Instructor: Cristina Ramos, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law

Contact: cristinaramos@ufl.edu or 3309 Turlington Hall

Meeting Time: M,W | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM) + 1 hour online [hybrid course]

Room: PSY 0151

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 PM or by appointment (appointment preferred)

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to current issues in studies of international migration, ranging from why people migrate to how migrants incorporate into receiving societies and maintain ties to their home countries. Thus, the course is divided into three parts: 1) Why and how migration occurs; 2) The impacts of migration on societies and 3) Border controls. Although the main focus will be on North America and Europe, we will also explore the importance of migration in other regions of the world.

The course combines face to face and online sessions: each week we will have two one-hour face to face sessions during which we will discuss the assigned readings, and this will be complemented by one online session in which students will be asked to watch specific videos or read migration related news and to participate in an online discussion.

There are two required books:


In addition, every week we will read different academic papers that will highlight how scholars address those issues empirically. These readings will be available on Canvas. You are expected to read all the material before coming to class. The seminars are intended to be a discussion of the readings. I find that introducing a gender perspective is useful in this course is important because it reflects the changes in the field. Therefore, even though we will dedicate one week to the specific
discussion of gender and migration, we will review throughout the semester, several articles that include an important gendered approach when touching upon other subjects.

**Course policies:**

1. **Class attendance** is required. You are expected to arrive on time and participate in the discussions (this will also be an important part of your grade). You are free to express your opinions but you should also come to class with an open mind and a willingness to hear other points of view. International migration can be a controversial issue, so you are expected to always be respectful when expressing opinions. Derogatory comments will not be acceptable. If you miss class, you are responsible for finding out any information covered during that class.

2. **Technology:** no cell phones, tablets or laptops in class. We will only meet for two 50 minute periods a week and it is important that concentrate on the ideas we discuss in class. Having a laptop open can easily distract students. If you get distracted, you will miss important points that might not have come up during the readings and that might help you write your assignments.

3. **Assignments:** late work will be accepted but penalized. The due dates for all assignments are clear on this syllabus. During the first couple of weeks we will assign specific dates for presentation. Therefore, you can plan ahead to make sure that you submit your work in time. Plagiarism is not acceptable!! This refers to using any work from books, websites, other students, or any other source that are incorrectly cited. If you are struggling with an assignment, come and talk to me, but never plagiarize.

**Grading:**

**Participation in class and online discussions: 200 points**

You are expected to participate both in class and in online discussions. You should complete the readings before coming to class and be prepared to engage in the discussions by sharing your thoughts and observations and by asking relevant questions. Because there are many students in the class and it is difficult to participate freely in this way, we will break into small groups to discuss a question I will pose at the beginning of the class. After a few minutes of discussion, we will open the floor for each group to explain what they talked about.

In addition, every week, you will be asked to participate in an online forum on Canvas in response to a selected topic. Because migration is a timely I will select these videos and news weekly so that we can stay informed and discuss current debates.

You may agree or disagree with the ideas presented and you are expected to provide arguments in your responses and always use respectful language. You are also welcome to bring to my (and your classmate’s) attention any news that you consider important so that we can discuss them.

**Migration profile: 250 points -Due after your presentation**
You will write a profile of one national immigrant group in a particular country or a general profile of international migration into or from a particular country (you can decide) and present it in class. Each student will select a different group so that, through the presentations, by the end of the course we will all have learned about a migration flow we might not be familiar with. We will discuss and assign the groups and dates for presentation during the third week of class (if you don't have a particular preference, or the group you would like to write about is already chosen, I am happy to give suggestions, but the website https://www.iom.int/world-migration is a good tool to explore flows around the world). The written profile should be between 3 to 5 pages and include data (demographic, statistical) about the migration history of your group. The presentation should be about 10 minutes long and we will have one at the beginning of every class starting from week 5.

**Take-home midterm exam 150 points – Wednesday Feb 22nd**

You will have one week to write a response (3-4 pages) to a question about the readings of the course. I will give the instructions and the question in class and you will have to submit it in written form one week later.

**Book Commentary 150 points – Wednesday March 29th**

You will read one book written by a migration scholar and based on empirical work so that you gain a deep understanding of how qualitative researchers work and a specific topic. I know that we all have different interests within migration studies, so on the first day of class I will provide a list of several books for you to choose depending on the topic you prefer. You are expected to write a commentary (not a summary) of the book in relation to what we discuss in class and online. This should be 3-4 pages long.

