 (’10)

4-9 Oct.  
4. Globalization and Global Cities  
*S. Sassen, “Global Cities and Survival Circuits” (2006)
*Cho, “Gofers for All” (2006)
*S. Greenhouse, “US to expand Labor Rights to Cover Illegal Immigrants” (1999)
*E. Schmitt, “To Fill in Gaps, Shrinking Cities Seek a New Wave of Foreigners” (2001)
*Bread & Roses video – 110 min (VT12253)

D. Political Migration

11 Oct.
1. Internal displacement and colonization by population resettlement

*K. Maynard, “Communities in Conflict” (1999), pp. 117-122
*Weiss and Pasic, “Dealing with the Displacement and Suffering Caused by Yugoslavia’s Wars” (1998), pp. 175-191

16 Oct.
2. Official refugees

**“Refugee Camp Has Houses of Sticks, Cloth” (2011)
[click on Research/Eval; Eval & Policy Analysis Unit; new issues in refugee research]

16 Oct.
Bread & Roses Video Review Due

18 Oct.
3. “Durable solutions”

Local integration; third-country asylum and resettlement
*E. Hall, “Vocational Training for Women Refugees in Africa”
*Bernstein, “Asylum Seekers Treated Poorly” (2005)
Repatriation
*Parfit & Chislov, “Muslim Woman Strived for Unity in War-torn Bosnia” (2002)


IV. Connecting Transmigration, Transnational Competence, & Sustainable Development
“For stone to become a sculpture, it needs a lot of hits” Anjan in The New Americans

30 Oct-1 Nov. A. Introduction
*TC, pp. xiv-xxi; 1-17; 22-43; 142-153
*TN, Chapter 7
*Aleinkoff and Klusmeyer, Citizen Policies for an Age of Migration (2002), pp. 36-39
*Smith, “The Two Faces of Transnational Citizenship” (2010)
*Ngai & Koehn, “Citizenship Education for an Age of Population Mobility & Glocally Interconnected Destinies” (’06)

8 Nov. B. TC Business Professionals
*TC, Chapter 6; pp. 115-116, 158-164
*Cederberg, “Missoula Center Offers Visas to Foreign Investors for $1 Million Buy-in” (2011)

8 Nov. C. TC Engineers
*TC, Chapter 7; pp. 116-118, 164-169

13 Nov. D. TC Social-justice Workers
*TC, Chapter 8; pp. 118-119, 169-172

13 Nov. E. TC Sustainable-development Agents
*TC, Chapter 9; pp. 119-121, 173-178
*Leland, “After a Break to Run Somalia, Back at His Cubicle” ’11
15 Nov.  
F.  
* TC Medical & Health Personnel  
* TC, Chapter 10; pp. 121-122, 178-188  
* P. Koehn, “Medical Encounters in Finnish Reception Centres” (’05)  
* Connell, Migration & Globalisation of Health Care, pp. 167-200 (’10)

15 Nov.  
Desounen video – 54 min. (VT05830)  
* Cave, “Rescuers Search Atlantic” (2009)

20-27 Nov.  
V. The Search for Innovative & Effective (Policy) Approaches

A. Constructing fences or opening borders?  
* J. Carens, “Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders”  
* Eberstadt, “Exceptional America” (2007)  
* Burke, “Now Is Time to Keep US from Tearing at Seam” (’00)  
* Stevens, “Citizenship to Go” (2012)  
** “Citizenship in an Unequal World” (2011)

B. Global Refugee Corps (GRC)  
* P. Koehn, “Proposal for an International Refugee Corps” (’94)

29 Nov.  
Graduate Reports

4 Dec.  
Individual research projects due

4-6 Dec. & 12 Dec. (10:10-12:10) Individual research-project presentations

PSCI 400
Students taking PSCI 400 concurrently with this course must attend a special class on professional writing led by the instructor (TBA). The 3-page double-spaced individual review for this class will be graded for clarity of argument and correctness of technical writing and returned with comments for revision. Students are required to revise and resubmit their review as often as necessary until all corrections are made and understood. The individual-project paper will be no more than 20 double-spaced pages of text (not counting the bibliography). The instructor will meet with and approve each student’s topical selections and provide guidance on how to proceed. Citations of sources used can be included in parenthetical text notes tied to the bibliography or in footnotes/endnotes and a bibliography.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321 This syllabus is presented as a general guide to the course that is subject to amendment or deviation.