PSC 431.01: Politics of Global Migration

Peter Koehn
*University of Montana - Missoula*, peter.koehn@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

**Recommended Citation**


[https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7064](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7064)

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
Course Description

The proactive and reactive migration of peoples within countries and across national boundaries constitutes one of the fundamental challenges of transnational 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 primarily 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, repatriation, and transmigration as well as the impact of population movements on public-policy making, health and development, and values in receiving and sending countries.

Course Objectives

Students should develop 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 intensified competition for skills and an expanding flow of people across national boundaries in ways that challenge the geopolitical framework of nation states; familiarity with the arguments and issues behind current debates and conflicts over migration policies and policies that impact migration; and enhanced individual and group analytical and problem-solving skills.

Course Conduct

Class sessions will be conducted in seminar format, with emphasis on 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 17 March): 20%
Debates (2): 20%
"New Americans" essay (due 21 April): 10%
Individual research project (due 1 May): 30%
Class participation, including in-class 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).
Course Outline and Reading Assignments

23 Jan

I. Introduction

25-27 Jan

II. International Population Movements: An Overview

*N. Wade, “Genes Tell New Story on the Spread of Man” (1999) e-res
*“New Weight for View Africa Was Human Cradle” (2000) e-res
*Angier, “Man vs. Woman: In History’s Travel Olympics, There’s No Contest” e-res
*Crossette, “Against a Trend, U.S. Population Will Bloom” (’01) e-res

30 Jan-3 Feb

III. Migration Theory

*M. Weiner, “On International Migration and International Relations”

IV. Economic Migration

6-8 Feb

A. Rural-urban issues

Lucia video – 90 min.

10 Feb

B. Rural-urban migration in China

*“Migrant Labor: At the Fulcrum of Social Change” (1997)
*Kahn, “China to Drop Urbanite-Peasant Legal Differences” (’05) e-res

13 Feb

Shanghai video – 52 min. (VT11801)
15 Feb  C. Rural-urban-rural migration

17 Feb  D. Environmental “refugees”
    *A. Suhrke, “Environmental Degradation and Population Flows” (’93)

22 Feb  E. South-North movement

    Desounen video – 54 min. (VT05830)

    * D. Sharp, “Haitian Refugees ... Drown” (1999) e-res

24 Feb  F. Professional/skill migration

    *T. Oommen, “India: ‘Brain Drain’ or the Migration of Talent?”
    *A. Myerson, “With Techies Logged on Abroad” (1998) e-res
    *Waldman, “Indians Go Home, but Don’t Leave US Behind” (’04) e-res
    *L. Alvarez, “Congress Backs Big Increase in Visas for Skilled Workers” (2000) e-res

27 Feb-1 March  G. Gender and family issues: trafficking, marriage, transnational parenting and elderly care, adoption

    *Sisters and Daughters Betrayed (video in library, VT09831)
    *J. Varoli, “American Lion Seeks Russian Lioness” (2000) e-res

3-6 March  H. Porous boundaries; undocumented migrants; state policy & attempts to control inflow

    * U.N., Concise Report, pp. 33-37
    *Smith, “Spain’s African Enclaves are Migrants’ Portals to Europe” (2005) e-res
    *US Looks to Tighten Borders with Mexico, Canada” (2001) e-res
    *M. Ogito, “Change in Laws Sets Off Big Wave of Deportations” (1998) e-res
    *Porter & Malkin, “Mexicans at Home Abroad” (2005) e-res
    *Hull, “Illegal Immigration” (2005) e-res
    *G. Lahav, “Rise of Nonstate Actors in Migration Regulation in the
United States and Europe” (2000)
*Vitello, “As Illegal Workers Hit Suburbs, Politicians Scramble to Respond” e-res
*Swarms, “Bill on Illegal-immigrant Aid Draws Fire” (2005) e-res

8-10 March  I. Globalization and Global cities

*S. Sassen, “Global Cities and Survival Circuits” (2006)
*S. Greenhouse, “US to expand Labor Rights to Cover Illegal Immigrants” (1999) e-res
*Greenhouse, “Union Claims Texas Victory with Janitors” (’05) e-res
*E. Schmitt, “To Fill in Gaps, Shrinking Cities Seek a New Wave of Foreigners” (2001) e-res
*Bread & Roses video – 110 min (VT12253)

V. Political Migration

13 March  A. Root causes


13 March  B. Internal displacement and colonization by population resettlement

*Cohen and Deng, Masses in Flight (1998), Chapter 2, pp. 15-72
*K. Maynard, “Communities in Conflict” (1999), pp. 117-122
*Weiss and Pasic, “Dealing with the Displacement and Suffering Caused by Yugoslavia’s Wars” (1998) e-res
*Kifner, “How Serb Forces Purged One Million Albanians” (’99)e-res
*Gall, “Gypsies and Others Said to Draw Kosovar Fury” (’99) e-res
*”Railroad of Hope” (2003)

