This is the first part in a sequence of three courses: Sociology 236A, B, and C. This course is also part of the School of Law curriculum as Law 436.

We seek to offer a comprehensive multi-disciplinary overview of the key current theoretical and policy debates in the study of international migration. Our goal is to explore comparatively (in both historical and cross-national dimensions) the North American, European and other global experiences of migration and the law’s responses to migration at national and supranational levels. The emphasis is on exploring both the theoretical and policy debates of the field and the empirical data and case studies on which these debates hinge. The long term goal is to encourage students to undertake research and engage in policy work or policy-centered practice at the intersection of law and social science in the field of migration studies. We trust that with an enrollment that includes graduate and professional students from the School of Law, Department of Sociology, and other campus units, the discussions will reflect a variety of disciplinary perspectives to the benefit of all participants.

The field of international migration studies is, perhaps, unique in its interdisciplinary and methodologically pluralist nature: stretching from the demography and economics of migration, through law and political science, geographical and mainstream sociological approaches, to the ethnography and oral history of migrants. Migration is also a crucial research site for exploring the multitude of intersections between law and sociology, including the limits of law in regulating immigration, the relationship between immigration law on the books and immigration law in action, and the possibility of doing sociology ‘beyond’ the bounded nation-state-society focus of most sociological research. And, while opening the door to a crucial dimension of globalization, the comparative study of migration and migrants
in North America and Europe also offers opens up fresh perspectives on conceptions of nationhood, citizenship, constitutionalism, and the state.

We will begin with an orientation to the field and then proceed to consider two main components. International migration is an inherently a phenomenon of politics and law. Consequently, we principally focus on the development and implementation of laws and policies controlling movement across territorial borders and into the political communities that “immigrant” receiving states seek to enclose. We also consider options for law reform, including targeted and broad-scale legalization programs, and revised admission schemes for immigrants and temporary workers. Another area of focus is the structure of government decisionmaking and other matters of institutional design, including questions of federal versus state/local authority and separation of powers between branches of the federal government. Though in theory we aspire to a global orientation, in the main we settle for a comparative focus on Europe and the United States.

The more ‘classic’ issues of immigration — assimilation, integration, race/ethnic relations, transnationalism — will be encountered in Soc 236b, to be taught in the spring quarter, and with particular attention to the United States. In lieu of Soc 236c, an occasional workshop (hopefully once month) will provide an opportunity for presentation of student research projects on international migration, whether at M.A., Ph.D., or en route levels.

Course requirements

The basic requirement is to do the readings. There are plenty of them, and you need to stay on top of the material at all times. Most of our class time will consist of structured discussion, interwoven with occasional brief overview lectures. This means that everyone should anticipate participating in class discussions; those who don’t raise hands can expect to be called on, in every class.

In addition, each student will be asked to write one “issues paper,” surveying, synthesizing, and critically assessing the readings for any one session starting October 8; the papers should be roughly five pages in length and posted to the website by the Sunday evening before the relevant class meeting. Please consider your preferences and send us an email, by no later than September 30, with three possible dates, listed in order of preference. While we will try to give you your choice, we will also need to ensure that the number of issues papers per session is evened out throughout the quarter and therefore may have to assign you your second or third preference. We will decide this quickly and will email assignments back to you by the end of the following day, October 2.

There will be a comprehensive, take-home final exam, due at the end of the law school exam period, Thursday, December 19.


Other readings are available online in one of two ways, as indicated for each selection:

(1) via the UCLA library website, marked “(LIB)” (for example, for journal articles and other materials available on JSTOR), or
(2) via the course website: https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/13F-SOCIOLO236A-1, marked “(CW)”.

Note on connectivity: to access materials through the UCLA library website, you will need to access from campus, or through a computer on campus through remote desktop connection, VPN, or a functional equivalent.

Note to law students: to access the course website (which is not part of MyLaw), you will need to use your UCLA campus log–in, which may be different from your UCLA MyLaw or other law school log–in user name and password.

**October 1: Session 1: Democracy, Community, and Freedom of Movement**


**October 8: Session 2: Theories of Migration**


October 15, Session 3: International Migration and the State


October 22: Session 4: U.S. Immigration Policy


October 29: Session 5: Reforming U.S. Immigration Policy


November 5: Session 6: Citizenship


Ruud Koopmans et al., *Contested Citizenship: Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Europe*, pp. 1–16 (Introduction and chapter 1). Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2005 (CW)


November 12: Session 7: Rights and Multiculturalism


Ruud Koopmans et al., *Contested Citizenship: Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Europe*, pp. 50–73 (chapter 2). Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2005 (CW)


November 19 Session 8: Guestworkers, Immigrants, and Citizens


**November 26: Session 9: Government Structure and Immigration Decisionmaking**


**December 3: Session 10: Implementation, Policing, Bordering**


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