CROSSING BORDERS:
THE LOGICS AND POLITICS OF TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION

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This course investigates the primary economic, humanitarian, and political forces that are driving and sustaining the phenomenon of contemporary transnational immigration, especially but not exclusively migration to the advanced industrial democracies. Among the questions that will be posed are: Have the forces of globalization and the entanglements of international commitments and treaty obligations significantly compromised the policy making prerogatives of traditional nation states? What are the benefits and costs of migration for the immigration receiving countries? Is a liberal immigration regime desirable and, if so, can it be politically sustained?

This course satisfies the 300 level POLS major course requirement in either comparative politics or international relations.

Course Text:

Anthony M. Messina and Gallya Lahav (eds.) *The Migration Reader: Exploring Politics and Policies*

Other Required Readings: Electronic Copy (EC)


*Focus*, Policy Brief 19, “Internal Migration in China—Opportunity or Trap”?

http://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/dossier-migration/151359/internal-migration-in-china

Samuel P. Huntington, “The Hispanic Challenge,” *Foreign Policy* (March/April 2004)

Irena Kogan, “Labor Markets and Economic Incorporation among Recent Immigrants in Europe,” *Social Forces* (December 2006)


Anthony M. Messina, “The Politics of Migration to Western Europe: Ireland in Comparative Perspective,” *West European Politics* (January 2009)

Anthony M. Messina, “Securitizing Immigration in the Age of Terror,” *World Politics* (July 2014)


**Requirements:**

- Exam (*Feb. 23*) – 33% of grade
- 3-Page Paper (*Mar. 25*) – 20% of grade
- 2 Page Country Report (*April 13*) – 5% of final grade
- 8-10 Page Paper (*May 2*) – 33% of grade
- Class Participation – 9% of grade

**Grading Criteria:** Timely completion of all assignments is required. The scale for the final grade is as follows:

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**Class Attendance Policy:** All students are expected to attend every class unless explicit permission to be excused has been granted. Excessive, unexcused absences (i.e., more than 3) during the semester may result in a loss of a half grade or more from the final grade.

**Plagiarism:** If you do not understand the proper manner in which to cite sources for written work, or if you are unclear about when you may study or collaborate with classmates or when you must work alone, please consult with me as soon as possible. If I suspect a paper has not properly attributed a critical number of words or ideas of others, I will submit it to turnitin.com. and report a violation of the Trinity College Student Integrity Contract to the Dean’s office.
Students with Academic Accommodations: Trinity College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a documented disability and require academic accommodations, please present your accommodations letter during my office hours within the first two weeks of the semester. If you do not have a letter but have a disability requiring academic accommodations, or if you have questions about applying for academic accommodations, please contact Lori Clapis, Coordinator of Accommodation Resources, at 860-297-4025 or at Lori.Clapis@trincoll.edu.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

I. Nature of Transnational Migration

January 26-28  Key Concepts and Trends
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 2, pp. 9-30

Country Report: Suggested length: 2 single spaced pages (Due April 13)
Choose one country in the world and describe its patterns of immigration during the past 5-10 years. Among the questions you should consider are: From which countries do most immigrants originate? In what numbers do they migrate? Where do they settle in the affected country? In which categories do most migrants to the country cluster (e.g. workers, family dependents, asylum seekers, etc.)?

February 2-4  Theoretical Approaches to Migration
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 3, pp. 31-106

February 9  Historical Origins of Contemporary Migration Patterns
Hooghe et al. “Migration to European Countries” (EC)
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 4, pp. 107-125; Chapter 5, pp. 147-169

II. Politics and Policymaking

February 11  Roles of Politics and Ideology in Policy Formulation
Crock, “Alien Fears” (EC)
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 7, pp. 246-266

February 16-18  Economic Foundations of Migration
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 8, pp. 315-339
February 23  EXAM

February 25  Demographic Pressures for Migration
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 9, pp. 341-371

March 2-4  Politics of Resentment
Arzheimer, “Extreme Right Vote in Western Europe” (EC)
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 10, pp. 373-374; 384-401

Exercise: Suggested length: 3 double spaced pages. (Due Mar. 25)
Draw up a list of 5 plausible answers or hypotheses to the question:

Given the large number of settled immigrants and illegal aliens in the country and the high percentage of Americans who oppose new mass immigration, why are there no significant extreme right or anti-immigrant political parties in the United States? Briefly scrutinize 3 of your hypotheses in light of what you actually know or suspect to be contradictory or problematic evidence drawn from other country cases or regions.

