

Econ 358 and PPE 358 Topics in Political Economy: Migration

Fall 2022

MWF 3:10–4:00

Baxter 201

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Migration is an important policy issue in many countries. It has been important for a long time and will remain so in the future. The nature of the topic is such that we cannot discuss it without touching on politics and ethics as well as economics, making it an ideal PPE topic.

Course Goals

1. The student will use economic theory to understand the causes of migration and the effects on all interested parties.
2. The student will develop an opinion on migration policy informed by economics, political science, and ethics.
3. The student will use and develop his research skills.

Instruction Method: Discussion

We will spend most of our class time discussing the readings. This method means you are responsible to your classmates for preparing for class. It has many advantages, including:

- You will learn more from actively discussing the material than from passively listening to me.
- We can focus class time on the material that you find most challenging or interesting.
- You will practice critical thinking as you critique the readings.
- You will hear ideas from your classmates that you may not have otherwise heard. Understanding their viewpoint builds empathy.
- You will find your voice as you share your ideas with others.
- You will become a better leader as you learn that leadership involves listening to others.
- In defending your own position you will understand it more deeply.
- You will have more fun.

Assignments

Homework: Expect a homework assignment every day. I will also distribute discussion questions for you to think about while reading the text. Late homework gets half credit, and no homeworks will be accepted after the last day of class.

Participation: You will get daily points for participation. If you are not present you will get a zero for participation, unless you have a Dean's excuse or you send me comments on the day's reading.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams.

Interview: You will interview an immigrant and write a 600-1000 word summary of what you learned from this interview.

Research Paper and Presentation: You will research a migration policy or outcome in a country other than the US. You will present your results both as a 10-minute oral presentation and as a paper of 1800-2000 words.

Policy Paper: You will write a 1000-1500 word paper describing what immigration policy the US should adopt. Your paper should explain both why you prefer this policy and why you reject alternative policies.

Grading

Homework	12%
Participation	8%
Interview	10%
Test 1	15%
Test 2	15%
Research Paper	20%
Presentation	5%
Policy Paper	15%

Office Help Hours

Connecting with faculty outside of class is an important part of your Wabash education. Don't miss out! You are welcome to use office hours to discuss the course material, or anything else on your mind. I post my office hours weekly.

Academic Credit

This course complied with the Wabash College Academic Credit Policy as stated in the Academic Bulletin. In addition to regular class meetings, direct faculty instruction takes place in this course through faculty office hours, advising meetings for papers, detailed feedback on student presentations and projects.

Academic Honesty

Your work must be your own and original for this class and its assignments. You may discuss the readings with your classmates, but your answers to the homework questions must be in your own words. In written work cite your sources; all direct quotations should be in quotation marks and should have a citation including the page number. See <http://www.wabash.edu/news/docs/AcademicHonestyGuide.pdf>.

Books

Books you need to buy:

- Cynthia Bansak, Nicole B. Simpson, and Madeline Zavodny, *The Economics of Immigration*, Routledge 2015
- Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans*, One World: New York, 2020
- Bryan Caplan and Zach Weinersmith, *Open Borders: The Science and Ethics of Immigration*, First Second, 2019

Books available from the library as ebooks:

- Leah Boustan, *Competition in the Promised Land*, Princeton Univ. Press, 2016, Ch. 3
- Timothy Hatton and Jeffrey Williamson, *Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance*, MIT Press 2008, Ch. , 9, & 16

Other readings available on Canvas:

- Abraham Lustgarten, "The Great Climate Migration" and "How Climate Migration Will Reshape America" *New York Times*, 2020
- Tim Hatton, "Asylum Migration to the Developed World: Persecution, Incentives, and Policy" *Jnl. of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 2020, 34:75-93.
- Courtney Brell, Christian Dustmann, and Ian Preston, "The Labor Market Integration of Refugee Migrants in High-Income Countries" *Jnl. of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 2020, 34:94-121.
- Valerie Raleigh Yow, *Recording Oral History*, 3rd Ed, Rowman & Littlefield, 2015, Ch. 4 "Interviewing Techniques and Strategies"

Gordon Hanson, "Illegal Migration from Mexico to the United States" *Jnl of Economic Literature*, Dec. 2006

Francesco Fasani et. al., *Does Immigration Increase Crime?* Cambridge Univ. Press 2019, Ch. 3 "Immigration and Crime in the United Kingdom"

Kitty Calavita, *Inside the State: The Bracero Program, Immigration, and the INS*, Routledge 1992, Ch. 2 & 3.

