

McGill University Department of Sociology – Fall Term 2017
SOCI 520: Migration and Immigrant Groups

Wednesdays 9:35 to 11:25 LEA 738

Instructor: Thomas Soehl

e-mail: Thomas.soehl@mcgill.ca

Office: Leacock 729, Office Hours: Thursday 10:00 to noon and by appointment

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES:

The field of international migration studies is, perhaps, unique in its interdisciplinary and methodologically pluralist nature: stretching from the demography and economics of migration, through political science, geographical and mainstream sociological approaches, to the ethnography and oral history of migrants. We explore key theoretical debates of the field and the empirical data and case studies on which these debates hinge. Thus one central objective of this course is to examine social phenomena from a variety of perspectives and disciplinary approaches ranging from the macro-level social forces that structure opportunities for migration to the micro-level decision-making processes of migrants.

We will pay special attention to the role of modern states on migration. How they (attempt to) control human mobility and different ways in which they accommodate migrants. In order to do so much of this class will be comparative in nature – that is we contrast research on different countries (mostly North America and Western Europe). In this way the study of migration opens up fresh perspectives on conceptions of nationhood, citizenship and the state. Finally the topic also poses a number of normative contradictions that we will wrestle with.

In the first part of this course we will draw on a broad set of literatures that can help us understand the social, economic and political forces that drive international migration as well as the barriers to global human mobility. In the second part we survey the research on the socio-economic, political and cultural aspects of the immigrant experience, in particular to questions related to the settlement, adaptation and social organization of international migrants in their host countries.

There is much more than we can possibly cover and each topic could easily be a class in itself. So rather than being exhaustive this course is an attempt to provide you with a basic framework with which we can understand international migration and the adaptation processes of immigrants.

EVALUTATION:

Participation (20%): The basic requirement is to come to class and do the readings. There are many of them and it is important to stay on top of the material at all times. We will have structured discussions and I expect everyone to participate. Those who don't raise their hand can expect to be called on in every class. A grading rubric can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

Reading Annotations in Perusall (10%): We will be using an online reading annotation tool called perusal. I will introduce this in the first meeting. For every week except when you are writing a reading memo or are leading the class discussion you have to provide

annotations to some of the assigned readings. For the time being annotations are due at 5pm the day before class but we can re-consider this due date over the course of the term.

Reading Memos (10%): Twice times during the semester you will write a more formal reading memo. These will be about two pages in length. You should post these memos on the discussion board on the mycourses page by 10am the day before the class meeting.

Discussion Leading (10%): Once in the semester you will introduce the readings for that week and initiate discussion. This should be very brief 5 to 8 minutes at the most. You can (and probably should) draw on the annotations as well as the reading memos provided your classmates.

Final Take home exam (50%): There will be a comprehensive take-home final exam. I will hand out the questions in the last class and it will be due one week after the last class.

NOTES/POLICIES

Tentative nature of the syllabus: This syllabus is my best guess at how the semester will unfold. We may move faster or slower than I anticipated, or I may update some of the readings with newer/better material. Thus I reserve the possibility to amend the syllabus at any point during the semester. Any changes to readings will be announced at least one class in advance and posted on the course website and you are responsible for keeping up with any changes.

Language: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Academic Integrity and Misconduct: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Respect and use of electronic devices: As electronic devices distract from conversations they are not permitted in this class. In consideration for other students, as well as for the instructor, please make sure you that you arrive on time, and do not leave class early. Cell phones should be turned off.

ASSIGNED READINGS – Subject to change (addition, deletion, substitution)

1. Introductory Remarks, Organization of the Course
Portes, Alejandro. 1997. "Immigration Theory for a New Century: Some Problems and Opportunities". *International Migration Review*.
Wimmer, Andreas and Nina Glick-Schiller. 2002. "Methodological Nationalism and beyond: nation-state building, migration and the social sciences." *Global Networks* 2:301-334.

Optional but highly recommended.

Wimmer, Andreas. 2009. "Herder's Heritage and the Boundary-Making Approach: Studying Ethnicity in Immigrant Societies." *Sociological Theory*

Beauchemin, Cris. 2014. "A Manifesto for Quantitative Multi-sited Approaches to International Migration." *International Migration Review*.
doi: 10.1111/imre.12157

Castles, Stephen. 2007. "Twenty-First-Century Migration as a Challenge to Sociology." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 33:351-371.