**Final take-home exam 250 points – Monday April 24th**

The last assignment will consist of a response (6-8 pages) to a question regarding one of the topics of the class. You will have one week to write the response and I will give the question during week 14. We will use the last two days of class (week 15) to discuss ideas about this questions and to craft arguments for your papers. I am interested in seeing you use the concepts that we read about and discussed during the semester.

**Grading Scale**

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**Week 1. January 4-January 8 Introduction**

**Wednesday Jan 4**

- Introduction of the course and the syllabus

------- **PART A. Why and How Migration Occurs -------**

**Week 2 Jan 9 – Jan 15: Why is migration important?**

**Monday Jan 9**

- Samers, M. Introduction, p. 1-20

**Wednesday Jan 11**


**Friday Jan 13**

- Online discussion

**Week 3. Jan 16 – Jan 22: Contemporary migration flows**

**Monday Jan 16**

HOLIDAY

**Wednesday Jan 18**

- Samers, Intro, pg 20-35
- Pew Research Center (2013). Changing Patterns of Global Migration and Remittances

⇒ Assign migration profile groups and dates

**Friday Jan 20**

- Online discussion

**Week 4. Jan 23- Jan 29: Theories of Migration**

**Monday Jan 23**


- Recommended: Samers, Chapter 2. Explaining Migration Across International Borders, pg 52-120. Pages 107-110 provide a summarized table of theories

Wednesday Jan 25th


- Recommended: 35 Kivisto and Faist Ch. 3. Counting Contemporary Immigration Flows, pp.47-84

Friday Jan 27th

- Online discussion

-------- PART B. The Impacts of Migration on societies --------

Week 5. Jan 30-Feb 5: Gender and Migration

Monday Jan 30th


Wednesday Feb 1st


Friday Feb 3rd

- Online discussion

Week 6. Feb 6 – Feb 12: Integration and assimilation: general explanations

Monday Feb 6th

Wednesday Feb 8th


Friday Feb 10th

- Online discussion

Week 7. Feb 13 – Feb 19: Integration and assimilation in Europe and the US

Monday Feb 13th


Wednesday Feb 15th


Friday Feb 17th

- Online discussion

Week 8. Feb 20 – Feb 26: The second generation

Monday Feb 20th


Wednesday Feb 22th

→ Mid-Term Take Home Exam due

Friday Feb 24th
- Online discussion

**Week 9. Feb 27 – March 5: Transnationalism**

Monday Feb 27th

Wednesday March 1st

Friday March 3rd
- Online discussion

**Week S.P. March 6 – March 12: Spring Break**

→ No Class!!

**Week 10. March 13 – March 19: Productive and reproductive labor**

Monday March 13th
- Samers, Chapter 3. Geographies of Migration and Work, pg 121-178

Wednesday March 15th

Friday March 17th
- Online discussion

**Week 11. March 20 – March 26: Citizenship and belonging**

Monday March 20th
- Samers, Chapter 5. Geographies of Migration, Citizenship and Belonging, pg. 239-298

Wednesday March 22nd
- Kivisto and Faist, Ch. 8. Citizenship and the State in a Globalizing World, pg 225-256

Friday March 25th
- Online discussion

-------- Part C. Immigration Controls --------

**Week 12. March 27 – April 2: Border controls**

Monday March 27th
- Kivisto and Faist, Ch 7. The State and Immigration Control, pp. 195-224

Wednesday March 29th

Friday March 31st
- Online discussion

**Week 13. April 3 – April 9: Irregular Migration: explanations**

Monday April 3rd

Wednesday April 5th
- Donato, K. and Armenta, A. (2011) ’What We Know About Unauthorized Migration’, *Annual Review of Sociology* 37: 529-543

Friday April 7th
- Online discussion of Documentary: Well-Founded Fear

**Week 14. April 10 – April 12: Irregular Migration: Experiences**

Monday April 10th
- Abrego, Leisy Janet. 2006. “‘I can't go to college because I don't have papers:’ Incorporation Patterns of Latino Undocumented Youth.” *Latino Studies* 4(3): 212-231.

**Wednesday April 12th**


**Friday April 14th**

- Online discussion

**Week 15. April 17- April 19: General discussion**

**Monday April 17th**

- General discussion of the course and questions about final assignment

**Wednesday April 19th**

- General discussion of the course and questions about final assignment

**Final take-home exam due Friday April 21st**

**University Policies and Services:**

*Academic Honesty:* On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

*Accommodation for students with disabilities:* Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

*UF Counseling Services:* Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking a clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling; 2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling; 3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling; 4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.