POLS 3300-004
Selected Topics in Political Science:
Political Economy of Immigration
Spring 2014
Tu-Th 9:30-10:50
Holden Hall 28

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Course description:

This is a writing-intensive undergraduate class geared towards upper level students interested in the politics and economics of international migration in both sending and receiving countries. The course assumes a basic knowledge of international relations and history, and a limited understanding of economic theory. Course readings and lectures are designed to provide both a theoretical orientation and the substantive information necessary to understand and analyze a range of issues related to international migration from a political economy perspective.

Course objectives:

International labor flows (migration) receive significant attention in the media and political circles, but there is a lack of systematic and thorough analyses of the topic. The purpose of this class is to provide the tools for such an analysis focusing on the political and economic aspects of immigration and other related topics such as remittances.

The objective of a social and behavioral science component of a core curriculum is to increase the student’s knowledge of how social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the underlying causes of international migration
- Understand and demonstrate knowledge of the different policies countries implement to deal with international labor flows.
- Identify and critique alternative explanations for claims about social and political issues as well as human behavior.

These objectives will be a critical part of the assessment process for reading responses, and the midterm and final exams.

This syllabus is the first place you should check for information about the class.

Requirements:

There is one required textbook, available in the bookstore and in online retailers:


In the reading list, it will be listed as Goldin et. al. The rest of the readings will be available on pdf format in Blackboard.

Grading will be as follows:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading responses (6)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 before the midterm, 3 after</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take home midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Feb. 27, due Mar. 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take home final (May 2, due May 9)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation: Attendance and occasional quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Note: March 26 is the last day to drop out.

Reading responses:

During the semester, you will have to turn six 1-2 pages responses to a reading for 6 different weeks. This means you can only turn in one reading response each week. These responses are not meant to be only summaries of the readings, but also critiques. The reading responses will be graded based on the following criteria:

1) Argument:

What is the argument of the author(s)?
What are the assumptions of the argument?
Is the argument logical and consistent? Why?
2) Evidence

What evidence does the author use to support her/his argument? Is the evidence convincing? Why yes/no? Has the author addressed all possible alternative explanations for the issue she/he is studying?

Important points about the responses:

1. These responses have to be turned in on the Monday BEFORE the topic reading is due by email.
2. You can only turn in a maximum of one reading response per week.
3. 3 of your responses have to be turned in before the midterm on March 6, 3 after the midterm.
4. NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED.

Tests:

Both the midterm and the final exam will be essay type, take home test. I will give you a couple of essay type questions and you will have to use the readings to answer them. You will have 1 week to return your responses. NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED.

Attendance/participation

The last 10% of your grade will consist of a combination of attendance, and occasional quizzes. Every day I will pass an attendance sheet. If you miss more than 10 classes (5 weeks) or 1/3 of the classes over the semester, you will lose that 10%. That means if you show up to class consistently, you have earned ten percent of your grade. It also means that if you miss 1/3 of the classes you cannot mathematically earn an A. If you are going to miss class for academic, family, health, or religious reasons, you have to contact the professor or the TA before the class (email is fine).

Cell phone policy/Occasional quizzes:

If I hear a cell phone ring or vibrate, or if I find out someone using their phone during class I will ask everyone to take out a piece of paper and we’ll have a pop quiz about the readings. This will be averaged with your attendance for the participation part of the class.

Policies:

I do not accept late work and there will be NO extra credit in this course. If you are concerned about your grade or have questions about class material, you should
make it a point to email and/or visit office hours to discuss the matter with either the TA or me over the semester.

If you believe a mistake has been made grading one of your assignments or taking attendance, you have to address them ONE week after the grade has been posted on Blackboard. The sooner in the semester you ask for help, the most likely it is that a difference can be made. By the time the midterm has passed, 45% of the final grade will be determined. Do not wait until the end of the term to seek assistance as that will be too late to make a difference.

If you need to earn a certain grade to retain a scholarship, stay in school, graduate, etc., it is your responsibility to take the steps to earn that grade. Under no circumstance will I arbitrarily change a grade, so do not ask. That includes graduation.

**Observance of a Religious Holiday:**

Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor’s office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information you may contact the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

**Academic Integrity:**

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other act of academic dishonesty will result in a 0.0 for the course. For more information on TTU’s Academic Integrity Policy see: [http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php)
Schedule:

**Week 1: Introduction**
January 16

**Week 2: Why does migration occur?**
January 21-23


Goldin et. al. Chapter 4

**Week 3: History of Global Migration**
January 28-30

Goldin et. al. Chapter 1

Goldin et. al. Chapter 2


**Week 4: State of world migration today**
February 4-6

Goldin et. al. Chapter 3


**Week 5: History of US Migration**
February 11: 1700s-1800s


**February 13: 1900s-2000s**


**Week 6: Immigration and border control**

**February 18: Immigration admissions**

Goldin et. al. Chapter 5


**February 20: Immigration control**


**Week 7: Different types of immigration policies**

**February 25: Family vs Skills**


**February 27: Temporary worker programs**


**MIDTERM EXAM WILL BE GIVEN**

**Week 8: Immigration and the labor market**
**March 4-6**


**MIDTERM EXAM DUE MARCH 6**

**Week 9: Fiscal impact of immigration**
**March 11: Fiscal impact of immigration around the world**


**March 13: Fiscal impact of immigration in the United States**


**Spring Break**

**Week 10: Immigration and trade**

**March 25: Theory**

*Reminder: March 26 is the last day to drop the class.*


**March 27: Immigration and Free Trade Agreements**


**Week 11: Immigration and international investment**

**April 1**


**April 3: MPSA Class Cancelled**

**Week 12: Remittances and Brain drain/Brain gain**

**April 8: Remittances**


**April 10: Brain drain/brain gain**


**Week 13: Immigration in the European Union**

April 15-17


**Week 13: Undocumented immigration**

April 22-24


**Week 14: Refugees and asylum seekers**  
**April 29-May 1**


**Week 15: The future of migration**  
**May 6**

Goldin et. al. Chapters 7 and 8
Read the syllabus carefully and answer the following questions. Turn in the answers on January 21. This will count as one of your quizzes.

1. How many reading responses do you have to turn in and when? What’s the maximum number of responses you can turn in each week?

2. What happens if you miss more than 10 classes (or 1/3 of the classes over the semester)?

3. What happens if a cell phone rings/vibrates in class or if I find someone using their phone in class?

4. If there is a grading/attendance mistake when should you contact the TA or the professor?

5. When is late work accepted?

6. Are grades ever changed (other than grading errors)?

7. Can you get extra credit in this class?

8. If you are having any problems or difficulties succeeding in this class and you need help, at what point in the semester should you contact the professor?

9. When is the last day to drop a class?

10. What are the email addresses of the professor and the TA and when are the office hours?