

Sociology 4990: Migrants and Borders: Who Belongs in

Fall 2016
MWF 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM
SBS 044

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Department of Sociology
Office: SBS 126
Office hours: Wed 1:30-2:30

Course Overview & Objectives:

The current era has been referred to as ‘the age of migration’ due to the size of current international migration flows and to the new regions from which migrants are originating and those towards which they are moving. Population migrations have the power to transform societies—at the global and local level, in origins and at destinations. This course will provide an interdisciplinary perspective for understanding the diverse causes, consequences and contexts of contemporary international immigration.

Over the course of the semester we will use sociological development theory to understand how countries have come to define who should be allowed to enter a country and become a legal citizen. 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; environmental change and disruption; and the creation of social and technological linkages that lower barriers to long-distance communication and movement.

Ogden 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 political 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:

- What is the historical basis of nation-hood and citizenship?
- 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 their 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?

Outcomes

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, students will understand how each act of migration, and aggregate migration streams alters existing livelihoods, transforms local economies and social support relations, and recreates racial, ethnic and national identities. Students will conceive of a critical framework to conceive of the vulnerabilities experienced by vast numbers of humans being trafficked across borders or compelled to leave their homes by violence, conflict, deprivation and disaster.

As a CEL designated course, SOC 4990 will contribute to the CEL outcomes of civic knowledge, civic values, civic action. These outcomes will be achieved as you will apply theory explaining the causes of refugee displacement and the challenges refugees face, in your experiences of serving to help assist meeting refugees needs here in Ogden.

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 canvas 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) Exam #1 – Oct 12 (20% of final grade, 100 points)
- 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 15% of the final grade, for a total of 30% of final grade. More detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas.
 - Mexican New York – paper due Oct 26 (15% of final grade, 50 points)
 - The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down – paper due Nov 14 (15% of final grade, 50 points)

3) Researching Contemporary Migration Project – Written report & in-class presentation on migrant interview or service learning project – (15% of final grade)

4) Discussion reading responses – (15% of final grade)

5) Exam #2 – Dec 9 (20% of final grade, 100 points)

Exams are to be taken during open hours on the assigned date at any WSU testing centers

Reading Responses

There are daily homework reading responses that are to be completed through Canvas prior to the coinciding day. You will be given a question related to the assigned day's reading that you will then respond to as a "discussion" listed for the appropriate day. An appropriate length for a reading response is 4-6 pages long. Each discussion will be posted within 2 hours following the previous class (ie the discussion for Anderson will be posted shortly after class is held on August 29). The assignment is to be completed before class begins on the day in which the reading is posted (ie Anderson, will be due before class begins on Aug 31). Your grades for reading responses will not be for giving "right" or "wrong" answer, but instead for supplying a thoughtful response that reflects your having done the reading and then reflected on its meaning. In addition, grades will reflect the degree to which your response supplied proper structure, spelling and grammar. You will get two 'passes' for homework. This means that you can miss two homework discussions without having any points deducted from your final grade.

Accommodations for Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Contact SSD by phone at 801-626-6413 Ogden; or 801-395-3442 Davis. Email SSD at ssd@weber.edu

Date	Topic	Readings	Tests, Quizzes, Papers, RR
Aug 29	Course Introduction		
Aug 31	Nationhood	Anderson, "Imagined Communities"	RR
Sept 2	Nationhood	Brubacher, "Immigration, citizenship and the nation-state in France and Germany"	RR