15 March  C. Official refugees, asylum seekers, nonreturnees, and diasporas

*G. Loescher, Beyond Charity, pp. 75-77, 86-92.
*de Montclos and Kagwanja, “Refugee Camps or Cities?” (2000)

17 March  
**Bread & Roses Video Review Due**

17-20 March  
D. “Durable solutions”

1. Local integration; third-country resettlement
   *E. Hall, “Vocational Training for Women Refugees in Africa”
   *B. Whitaker, “Changing Opportunities: Refugees and Host Communities in Western Tanzania,” No. 11 (June 1999)
   www.unhcr.org [click on Research/Eval; Eval & Policy Analysis Unit; new issues in refugee research]

2. Repatriation
   *J. Rogge, “Repatriation of Refugees” (1994) e-res
   *“The Wheel that Never Squeaks” (2001)
   *Parfit & Chislom, “Muslim Woman Strived for Unity in War-torn Bosnia” (2002) e-res
   *Wong, “Kurds are Flocking to Kirkuk” (2005) e-res

22, 24 March  
E. State policy and attempts to regulate political migration

*A. Chardy, “‘Special Circumstances’ Can Keep INS Detainees in Custody” (2001) e-res; Savage, “Court Refuses to Hear Case on Detainees” (2004) e-res
VI. Migrant Rights, Treatment, Responses

3 April A. Rights & treatment

* Ojito, “Report Says Immigrants are Jailed with Convicts” (‘98) e-res
* Bernstein & Santora, “Asylum Seekers Treated Poorly” (2005) e-res
* E. Nieves, “Calif Calls Off Effort to Carry Out Immigrant Measure” (1999) e-res

5-7 April B. Multicultural challenges in receiving places

The New Americans (2004 video, parts 1-3, VT12530)
* Roberts, “More Africans Enter US than in Days of Slavery” (‘05) e-res
* Crossette, “Testing Limits of Tolerance as Cultures Mix” (‘99) e-res
* Lacey, “Genital Cutting Shows Signs of Losing Favor in Africa” (2004) e-res

10 April Individual Project Meetings

C. Economic, social, and political adaptation

12 April

* “Culture Eroding Ethics” (1996) e-res

1. Enclaves


14 April 2. Bicultural and transnational competence

* When East Meets East (video available in library, 2000) VT10843
* Domino: Interracial People and the Search for Identity (44-min video available in library, 1995) VT11380
* E. Schmitt, “For 7 Million People in Census, One Race Category
Isn’t Enough” (2001) e-res

17 April

3. Transnational Identification and Citizenship
*Guarnzo, “Emergence of a Transnational Social Formation & Mirage of Return Migration among Dominican Transmigrants”’97 e-res
*Aleinikoff and Klusmeyer, Citizen Policies for an Age of Migration (2002), pp. 36-39

19, 21 April D. Migrant contributions

1. Development in receiving/sending countries?
*Global Commission on International Migration, “Migration & Development: Realizing the Potential of Human Mobility” (2005)

2. Transnational understanding & relations; foreign policy
*X. Yin & P. Koehn, “Immigrant Transnationals and U.S. Foreign Policy” (forthcoming) e-res
*P. Koehn, “Fitting a Vital Linkage Piece into the Multidimensional Emissions-reductions Puzzle: Nongovernmental Pathways to Consumption Changes in the PRC and the USA” (forthcoming) (electronic version available on request)

3. Strength in diversity?

21 April

New Americans essay due

24 April

E. Global migration and migrant health

SARS: The True Story (BBC DVD available at library, 2004; DVD 00823)
*P. Koehn, “Global Migration and Global Health” (forthcoming) e-res
*“For Many Immigrants, Health Care Underground” (2000)
*P. Koehn, “Medical Encounters in Finnish Reception Centres” (2005)
26, 28 April VII. The Search for Innovative and Effective (Policy) Approaches

A. Constructing fences or opening borders?
   *J. Carens, “Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders” e-res
   *Burke, “Now Is Time to Keep US from Tearing at Seam” (’00) e-res

B. Burden sharing

C. International rapid-reaction force

D. Community healing & peacebuilding
   *Slackman, “But Bygones Can’t Be Bygones if the Pain is Raw” (2005) e-res

E. Reforming UNHCR

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

1 May Individual research projects due

1-3 May & 12 May (10:10-12:10) Individual research-project presentations

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