

Sociology 3741-001: Sociology of Migration - Global & Local Perspectives

Spring 2013
T,H 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.
BEH S 110

Instructor: Pete Loebach, M.S.
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Course Overview & Objectives:

Human migration is and has been an essential part of the development of societies. Our current era has been referred to as “the age of migration” due to new patterns of international migration flows and the sheer scale of these flows. Population migrations have the power to transform societies—at the global and local level, in origins and at destinations. This course will examine the transnational journeys of migrants and refugees and provide an interdisciplinary perspective for understanding the diverse causes, consequences and contexts of contemporary international immigration.

Over the course of the semester we will investigate the diverse global processes that encourage international migration, including: massive international exchanges of money and information; the experience of economic deprivation within and across countries; political conflict within and across countries; and the creation of social and technological linkages that lower barriers to long-distance communication and movement. Students will be given the tools to comprehend the forces that lead migrants and refugees to depart their homelands, cross borders, settle in new communities, and establish transnational ties. Furthermore, we will inquire how each act of migration, and aggregate migration streams, contributes to the transnationalization of social relations, alters existing livelihoods, transforms production and social support relations, and recreates racial-ethnic and national identities. We will also adopt a critical framework to examine the vulnerabilities experienced by vast numbers of humans being trafficked across borders or compelled to leave their homes by violence, conflict, deprivation and disaster.

Salt Lake City is a dynamic context for observing the global actors and migration processes that transform communities, organizations and institutions such as labor markets and families. Far from being a homogenous unchanging population, Utah is one of about a dozen of this country’s “new immigrant gateways”. In the last decade, the foreign-born population of Utah has more than doubled. We will ask how these immigrants and their children are integrating in local institutions and how immigration policies impact citizens' and immigrants' livelihoods.

We will address the following questions throughout this course to develop an understanding of migrants and the migration experience:

- From where do the world’s migrants originate and what motivates their movements?

- How does migration relate to international political-economy?
- What are prominent locations of settlement for immigrants, & why has Utah become a new immigrant gateway?
- In what ways are immigrants and refugees made vulnerable to exploitation and human rights violations?
- How do migrants integrate and adapt within destinations? How have acts of migration transformed notions of family, identity, & community in origin communities?
- What happens to the families, communities & nations that migrants leave behind? How does migration influence social & economic development; family & gender relations in origin communities?
- What factors shape the incorporation of immigrants and their children in US society?

Required Readings

There are two required texts for this course; they are all available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore. There is also a set of required articles from scholarly journals – these will be posted on the course WebCT site. A schedule of readings is attached to the syllabus. Be sure to bring the day's text to class to refer to in discussion.

- 1) Fadiman, Anne. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
- 2) Courtney Smith, Robert. 2006. *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Evaluation & Assessment:

Your final grade in the course will be based, proportionately, upon your performance on the following five requirements (I will circulate additional information on the paper assignments). I will not accept late assignments except in the case of dire emergencies!

- 1) Test 1 – Tue Feb 19 (25% of final grade)
- 2) Reflection and Analysis Papers on the course texts. These papers will be two papers, 2-3 double-spaced pages in length and will each cover 12.5% of the final grade, for a total of 25% of final grade. More detailed instructions will be posted on WebCT.
 - Mexican New York – paper due Mar 7
 - The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down – paper due Apr 4

3) Researching Contemporary Migration Project – Written report & in-class presentation on migrant interview or service learning project (choose 1 option) – due on or before Apr 18 (15% of final grade)

4) Participation – As measured by weekly participation slips, maximum of 2 points per weeks (10% of final grade)

4) Final Exam – May 1, 1-3 PM (25% of final grade)

Expectations for Students:

I believe that we learn a great deal from one another's reflections on course materials, lived experiences, and reflections on current events, public policies, and their coverage in the mass media. I expect that all students will follow a few rules to help create a participatory & respectful class environment:

To arrive to class on time, and on a regular basis. It will be impossible to do well in this course without attending regularly (please inform me if you have university-sanctioned responsibilities, or a medical, family or other emergency that prevents your attendance).

To complete the assigned readings and assignments for the day.

