SOCIOLOGY 520
MIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT GROUPS
Fall 2013

Tuesdays 12:35 – 2:25 P.M./Location: LEA 721
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Office Hours: Tues. 3:00-5:00 P.M. (or by appointment)

COURSE SUMMARY
This graduate seminar examines the patterns, processes, and consequences of international migration for immigrants and the receiving countries where they settle. We will review key theories of international migration, explore issues pertinent to contemporary immigration policy, and assess how migrants’ characteristics and host country conditions affect integration. Comparisons between Canada, the United States, and Western Europe will be drawn throughout the course. This explicit cross-national analytic framework will provide you with a better understanding of Canadian immigration and how it compares and contrasts with other immigrant-receiving countries.

REQUIREMENTS
Breakdown of assignments for final course grade:
   Participation (including leading class discussion) 15%
   Reflection Memos (3): 20%
   Research presentation: 15%
   Research paper: 50%

Participation
Your participation grade consists of two components.

A) Lead class discussions - One student per week will be assigned to lead class discussions. The student presenter will give a brief overview (approx. 10-15 minutes max) of the main themes/issues covered in the readings. Then s/he will present three questions for the class to discuss.
B) Active participation in class – This is a small, reading-intensive graduate seminar on immigration and migrant groups. As such, you are expected to do all the required readings assigned for each week and come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions. Please note that if you do not like discussion-based courses, you will likely not do well in this class. Furthermore, in the past, I have found that students tend to get more out of the class if they are actively engaged in both the readings and class discussions.

Reflection Memos
You will write three reflection memos (2 pages max, double space) on any issue raised in the readings for weeks 4, 7 and 12. Memos must be of an analytical nature and not simply summaries of readings. Memos are due in hard copy at the beginning of class for the weeks they are due.

Research Paper
You will write a 20-25 page (excluding references, tables and figures) research paper for this course. The nature of the research paper will vary depending on whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student.

Undergraduate students who wish to undertake an empirical research paper involving qualitative data analysis or quantitative secondary data analysis must first obtain approval from the instructor.

All students must submit a two page (double space) paper proposal (due October 8, 2013) and also meet with me during my office hours to discuss your proposed project.

Undergraduate Students: You will write a research paper comparing and contrasting the integration of one immigrant group in two different receiving countries. You may choose from any of the following dimensions of integration to focus on: economic, spatial, political, social (including religious, intermarriage, etc.), and health. Receiving countries include: USA, Canada, and specific countries within Western Europe. For example, a student may wish to study the political integration of Muslim immigrants in Canada and the UK.

Graduate Students: You will write an empirical research paper on any topic related to migration and immigrant groups in Canada or in other immigrant-receiving countries. You are expected to incorporate data analysis in your paper; papers consisting only of literature reviews will not be accepted. See MyCourses for some possible data sources.

Due dates:
- First draft due in hard copy at beginning of class on November 05, 2013
- Final draft due by 3 PM to Sociology Department office on Thursday December 12, 2013
Only qualitative data collected as part of another existing project may be used. And ethics approval must be valid and current. We will not be doing any primary qualitative data collection in this course.

Research Presentation
Each student is required to give a 15 minute presentation on their research project. Each presentation will be followed by a 5 minute Q & A session. You will be graded on both the content and delivery of the presentation as well as your performance in the Q & A session. It is highly recommended that you use power point for your presentation.

Details on the format of the presentations will be given in class.

REQUIRED READINGS
Text books and a course pack will not be used. Instead, course readings will consist mainly of journal articles. All journal articles will be available for download as PDFs from myCourses. Any additional readings will either be available for download from designated URL or supplied by the instructor in advance (when electronic versions are not available).

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS
Half a grade will be deducted for every 24 hours that the assignment is late. For example, if your research paper is submitted a day late, and you earn a B- on the assignment, your adjusted paper grade will be C+.

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).

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK
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.

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DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

MyC = download from MyCourses

Week 1 (9/3/13) – International Migration: Introduction & Theories


Week 2 (9/10/13) – Migration and Development


**Recommended:**


**Other Resources:**
Interactive maps of migration & remittances: 
http://www.nytimes.com/ref/world/20070622_CAPEVERDE_GRAPHIC.html#


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**Week 3 (9/17/13) – Immigration Policies and Politics**


**Recommended:**
http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=677
Week 4 (9/24/13) – Contemporary Public Responses to Immigration**


Recommended:


**Reflection memo #1 due beginning of class

Next year have Wimmer as required reading!
Week 5 (10/01/13) – Theories of Immigrant Integration


*Recommended:*


Week 6 (10/08/13) – Transnationalism


*Recommended:*


**Week 7 (10/15/13) – Multiculturalism**


*Recommended:*


http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/multiculturalism/

**Reflection memo #2 due beginning of class**

**Week 8 (10/22/13) – Temporary Workers**


Recommended:

Week 9 (10/29/13) – Assessing the Evidence: Economic Assimilation


Recommended:


Week 10 (11/05/13) – Assessing the Evidence: Immigrant Entrepreneurship


*Recommended:*


Week 11 (11/12/13) – Assessing the Evidence: Spatial Assimilation


Recommended:


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**Weeks 12 (11/19/13) – Health Assimilation**

Recommended:


**Reflection memo #3 due beginning of class**

Weeks 13 (11/26/13 – Presentations)

*NO READINGS!*