Martha Nussbaum, "Can Patriotism Be Compassionate?" *The Nation*, 273, no. 20, Dec. 17, 2001, pp. 123-34.

Richard Vedder "Proposal for a Visa Market" in Ben Powell, *The Economics of Immigration*, Oxford 2015

George Borjas, *Heaven's Door: Immigration Policy and the American Economy*, Princeton Univ. Press 1999, Ch. 10 & 11

Schedule

Date	Task	Topic	Reading
Aug 24		Introduction	
26		Why Migration	Bansak Ch. 2 & 3
29		Climate Change	Lustgarten "The Great Climate Migration" and "How Climate Migration Will Reshape America" <i>NYT</i>
31		Refugees	Hatton 2020 "Asylum Migration to the Developed World" <i>JEP</i>
Sept. 2		Assimilation	Bansak Ch. 5
5		Assimilation of Refugees	Brell, Dustmann and Preston, 2020, "The Labor Market Integration of Refugee Migrants" <i>JEP</i>
7		How to Interview	Yow, <i>Recording Oral History</i> , Ch. 4
9	Interview Qs Due	Data Lab	
12	Data Lab Due	Selection model	
14		Selection	Bansak Ch. 4
16	No Class	Conduct Interview	
19		Economic Mobility	Bansak Ch. 6
21		Undocumented immigration	Villavicencio, <i>The Undocumented Americans</i> , Ch. 1 & 2
23	Interview Summary Due	Discuss interview results	
26		Undocumented immigration	Hanson, 2006, "Illegal Migration from Mexico to the United States" <i>JEL</i>
28		Visitor: Gail Merriman	
30		Undocumented immigration	Villavicencio, <i>The Undocumented Americans</i> , Ch. 5 & 6
Oct .3	At the Free Clinic	Undocumented immigration	
5	Test One		
7	Meet at the Library	Library Day: Sources	
10		Efficiency gains	

12		Wage effects: Theory	Bansak Ch. 7
14	BREAK		
17	(Meetings on research paper)	Wage effects: Evidence	Bansak Ch. 8
19		Effects of the Great Migration	Boustan, <i>Competition in the Promised Land</i> , Ch. 3
21		Fiscal effects	Bansak Ch. 10
24		Crime	Fasani Ch. 3 "Immigration and Crime in the United Kingdom"
26		Effects on the source country	Bansak Ch. 11 Hatton & Williamson pp. 327-336
28	Annotated Bibliography Due	Overview of US policy	
31		Rise and fall of mass migration	Hatton & Williamson Ch. 4 & 9
Nov. 2		Bracero program	Calavita, <i>Inside the State</i> , Ch. 2 & 3
4		Current US policy	Bansak Ch. 13
7		Voter attitudes	Hatton & Williamson Ch. 16
9	Test Two		
11		Presentations	
14		Presentations	
16		Presentations	
18	Research Paper Due 5:00 pm	Presentations	
THANKSGIVING BREAK			
28		Underlying Ethics	Nussbaum "Can Patriotism Be Compassionate?" <i>The Nation</i>
30		Proposal 1	Vedder "Proposal for a Visa Market"
Dec. 2		Ethics & Proposal 2	Borjas, <i>Heaven's Door</i> , Ch. 10-11
5		Proposal 3	Caplan, <i>Open Borders</i> , Ch. 1-3
7		Proposal 3	Caplan, <i>Open Borders</i> , Ch. 4, 6-8
9		Discuss policies	
14	Final Paper Due 4:30 pm		