Sept 7	Current Migration in Historical Perspective: Nationhood	Hirschmann, "The Impact of Immigration on American Society: Looking Backward to the Future"	RR
Sept 9	History of American Migration	Waldinger, "Transforming Foreigners into Americans"	RR
Sept 12	Globalization and Theories on the Initiation & Perpetuation of International Migration	Castles, "Migration & Community Formation Under Conditions of Globalization"	RR
Sept 14	Globalization and Theories on the Initiation & Perpetuation of International Migration	Massey. "Theories of International Migration: A Review & Appraisal"	RR
Sept 16	Globalization and Theories on the Initiation & Perpetuation of International Migration		
Sept 19	Border Enforcement, Immigration Policy & the Undocumented	Cornelius, "Controlling 'Unwanted' Immigration"	RR
Sept 21	Border Enforcement, Immigration Policy & the Undocumented	Immigrant detention reading #2	RR
Sept 23	Border Enforcement, Immigration Policy & the Undocumented	Portes, "The Fence to Nowhere"	RR
Sept 26	Feminization of Migration & the Rights of Migrant Women	Pessar, "The Role of Gender, Households & Social Networks in Migration"	RR
Sept 28	Feminization of Migration & the Rights of Migrant Women	UNFPA, "A Mighty but Silent River Women & Migration"	RR
Sept 30	Feminization of Migration & the Rights of Migrant Women	Anderson, "Just Another Job?"	RR
Oct 3	Immigrant Domestic Workers & the Creation of Transnational Families	Hochschild, "Love & Gold"	RR
Oct 5	Love, Sex & Work in a Globalized World- Human Trafficking, Migrant Sex Workers & Mail-Order Brides	Skinner, "A Nation within a Nation"	RR
Oct 7	Love, Sex & Work in a Globalized World- Human Trafficking, Migrant Sex Workers & Mail-Order Brides	Wonders & Michalowski, "Bodies, Borders & Sex Tourism"	RR

Oct 10	EXAM #1		Exam #1
Oct 12	Refugees, Asylum-Seekers & Human Rights	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down</i> , Chapters 1-4	
Oct 14	Refugees, Asylum-Seekers & Human Rights	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down</i> , Chapters 5-8	
Oct 17	Refugees, Asylum-Seekers & Human Rights	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down</i> , Chapters 9-15	
Oct 19	War, Displacement & Other Causes of Forced Migration	Fadiman, <i>The Spirit Catches You & You Fall Down</i> , Chapters 16-20	
Oct 24	Migration and the Environment	Loebach, "Household Migration as a Livelihood Adaptation in Response to a Natural Disaster"	RR
Oct 26	The Impact of Migration on Origin Communities, Remittances & the Exodus of Workers	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapters 1-2	Reflection paper #1 due
Oct 28	The Impact of Migration on Origin Communities, Remittances & the Exodus of Workers	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapters 3-4	
Oct 31	The Impact of Migration on Origin Communities, Remittances & the Exodus of Workers	Portes, "Migration, Development & Segmented Assimilation"	RR
Nov 2	Citizenship, Incorporation & the Place of Immigrants in Society	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapters 5	
Nov 4	Citizenship, Incorporation & the Place of Immigrants in Society	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapters 6	
Nov 7	Immigrant Transnationalism and New Immigration Destination	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapter 7	
Nov 9	Immigrant Transnationalism and New Immigration Destination	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapter 8	

Nov 11	The Ethnic Enclave	Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i> , Chapter 9-10	
Nov 14	The Immigrant Niche		Reflection Paper #2 due
Nov 16	Gender, Crime and Criminalization of Immigrants	Gonzalez, "Learning to be Illegal"	RR
Nov 18	Gender, Crime and Criminalization of Immigrants	Criminalization reading #2	
Nov 21	New Destinations of Immigration-- Utah and Beyond	Durand et al. "The New Geography of Mexican Immigration"	RR
Nov 23	New Destinations of Immigration-- Utah and Beyond	Kandel, "Restructuring Meat Processing & New Immigrant Destinations"	RR
Nov 28	New Destinations of Immigration-- Utah and Beyond	O'Neil & Tienda, "A Tale of Two Counties"	RR
Nov 30	Migration and Development	Migration and development reading #1	RR
Dec 2	Migration and Development	Migration and development reading #2	RR
Dec 5	Course Wrap-up & Presentations		
Dec 7	Course Wrap-up & Presentations		Course paper due
Exam #2, Dec 9			EXAM #2