

**ASIAN MIGRATIONS AND DIASPORAS  
EAST388  
FALL 2021**

Course schedule: Monday & Wednesdays, 2:35-3:55 pm, Sherbrooke 688, Room 288

Course delivery: In-person

Professor: Maria Cecilia Hwang, Assistant Professor

Department of East Asian Studies/Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies

E-mail: [maria.hwang@mcgill.ca](mailto:maria.hwang@mcgill.ca). I will respond to emails within 48 hours. Expect a response between 9 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday.

Office hours: Thursday, 12-2 pm, Virtual @ <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/7453642329>.

To reserve your spot, sign up @

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zKLSWIKkoFIKR02\\_GK7bvOrJsDdrY4jjD9xyvsTETMQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zKLSWIKkoFIKR02_GK7bvOrJsDdrY4jjD9xyvsTETMQ/edit?usp=sharing)

Course pre-requisites: None

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The dominant literature in migration studies argues that international migration is a liberating experience of gender and sexuality. This assumption is based primarily on the experiences of migrants in the United States, particularly on studies of migrants from Mexico and the Dominican Republic. This class will explore the applicability of this dominant assumption on Asian migrations, which constitute a significant volume of contemporary international migration. We will ask: Is migration a liberating process for women and sexual minorities? How does migration reconstitute gender relations? How do gender and sexuality, along with race, nationality, and class, shape patterns and processes of migration, the regulation of mobility, citizenship, and the lived experiences of migrants? How do imperialism and economic processes of globalization shape border crossings? Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will analyze migration processes as a lens to examine inequalities that arise in globalization and the legacies of imperialism.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- You will gain a deeper understanding of the complex socioeconomic and geopolitical contexts of expanding Asian migrations.
- The assigned texts will introduce you to fundamental concepts and interdisciplinary approaches in the study of gender, sexuality, and international migration.
- The assignments for the class will enable you to (1) enhance your critical reading and writing skills, (2) develop communication skills through class discussions, and (3) develop analytical skills.

### REQUIREMENTS

**Participation (10%):** Student participation is fundamental to succeeding in this class. The participation grade will be based on each student's regular contribution to discussions and ability to demonstrate that they have carefully read the required texts. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared to comment and raise questions on the assigned materials. Students are

encouraged to respond to reading responses posted on myCourses. Debates are encouraged, but discriminatory language will not be tolerated. The participation grade will be based on a scale of “excellent” (90), “good” (75), “pass” (65), and “fail” (0).

**Reading Responses (30%):** Throughout the semester, students are required to post **five** reading responses on the dedicated discussion forum on myCourses. They can be on any five weeks during the semester, but at least two must be posted by week 7. A reading response should be between 300-400 words and should draw connections between the assigned texts. It must be an analytical response to the assigned materials, explain the main arguments of the assigned texts, and answer the following questions: Did you find the author’s argument convincing or not, and why? What are the weaknesses and strengths of the author’s argument and claims? Students are encouraged to critique the author’s research methods and provide other examples related to the assigned texts.

Responses must be posted on myCourses by 10 am EST on the Monday before the first meeting for the week. For example, if you are responding to the readings for September 20 & 22, the response should be posted by September 20, at 10 am EST. Responses will be graded based on a scale of “excellent” (90), “good” (75), “pass” (65), and “fail” (0). Late responses will not be graded.

**Two Tests (30% each):** There will be two take-home tests during the semester. The first test will cover the lectures and materials from weeks 1 to 7, and the second test from weeks 8 to 14. Tests will be graded according to the standard grading scale below. Late tests will be graded based on the late submissions policy below.

Test 1: October 20 - Questions released @ 5pm (via myCourses); October 25 – Test due @ 5pm (via myCourses)

Test 2: December 6 - Questions released @ 5pm (via myCourses); December 9 – Test due @ 5pm (via myCourses)

## GRADING

Grades	Grade Points	Numerical Scale of Grades
A	4.0	85 – 100%
A-	3.7	80 – 84%
B+	3.3	75 – 79%
B	3.0	70 – 74%
B-	2.7	65 – 69%
C+	2.3	60 – 64%
C	2.0	55 – 59%
D	1.0	50 – 54%
F (Fail)	0	0 – 49%

## EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

*Readings:* All readings are available on MyCourses as PDFs or links. As we will devote substantial portions of our time during lectures to discussing texts in detail, you are required to bring to class an electronic or a hard copy of the assigned readings.

*Late submissions:* Unless other arrangements have been made in advance or in cases of documented medical reason, an assignment turn in after the deadline will be marked down 2 points per day for a maximum of 7 seven days, after which it will receive zero credit. Arrangements must be made at least 72 hours before the deadline)

*Electronic devices:* The use of laptops and personal devices is allowed in the classroom. However, no audio or video recording by students is permitted.

*Accommodations:* This course aims to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.

Many students may face mental health challenges that can impact not only their academic success but also their ability to thrive in our campus community. Please reach out for support when you need it; many [resources](#) are available on-campus, off-campus and online.”

If you have difficulty affording food or if you lack a safe and stable place to live and believe that this may affect your performance in this course, I encourage you to contact the Dean of Students who can connect you with support services. If you feel comfortable doing so, please let me know as well, so we can discuss how I can best support your learning.

*Submission of Written Work:* Per 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. (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009.)

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue).

*Academic Honesty:* 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 [McGill’s guide to academic honesty for more information](#)). (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l’honnêteté académique de McGill](#)).

*Copyright Material:* Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

*Syllabus change:* In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.'