FitzGerald, David. 2012. "A comparativist manifesto for international migration studies." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35: 1725-1740.

2. Global inequality and freedom of movement – normative perspectives:

Walzer, Michael. 1983. *Spheres of justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*. New York: Basic [Chaper 2]. - MYC

Carens, Joseph. 1987. "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders." *Review of Politics* 49 (2)

Cohen, Jean L. 1999. "Changing Paradigms of Citizenship and the Exclusiveness of the Demos". *International Sociology* 14(3) 245-268.

3. Who moves, how, and why? Theories and Mechanisms of Migration I:

Douglas Massey et al. 1998. *Worlds in Motion. Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millennium*. Oxford University Press [Chapter 1 & Chapter 2].

Michael Piore.1979. Birds of Passage [Chapters 1 and 2]

Fussell, Elizabeth, and Douglas S. Massey. "The limits to cumulative causation: International migration from Mexican urban areas." *Demography* 41.1 (2004): 151-171.

4. Who moves, how, and why? Theories and Mechanisms of Migration II

Hagan, Jacqueline Maria. "Social networks, gender, and immigrant incorporation: Resources and constraints." *American sociological review* (1998): 55-67.

Curran, Sara R., and Estela Rivero-Fuentes. "Engendering migrant networks: The case of Mexican migration." *Demography* 40.2 (2003): 289-307.

Paul, Anju Mary. 2011. "Stepwise International Migration: A Multistage Migration Pattern for the Aspiring Migrant." *American Journal of Sociology* 116(6).

Ryo, Emily. 2013. "Deciding to Cross: Norms and Economics of Unauthorized Migration" *American Sociological Review* 78

5. States, citizenship and limits to migration.

Zolberg, Aristide.1999. "Matters of State: Theorizing Immigration Policy" in Hirschman et al. *The Handbook of International Migration*. Russell Sage.

Brubaker, Rogers. *Citizenship and nationhood in France and Germany*. Harvard. [Introduction and Chapter 1]

6. Labor market competition & anti-immigrant attitudes

Wimmer, Andreas 2002. *Nationalist Exclusion and Ethnic Conflict: Shadows of Modernity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Skim all of Chapter 3 but especially Pages 57-64.

- Hainmueller, Jens and Michael Hiscox. 2010. "Attitudes toward highly skilled and low-skilled immigration: Evidence from a survey experiment." *American Political Science Review* 104(1).
- Hainmueller and Hopkins. 2014. "Public Attitudes towards Immigration" *Annual Review of Political Science*
- Card, David. 1990. "The impact of the Mariel boatlift on the Miami labor market." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 43(2).
- Borjas, George. 2001. *Heavens Door: Immigration Policy and the American Economy* [Chapter 4 – The Labor Market Impact of Immigration]

Recommended:

- Wimmer, Andreas. 1997. "Explaining Xenophobia and Racism: A critical review of current research approaches." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 20(1).
- Hiers Wesley, Thomas Soehl and Andreas Wimmer. 2017. "'National trauma and the fear of foreigners: How past geopolitical threat heightens anti-immigrant sentiment today.'" *Social Forces*

7. Immigration policy I: Regulation and its limits

- Freeman, Gary. 1995. "Modes of Immigration Politics in Liberal Democratic States." *International Migration Review* 29(4).
- Brubaker, Rogers. 1995. "Comments on 'Modes of Immigration Politics in Liberal Democratic States'." *International Migration Review* 29(4): 903-908.
- Joppke, Christian. 1998. "Why Liberal States Accept Unwanted Immigration." *World Politics* 50(2):266-293.
- Ellermann, Antje. 2005. "Coercive Capacity and the Politics of Implementation: Deportation in Germany and the United States" *Comparative Political Studies* 38(10)

8. Immigration policy II: Ethnic Selection

- Joppke, Christian. 2005. *Selecting by Origin: Ethnic Migration and the Liberal State*. Harvard. [Introduction and Chapter on US and Australia]
- Fitzgerald and Cook-Martin. 2014. *Culling the Masses*. [Excerpts TBA]