March 9  Challenges of Immigrant Incorporation: Citizenship
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 11, pp. 403-469

March 11-23  Challenges of Immigrant Incorporation: Political Participation and Representation
Messina and Lahav, Migration Reader, Chapter 11, pp. 470-493

Select Either Assignment: Suggested length 8-10 pages. (Due May 2)
Choose a London borough with a significant ethnic/immigrant population (i.e. > 20% of the total population). On the basis of your research of secondary and/or primary sources address the following question: How well are ethnic minorities represented and incorporated economically and/or politically in the borough? Be sure to create a statistical profile of the immigrants settled within the borough, preferably represented by constructing tables, figures, and/or graphs.

Choose a city in the United States with a significant ethnic/immigrant population (i.e. > 20% of the total population). On the basis of your research of secondary and/or primary sources address the following question: How well are ethnic minorities represented and incorporated economically and/or politically in the city? Be sure to create a statistical profile of immigrants settled within the city, preferably represented by constructing tables, figures, and/ or graphs.
March 25  
*Challenges of Immigrant Incorporation: Economy*

Kogan, “Labor Markets and Economic Incorporation” (EC)

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III. Immigration as a Challenge to States and Societies

March 30-April 1  
*Controlling Borders and Challenges to State Sovereignty*

Chapter 13, pp. 569-587

April 6  
*Controlling Internal Migration*

*Focus*, Policy Brief 19

April 8-13  
*Immigration, Social Capital, and Social Cohesion: Are Contemporary Immigrants a Threat to Community?*

Putnam, “*E Pluribus Unum*” (EC)  
Kymlicka and Banting, “Immigration, Multiculturalism, and the Welfare State” (EC)

April 14-20  
*Are Contemporary Immigrants a Threat to National Identity? The American Case*

Huntington, “The Hispanic Challenge” (EC)  
Citrin et al., “Testing Huntington” (EC)

April 22  
*Securitizing Immigration in the Post-September 11th Era*

Messina and Lahav, *Migration Reader*, Chapter 13, pp. 609-615  
Messina, “Securitizing Immigration” (EC)

April 27  
*Migration to New Destinations*

Singer, “The Rise of New Immigrant Gateways” (EC)  
Messina, “The Politics of Migration to Western Europe” (EC)

May 2  
FINAL PAPER DUE
WHAT IS A HYPOTHESIS?

A hypothesis is a preliminary or tentative explanation or postulate by the researcher of what the researcher considers the outcome of an investigation will be. It is an informed/educated guess.

It indicates the expectations of the researcher regarding certain variables. It is the most specific way in which an answer to a problem can be stated.

It can be said to be a statement: 1) postulating a possible relationship between two or more phenomena or variables; and 2) describing a phenomenon or which specifies a relationship between two or more phenomena.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HYPOTHESIS AND A PROBLEM

Both a hypothesis and a problem contribute to the body of knowledge which supports or refutes an existing theory. A hypothesis differs from a problem. A problem is formulated in the form of a question; it serves as the basis or origin from which a hypothesis is derived. A hypothesis is a suggested solution to a problem. A problem (question) cannot be directly tested, whereas a hypothesis can be tested and verified.

WHEN IS A HYPOTHESIS FORMULATED?

A hypothesis is formulated after the problem has been stated and the literature study has been concluded. It is formulated when the researcher is aware of the theoretical and empirical background to the problem.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF A HYPOTHESIS

- It offers explanations for the relationships between those variables that can be empirically tested.
- It furnishes proof that the researcher has sufficient background knowledge to enable him/her to offer suggestions in order to extend existing knowledge.
- It gives direction to an investigation.
- It structures the next phase in the investigation and therefore furnishes continuity to the examination of the problem.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A HYPOTHESIS

- It should have elucidating power.
- It should strive to furnish an acceptable explanation of the phenomenon.
- It must be verifiable; i.e. it can be proven to be correct.
- It must be formulated in simple, understandable terms.
- It should correspond to existing knowledge.
Major Scholarly Journals on Immigration

- Asian and Pacific Migration Journal
- Citizenship Studies
- Diaspora
- Ethnic and Racial Studies
- Ethnicities
- Forced Migration Review
- Immigrants and Minorities
- International Migration
- International Migration Review
- Journal of American Ethnic History
- Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
- Journal of Refugee Studies
- Migration
- Migration Studies
- National Identities
- Nations and Nationalism

Data Sources on Immigration

http://www.global-migration.info/
http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/comparative.cfm
http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/bypass/pid/8?entryId=932
http://www.mipex.eu/play/
http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4d6.html
http://www.migpolgroup.com/home/
http://focus-migration.hwwi.de/Country-Profiles.1349.0.html?&L=1
http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/MRS43.pdf?utm_source=E-mail+Updates&utm_campaign=b978d7dced-Immigration+Reading+9+25+149252014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7dc45d977-b978d7dced-44166265
http://data.cmsny.org/
http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/