To participate in classroom activities & discussions—as active & respectful listeners, discussants & classmates.

To show courtesy & respect to fellow students and others participating in the course at all times.

To follow the University of Utah code for student conduct (see below).

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: I expect that all students will strive to meet the goals described in the University of Utah's Student Code, which states "the mission of the University of Utah is to educate the individual and to discover, refine and disseminate knowledge. The University supports the intellectual, personal, social and ethical development of members of the University community. These goals can best be achieved in an open and supportive environment that encourages reasoned discourse, honesty, and respect for the rights of all individuals. Students at the University of Utah are encouraged to exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline and engage in the rigors of discovery and scholarship."

Following the Student Code, I adopt a zero-tolerance policy for academic misconduct in this course. "Academic misconduct," according to the University of Utah Student Code, "includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct." For detailed definitions and possible academic sanctions please see: <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Week	Topic	Readings	Due Dates
Week 1 Jan 8, 10	Current Migration in a Historical Perspective	Jan 10 - Hirschmann, "The Impact of Immigration on American Society: Looking Backward to the Future"	
Week2 Jan 15, 17	Theories on the Initiation & Perpetuation of International Migration	Jan 15 - Castles, "Migration & Community Formation Under Conditions of Globalization" Jan 17 - Massey. "Theories of International Migration: A Review & Appraisal"	
Week3 Jan 22, 24	Border Enforcement, Immigration Policy & the Undocumented	Jan 22 - Cornelius, "Controlling 'Unwanted' Immigration" Jan 24 - Bernstein, NY Times article City of Immigrants Fills Jail Cells with Its Own Jan 24 - Portes, "The Fence to Nowhere"	
Week4 Jan 29, 31	Feminization of Migration & the Rights of Migrant Women	Jan 29 - Pessar, "The Role of Gender, Households & Social Networks in Migration" Jan 31 - UNFPA, "A Mighty but Silent River Women & Migration" Jan 31 - Anderson, "Just Another Job?"	
Week5 Feb 5, 7	Immigrant Domestic Workers & the Creation of Transnational Families	Feb 5 - Hochschild, "Love & Gold" Feb 5 - Hondagneu-Sotelo & Avila, "I'm <i>Here</i> , but I'm There" Feb 7 - Parrenas, "Migrant Filipina Domestic workers"	
Week6 Feb 12, 14	Love, Sex & Work in a Globalized World- Human Trafficking, Migrant Sex Workers & Mail-Order Brides	Feb 12 - Skinner, "A Nation within a Nation" Feb 14 - Wonders & Michalowski, "Bodies, Borders & Sex Tourism"	

Week7 Feb 19, 21	Refugees, Asylum-Seekers & Human Rights	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down</i> , Chapters 1-8	Exam #1, Tue Feb 19
Week8 Feb 26, 28	War, Displacement & Other Causes of Forced Migration	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down</i> , Chapters 9-19	
Week 9 Mar 5, 7	The Impact of Migration on Origin Communities, Remittances & the Exodus of Workers	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapters 1-4	Reflection paper #1 due Mar 7
Week 10	SPRING BREAK		
Week 11 Mar 19, 21	Citizenship, Incorporation & the Place of Immigrants in Society	Mar 19 - Portes, "Migration, Development & Segmented Assimilation" Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapters 5-6	
Week 12 Mar 26, 28	Immigrant Transnationalism and New Immigration Destination	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapter 7-8	
Week 13 Apr 2, 4	Gender, Crime and Criminalization of Immigrants	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapter 9-10	Reflection paper #2 due April 4
Week 14 Apr 9, 11	New Destinations of Immigration-- Utah and Beyond	Apr 9 - Durand et al. "The New Geography of Mexican Immigration" Apr 11 - Kandel, "Restructuring Meat Processing & New Immigrant Destinations" Apr 11 - O'Neil & Tienda, "A Tale of Two Counties"	
Week 15 Apr 16, 18	The Future of Immigration ; Course Presentations	No additional reading	

Week 16 April 23	Course Wrap-up & Presentations	No additional reading	
Final Exam May 1, 1:00 -3:00 PM			