1. Overview

Together we will explore the role of migration in contemporary society. We will learn to think from three perspectives: 1) from the context of reception, 2) from the context of origin, and 3) from neither/both (i.e. transnationalism). Our primary focus will be on migration to developed countries, particularly the European and North American migration flows. However, these three perspectives will allow us to account for the multiple dimensions of what has become a controversial and fundamental engine of social, cultural, and economic change in both the developing and developed world.

From the perspective of the context of destination, we will consider the meaning and reality of the terminology used to describe the relationship between immigrants and their host society such as “integration”, “assimilation”, and “acculturation”. From the perspective of the context of origin, we will consider the implications of migration for those left behind, focusing on human capital investment and economic/social remittances.

We will understand the difference between what we know, using objectively collected data, and what we do not know. We will address migration theoretically and empirically, considering mechanisms rooted in economics (e.g. wage differentials, remittance obligations, and family insurance), sociology (e.g. social networks and cumulative causation) and political science (public sentiment and political organization). All of this will shed light, not heat, on a lively and ongoing debate into the causes and consequences of migration.

2. Prerequisites

Written and spoken English is required. Students should be numerate and feel somewhat comfortable interpreting quantitative data. The ability to have fun is a plus. Students should also bring an open mind and a willingness to challenge themselves and their classmates.

3. Competencies

General:
- Students will be able to interpret contemporary, quantitative research.
- Students will be able to link general theory to specific case studies derived from the literature.
- Students will be able to apply academic research to contemporary debate.
- Students will be able to present material in a public forum.

Specific:
• Students will be able to describe the basic sociological and economic theory that predicts human migration.
• Students will be able to describe the implications of migration for sending-countries at the national and individual-level
• Students will be able to describe the implications of migration for receiving-countries at the national and individual-level
• Students will be able to access and interpret contemporary, publically available data on migration and migrants.
• Students will identify unresolved or conflicting conclusions about migration

4. Contents

*All readings, organized by session, are included in the bibliography*

Session 1: Introduction
• Description of the course
• Definitions. Migration systems

Session 2: Causes of International Migration
• Survey of general theories on the determinants of migration

Session 3: Social capital and network effects

Session 4: Migrants’ characteristics
• Migration costs
• Income maximization versus labor queues

Session 5: Migration policies

Session 6: Data sources
• Macro data
• Life course perspective
• Mexican Migration Project and Migration between Africa and Europe

Session 7: The Context of Destination
• Incorporation in the labor force and socio-economic mobility

Session 8: Immigrant Incorporation – the second generation
• Focus on education and intermarriage

Session 9: The Context of Origin
• Focus on remittances and education

Session 10: Migration and family change
• Marriage and fertility patterns
• Transnational practices

5. Teaching Methodology

Each class will involve the following three elements:
1:00 – 1:30 hour(s): Lecture
0:00 – 1:30 hour(s): Presentation of readings
1:00 – 1:00 hour(s): Discussion.

6. Assessment

The assessment will be in the following form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Presentation of a paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Final paper</td>
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</tbody>
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7. General Bibliography

Session 1: Who is a migrant and what is migration?

Required:

Session 2: Determinants of International Migration

Required:


Supplementary:


Session 3: Social capital and network effects
Required:

Supplementary:


Session 4. Migrants’ characteristics

Required:
Piore, Michael J. 1979, Birds of Passage. Migrant labor and industrial societies, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4: “Particular characteristics of the migrant labor market”.

Supplementary:


**Session 5. Migration policies**

*Required:*


*Supplementary:*


Session 6: Data sources

Required:


Supplementary:


Session 7: The Context of Destination

Required:

Supplementary:


Session 8: Immigrant Incorporation – the second generation
Required:

Supplementary:


Session 9: The Context of Origin
Required:

Supplementary:


Session 10: Migration and family change

Required:

Supplementary:


Lievens, John 1999 "Family-Formation Migration from Turkey and Morocco to Belgium: The Demand for Marriage Partners from the Countries of Origin", *International Migration Review* 33: 717-744