

HIST 315: Themes in World History  
Human Migrations, Memory and Identity  
Summer 2014  
11:05–13:25 M, T, W, TH  
Education Building, Room 211

Course instructor: Daniel Lachapelle Lemire, MA  
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Office: Leacock 828  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 13:25 to 15:00

### **Course Description**

This course examines different patterns of human migrations throughout modern history, and encourages students to critically reflect upon the displaced populations' location within, and in-between, spaces and cultures. Through the study of selected cases of internal and international migrations, students tackle the issues of the (re)production of cultural memory and the (re)imagination of identity.

### **Course objectives**

Through discussion of key concepts such as diaspora, ethnicity and social capital, students will acquire the means to study the intersection of migration, memory and identity from a broader range of perspectives. The selected historical examples of human migrations will allow students to consider the interconnectedness between population movements and historical events, and ensuing changing representations (such as, but not limited to, historiography) and political agendas. Furthermore, analysis of these population movements and their multi-layered social repercussions—including the reimagination and reification of collective identities through ritualistic acts of commemoration—will provide students with new conceptual tools to examine current controversies and conflicts. Finally, an introduction to recent theoretical positions and debates in the field of migrations studies will serve as an entry point for students who wish to pursue their exploration of the wider corpus of literature.

Throughout the course, students will be required to read book chapters a few scholarly articles prior to coming to class. They will be required to produce a research proposal (5–6 pages) and to present their work orally in class. To this end, teamwork is encouraged, but each student must submit an original proposal. While not a requirement for success, additional texts can be used to complete the assignment. Students are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and start writing early. All reading material can be expected to feature in the final exam, in addition to the content of the lectures. A short period of time will be devoted to a discussion of the recent subject matters every two or three class sessions; successful students will take advantage of this opportunity to ask questions on their readings and to explore ways of integrating them in a larger context.

## Evaluations

- 15% Participation (includes the oral presentation)
- 25% Research proposal
- 25% Midterm exam
- 35% Final exam

## Policies

The research proposal may not be turned in late, as you have ample time to plan and write it. You may not use the internet during class sessions.

*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).*

*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.*

*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).*

## Class Schedule

### Week One

June 9 (Mon)

Introduction

June 10 (Tue)

- Basic concepts and theory
- Writing history papers—A short introduction  
Read: Robin Cohen, *Global Diasporas: An Introduction*, Chapter 1 (McGill Library online)

June 11 (Wed)

- Labour Migrations: European Examples
- Library Resources, a mini-lecture by Eamon Duffy, Liaison Librarian  
Read: Mark Choate, *Emigrant Nation: The Making of Italy Abroad*, Chapter 3 (Course Pack)

June 12 (Thu)

- Labour Migrations: Asian Examples
- Historiography  
Read: Gijbert Oonk, "We Lost our Gift of Expression': Loss of the Mother Tongue among South Asians in East Africa, 1880-2000," in Gijbert Oonk, ed. *Global Indian Diasporas: Exploring Trajectories of Migration and Theory*, Chapter 3 (McGill Library online)

## Week Two

June 16 (Mon)

- European Empires and Migrations
- The politics of memory  
Read: Peter M. Toner, “The Fanatic Heart of the North,” in David A. Wilson, ed. *Irish Nationalism in Canada*, Chapter 2 (Course Pack)

June 17 (Tue)

- The Japanese Empire and Migrations
- Documentary: Michael Fukushima, *Minoru: Memory of Exile*  
Read: Eiichiro Azuma, *Between Two Empires: Race, History and Transnationalism in Japanese America*, Chapter 7 (McGill Library online)

June 18 (Wed)

- Forced Migrations
- Collective memory and collective identity  
Read: Laura Madokoro, “‘Slotting’ Chinese Families and Refugees, 1947–1967,” in *The Canadian Historical Review* 93, no. 1 (2011): 25-56 (McGill Library online)

June 19 (Thu)

- Nations, Migration and Diaporas I  
Read: Jeffrey Lesser, *Immigration, Ethnicity, and National Identity in Brazil, 1808 to the Present*, Chapter 4 (McGill Library online)

## Week Three

June 23 (Mon)

MIDTERM EXAM

June 24 (Tue)

Fête nationale (Québec holiday)

June 25 (Wed)

- Nations and Ethnic Diversity in Wartime
- Redress and the politics of victimhood  
Read: Michelle McBride, “The Curious Case of Female Internees,” in Franca Iacovetta, Roberto Perin, and Angelo Principe, eds. *Enemies Within: Italian and Other Internees in Canada and Abroad*, Chapter 6 (McGill Library online)

June 26 (Thu)

- Postwar Migration Paradigms
- Presentations, first wave  
Read: Gert Oostindie, *Postcolonial Netherlands: Sixty-Five Years of Forgetting, commemorating, Silencing*, Chapter 6 (McGill Library online)

## Week Four

June 30 (Mon)

- Legacies of Slavery and Colonialism
- Presentations, second wave  
Read: Darién J. Davis and Judith Michelle Williams, “Pan-Africanism, Negritude, and the Currency of Blackness: Cuba, the Francophone Caribbean, and Brazil in

Comparative Perspective, 1930–1950s,” in Darién J. Davis, ed. *Beyond Slavery: The Multilayered Legacy of Africans in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Chapter 7 (Course Pack)

July 1 (Tue)

Canada Day (national holiday)

July 2 (Wed)

- Managing Immigration in Canada and Québec: Challenges
- Presentations, third wave  
Read: Charles Taylor, “The Politics of Recognition,” in Amy Gutmann, ed. *Multiculturalism*, 25–73 (McGill Library online)

July 3 (Thu)

- Nations, Migration and Diasporas II: Recent Trends
- Presentations, fourth wave  
Read: Wei Li, *From Urban Enclave to Ethnic Suburb: New Asian Communities in Pacific Rim Countries*, Chapter 8 (Course Pack)

### **Week Five**

July 7 (Mon)

- History and Space in the Reimagination of Collective Identities  
Read: Paul Brodwin, “The Dialectic of Marginality in the Haitian Community of Guadeloupe, French West Indies”, in Marcus Bullock and Peter Y. Paik, eds. *Aftermaths: Exile, Migration, and Diaspora Reconsidered*, 55–75 (McGill Library online)

July 8 (Tue)

- Migration and History in a Post- Postmodern World  
Read: Takashi Fujitani, *Race for Empire: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans during World War II*, Chapter 4 (McGill Library online).

July 9 (Wed)

- Conclusion to the Course  
LAST DAY TO SUBMIT RESEARCH PROPOSAL

July 10 (Thu)

FINAL EXAM