Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of international labor migration and development. The main focus of the course will be on low-end temporary labor migration and its socio-economic impact on developing countries. The study of low-end labor migration matters to development for the following reasons. First, international labor migration is considered a core economic strategy to reduce poverty and improve incomes in developing countries. Second, due to the unequal economic process of globalization, growing numbers of workers from developing countries – of whom more than half are female – are incorporated into global labor markets as cheap and disposable low-end laborers. Third, the current pattern of low-end labor migration reflects macro and micro social issues in developing countries. Therefore, the study of low-end labor migration provides a useful lens to analyze the socio-economic changes occurring in developing countries.

The following issues will be discussed in this course: global patterns of labor flow, the role
of states, recruitment channels, commodification of laborers, circular labor migration, remittances, transnational families, and rights of migrant workers. Throughout the course, I will show two documentaries related to low-end labor migration to Canada. At the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the macro-micro processes in the making of the low-end labor migration system. We will also gain an analytical grasp of the global division of labor that crucially shapes the immigration policies of labor-receiving countries, the socio-economic system of labor-sending countries, and the lives of low-end migrant workers and their families.

Course Requirements

1. Participation
Students are expected to come to class having done the required readings beforehand in order to contribute to class discussion. Readings will average 100 pages per week. In order for this seminar to be successful, all students are expected to make thoughtful contributions to the discussion.

2. Précis
In order to stimulate class participation, students will prepare a précis examining one journal article or book chapter from the weekly readings. The précis should clarify the main argument of the article and then state your critique and reflections of the article. The length will be about 1 double-spaced page. The précis must be sent to the instructor by e-mail by 17:00 on Tuesdays. Précis will begin from the third week of September. This exercise is intended to ensure that you pro-actively do the readings and are ready to engage them in the seminar.

3. Short paper and oral presentation based on the readings
Short analytical paper:
- Students must write one short analytical paper (5 pages, double-spaced) based on the assigned readings. They must then present this paper in the seminar. The goal of this exercise is to analyze the readings in depth and then to discuss them effectively in class.
- The paper is intended to be an analysis or critique of the readings of a specific week. The paper should develop one overarching central argument based on the readings. You
should develop some theme that links the readings and that allows you to develop an insightful analysis.

-Although some minimal summary of the readings is necessary, the paper should avoid spending significant space summarizing the readings. This is an exercise in analysis and critique.
-Students will choose a theme based on the weekly themes between the 3rd week and the 10th week. The oral presentation schedule will be finalized by September 10.

Oral presentation:
-Students must give an oral presentation based on their short paper. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes to present their paper. Since there are about 30 students in the seminar, each week will have at least 3-4 presenters.
-You are strongly encouraged to meet with me during office hours to discuss the paper.

4. Research paper and mini-conference presentation
-Students must write one research paper and give an oral presentation of the research paper.
-The research paper should be a minimum of 10 double-spaced pages and a maximum of 15 double-spaced pages. Students can choose any topic related to international labor migration but the argument should be framed in terms of international development.
-The goal of the research paper is to employ key theoretical points discussed in the seminar and to develop one’s own research ideas. The paper should focus on one central argument and examine it through empirical cases. You will demonstrate this both in writing and orally.
-Research papers are due by e-mail by 17:00 on Friday, December 12. You will receive an e-mail confirmation from me that I have received your paper.
-Before submitting the research paper, students must give a 10-minute oral presentation at the mini-conference. Each presentation will be followed by a 5 minute Q & A session.
-The mini-conference will take place in the last three weeks of the seminar.
-Students must provide a title and an abstract of the presentation by Wednesday, October 15. Each week we will have about 10 presenters.
-It is highly recommended that students use power point for the presentation. You are strongly encouraged to meet with me during office hours to discuss the presentation and
the research paper.
- Further details on the research paper and the mini-conference will be given in class.

5. Attendance at McDonald Currie Lecture (October 23, 2014).
The Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID) annual McDonald Currie Lecture will take place on Thursday, **October 23, 2014**, from 17:00-18:30. The location, speaker and topic will be confirmed shortly and announced on MyCourses. Attending students will receive an extra 1% that will count toward their participation grade. Please note that the participation grade is never to exceed the percentage established for the course. At the lecture, there will be a sign up sheet. Before the lecture begins, students should sign up, providing their name, student ID number, and a signature. Attendance for the full lecture is necessary to receive the extra credit.

**Grade Distribution**
1. *Participation and précis*: 20%
2. *Short paper and class presentation*: 30%
3. *Research paper*: 40%
4. *Mini-conference presentation*: 10%

**Books to Purchase**
The required books have been ordered at the Paragraphe Bookstore on 2220 McGill College Avenue. They are also available on online shops (for example, amazon.ca) often at lower prices for used copies. A copy of the two required books will be placed on reserve in the Humanities and Social Sciences library as well.


All the assigned articles other than the two required books will be placed on MyCourses.

NOTE: There is no coursepack available for this research seminar.

Plagiarism

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)

Policy on Languages

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.

General Information

If you have a hearing, visual and mobility impairment, please contact the instructor immediately (in advance of any evaluations or other class requirements).

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This course syllabus is subject to change in case of unforeseen circumstances.
Course Schedule

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Introduction: Labor Migration and Development</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>(September 10)</td>
<td>Global Patterns of Labor Flow: Pull and Push Factors</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Role of States: Policies in Receiving and Sending Countries</td>
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<td>Commodification of Laborers? : Temporary Foreign Workers in North America</td>
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WEEK 1 (September 3) Introduction: Labor Migration and Development
Introduce the course structure, the main goals, and the course requirements. Discuss why the study of low-end labor migration matters to development.

WEEK 2 (September 10) Global Patterns of Labor Flow: Push and Pull Factors

Readings:
Gamburd, Michele Ruth. *The Kitchen Spoon’s Handle: Transnationalism and Sri*


Film Showing:

Recommended:

WEEK 3 (Sept 17) Role of States: Policies in Receiving and Sending Countries

Readings:


Recommended:


**WEEK 4 (September 24) Recruitment Channels and Migrant Networks**

*Readings:*


*Recommended:*


**WEEK 5 (October 1) Commodification of Laborers?: Temporary Foreign Workers in North America**

*Readings:*

Stasiulis, Daiva and Abigail Bakan. *Negotiating Citizenship: Migrant Women in*


Recommended:


Week 6 (October 8) At the Bottom of the Social Hierarchy: Low-End Labor Migration in the Middle East and Africa

Readings:


Adadjanian, Victor. “Health Costs of Wealth Gains: Labor Migration and Perceptions of

**Recommended:**
http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/26/international/middleeast/26dubai.html

**Week 7 (October 15): Disposable Cheap Laborers? : Low-End Labor Migration within Asia**

**Readings:**

**Recommended:**
WEEK 8 (October 22) Remittances: Socio-Economic Impact on Developing Countries

Readings:

Recommended:

WEEK 9 (October 29) Gender and Transnational Families

Readings:


**Recommended:**


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**WEEK 10 (November 5) Rights and Protection of Migrant Workers**

**Readings:**


**Recommended:**


**Guest Speaker:** TBA

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**Week 11: (November 12) Mini-conference 1**
WEEK 12: (November 19) Mini-conference 2

WEEK 13: (November 26) Mini-conference 3