Course title: Migration and Mobility in A Global World
Course code: (GI) POLI 3006 MEME
Programs offering course: Yucatan Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: International Relations and Political Science
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring Block III 2021

Course Description

Subjects of migration and the scale of it vary in time and space. While migration is sometimes explored as the movement of people it could also be analyzed and perceived as transfer of knowledge, goods, capital and networks across borders. The course will provide students with insight and tools to analyze migration in 20th and 21st centuries, focusing on the major migration waves that have involved the USA.

Demographic, economic, social, political and religious causes of migration will be addressed through the analysis of specific case studies, which will contribute to provide the students with a map of the most significant movements of people and their aftermaths in the decades to follow.

Students will be accompanied by the instructor and different guest speakers to gain the knowledge to answer to questions, such as “what are the definitions of migration? What is the role of states in defining and managing migration? Does it complement, compete with, subvert and/or foreshadow ethnic, national, religious, class and gender identities? What are the most vulnerable migrant groups? How do practices of migration cohabit with the state? What are the references in migration studies to concepts such as multiculturalism, toleration, diversity, collective rights, alienation and difference?

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Assess and evaluate the importance of migration issues in a globalized world and against a background of labor markets, conflicts and disasters, and how these circumstances affect migration ebbs and flows.
- Contextualize and analyze migration within specific regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America), as well as governance of migration issues in the region with particular emphasis on the host countries.
- Articulate the political and economic contexts of migration while keeping in mind historical ruptures and continuities.
- Interpret migration from interdisciplinary perspectives that include Environmental Studies, Economics, Political Science and International Relations.

Course Prerequisites

Students should have completed a course in either International Relations, Political Science, or Social Sciences.

Methods of Instruction

Among other techniques, the methodology used throughout this course will include: teacher presentations with student-teacher dialogue and discussion; active discussion in which students will be expected to participate in round tables with their fellows about specific case studies; oral presentations; video analysis. Students will also attend site visits, meetings, skype conferences and guest lectures. They are expected to take copious notes of readings, lectures and out-of-class activities to be potentially used for course submissions. Rules for citation and referencing apply.

Assessment and Final Grade
Course Requirements

Case Studies

Each student is required to participate in a prepared debate on the role of politics in religion, based on selected case studies. The individual debates will be in groups each given a topic. Grading will be based on knowledge and preparation demonstrated in the in-class debate.

Presentation

Students will be required to deliver a presentation during the course. Each presentation should be about 10 minutes and it should show a good understanding of a selected topic and the ability to put it in perspective. The topic should be presented in a concise yet comprehensive manner.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will consist of short answer/paragraph questions to measure the students’ progress halfway through the course.

Final Paper

A 2000 word discussion paper will be required. This paper will cover a specific topic and needs to show a solid understanding of and reflection on the topic assigned. The topic cannot be the same as the presentation topic and it will be assigned to the students on the basis of their main interest. The final will be presented during the last class, in the form of round table.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Class: 1.1** Introduction / Migration as Natural Human Phenomenon

Students will be presented the course and instructed on how to access all the related materials on Canvas.

The second part of the class will be dedicated to a general introduction on the anthropological aspects of migration, with special reference to major ancient migration waves.


**Class: 1.2** Why do People Move? The Many Causes of Migration

The different causes of migration will be presented to the students, along with the most recent statistics of the phenomenon.

Readings: UN The International Migration Report, EU Annual Report on Migration and Asylum, Oxford Academics, Migration Studies

**Week 2**

**Class: 2.1** The Major Migration Waves of the 20th Century: Italians, Irish, Jews

Students will be confronted with some examples of major migration waves in the past two centuries, in order to analyze the impact that such movements have had both on the new and the old countries.

**Due date for Oral presentation**

Readings: Irial Glynn, Emigration Across the Atlantic: Irish, Italians and Swedes compared, 1800–1950, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies – University of Washington

**Class: 2.2** Searching for Food: Visit to the NGO & Guest Lecture
Students will visit an NGO and will interact with a guest speaker, in order to discover the most important actions taken by the NGO to contrast migration depending on agriculture and food poverty.

Previous readings will be assigned to the students to prepare the visit.

**Week 3**

*Class: 3.1 Searching for Freedom: the Political Asylum & the Dublin Convention*

Thousands of people migrate due to the lack of freedom and respect of human rights in their mother countries, and seek for protection elsewhere, by virtue of international treaties, which should grant them those rights they have been denied. During this class specific case studies will be at the center of round tables, along with the outlines of the most relevant legislation.

**Due date for Oral presentation**


*Class: 3.2 Political Refugees: Visit to the NGO Supporting Asylum Seekers*

A visit to their premises will give the students the opportunity to see firsthand the issues this category of migrants must face.

*Class: 3.3 Migrants in our Vision*

This class will be dedicated to reviewing media discourses, representations, and the ‘Othering’ of migrants through journalism, broadcasting, literature, film, and the arts.

**The Midterm Exam will be held during the second part of the class.**

**Week 4**

*Class: 4.1 Searching for Peace: War as a Cause of Migration*

Recent wars in Middle East have forced families and individuals to flee their homes and begin dangerous trips to protect their lives. Students will analyze the general elements of war migration through specific case studies, which will be the topic of round tables.


*Class: 4.2 Searching for a Job: Employment Perspectives for Migrants*

The students will visit a NGO, where such programs are implemented, to discuss challenges and the involvement of the civil society.

**Week 5**

*Class: 5.1 Searching for a Career: Highly Educated Migrants*

Research and better career perspectives are another drive for highly educated people to leave their countries and study or work abroad. While this kind of migration is not comparable to the ones mentioned above, it created communities where integration and adaptation can be a challenge as well. Students will analyze this phenomenon with the help of expats as guest speakers.

**Due date for Oral presentation**

*Class: 5.2 Emigration & Immigration: The Migration Services in Context*

Most countries and major cities are impacted by immigration and/or emigration. Students will visit relevant institutions in the host environment to know more into details how a local public administration deals with the presence of migrant citizens, and how the local authorities respond to the consequences of emigration.

**Week 6**
Class: 6.1 USA & Current Migration Policies

This class will be dedicated to an overview of the most recent migration policies put into action in the USA and to their consequences in terms of social cohesion.

Due date for Oral presentation

Class: 6.2 Final Paper Presentations & Round Table

The last class will be dedicated to the presentation of the Final Paper assigned to the students by area of interest, in the form of a round table, in which all the aspects of the treated topics will be addressed.

Course Materials

Readings


Dominguez, R., Rietig, V. Migrants deported from the United States and Mexico to the Northern Triangle. 2015.