9. Assimilation./Integration

- Alba, Richard D. and Victor Nee. 2003. *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Ch 1 & 2.
- Gordon, Milton M. 1964. *Assimilation in American Life: the Role of Race, Religion, and National Origins*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch 3. [Available as e- book from McGill Library]
- Brubaker, Rogers. 2001. "The return of assimilation? Changing perspectives on immigration and its sequels in France, Germany, and the United States". *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24(4).
- Adrian Favell. 2005. "Assimilation/Integration" in Gibney and Hansen *Immigration and Asylum: From 1900 to the Present* Clio

10. Segmented assimilation and the debate about the second generation

Portes, Alejandro and Rumbaut Ruben. *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. [Chapter 3: Not Everyone is Chosen]
Haller, Portes & Lynch. "Dreams Fulfilled, Dreams Shattered: Determinants of Segmented Assimilation in the Second Generation" *Social Forces*.89(3) as well as comment by Richard Alba, Philip Kasinitz, and Mary C. Waters and rejoinder in same issue.
Waldinger, Roger and Peter Catron. 2016. "Modes of Incorporation: A Conceptual and Empirical Critique." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 42(1): 23-53.

11. Cross-border ties & Migrant Transnationalism

Nina Glick Schiller, Linda Basch and Cristina Szanton Blanc. 1995. "From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration" *Anthropological Quarterly* 68(1)
Portes, Alejandro et al. 2002. "Transnational Entrepreneurs: An Alternative Form of Immigrant Economic Adaptation." *American Sociological Review*. 67 (2).
Soehl, Thomas and Roger Waldinger. 2010. "Making the Connection: Latino Immigrants and their Cross-Border Ties" *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 33(9).
Waldinger, Roger & Thomas Soehl. 2013. "The bounded polity: The Limits to Mexican Emigrant Political Participation" *Social Forces* 91(4).

12. Multiculturalism and Diversity: Comparative Perspectives

Zolberg, Aristide and Long Litt Woon. 1999. "Why Islam is like Spanish: Cultural Incorporation in Europe and the United States" *Politics and Society* 27(5).
Brubaker, Rogers. 2013 "Language, Religion, and the Politics of Difference" *Nations and Nationalism* 19.
Irene Bloemraad, and Wright, M. 2014. "Utter Failure" or Unity out of Diversity? Debating and Evaluating Policies of Multiculturalism. *International Migration Review* 48(S1): S292-S334.
Christial Joppke 2009. "Limits of Integration Policy: Britain and Her Muslims" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
Ruud Koopmans. 2010. "Tradeoffs Between Equality and Difference: Immigrant, Integration, Multiculturalism, and the Welfare State in Cross National Perspective" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Recommended:

Foner, Nancy and Richard Alba. "Immigrant Religion in the US and Western Europe: Bridge or Barrier to Inclusion?" *International Migration Review* 42

13. Final Class – book manuscript discussion – or topic TBD

We can read parts of a book manuscript I'm currently finishing together with Renne Luthra and Roger Waldinger. Or we can read on another topic.

-- FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS HANDED OUT --

FINAL EXAM DUE DECEMBER 6

Participation Grade rubric as required per McGill regulations

| | A | A- | B | C | D | F |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Interaction with peers | Actively supports, engages and listens to peers (ongoing) | Actively supports, engages and listens to peers (ongoing) | Makes a sincere effort to interact with peers | Limited interaction with peers | Virtually no interaction with peers | No interaction with peers |
| Preparation | Arrives full prepared at every session | Arrives full prepared at almost every session | Arrives reasonably (if not fully) prepared | Preparation, and therefore level of participation, are both inconsistent | Rarely prepared and rarely participates | Never prepared |
| Discussion Participation | Plays an active role in discussions | Plays an active role in discussions | Participates constructively | When prepared, participates constructively in discussions and makes relevant comments based on the assigned material | Comments are generally vague or drawn from outside of the assigned material | Never participates |
| Quality of Comments | Comments advance the level and depth of the dialogue | Comments occasionally advance the level and depth of the dialogue | Makes relevant comments based on the assigned material | Makes relevant comments based on the assigned material | Demonstrates a noticeable lack of interest | Demonstrates a noticeable lack of interest in the material |
| Contribution to Group Dynamics | Group dynamic and level of discussion are consistently better because of the student's presence | Group dynamic and level of discussion are often better because of the student's presence | Group dynamic and level of discussion are occasionally better (never worse) because of the student's presence | Group dynamic and level of discussion are not affected by the student's presence | Group dynamic and level of discussion are harmed by the student's presence | Group dynamic and level of discussion are significantly harmed by the student's presence |