**Econ 358 and PPE 358 Topics in Political Economy: Migration**  **Spring 2021**

MWF 3:20–4:10

Hays 319

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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.

**Safety**

I am happy to be here in person and proud that Wabash was in person for the entire fall semester. Let's all work together to make this a good semester!

Masks are required in class. To maintain safe distances, sit in marked seats and enter and exit through the doors as marked.

Do not come to class if you are ill. Use the symptom monitoring app, and do what it says. This is especially important if you experience any of the CDC described symptoms for COVID-19—such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, and/or the loss of taste or smell. You should contact Health Services immediately and then inform me. Students are expected to follow the Gentleman’s Rule.

**Absences**

Students are expected to come to class in person if it is safe to do so. If you do not have a red Stop you should be in class.

If you cannot be in class, it is important that you *communicate* your situation with me so that we can work together to find the optimal solution. If you need to be in quarantine or isolation, remember to take you books with you. Students who are in quarantine but not ill may attend class via Zoom. Contact me at least two hours before class so that I can set up a Zoom meeting. If you join via Zoom and participate in the class discussion then you count as present for the class.

**Office 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 will generally be in 9:00-10:30 am every day except Wednesday, 1-3 pm on MWF, and 1-2:30 pm on TTh (unless I have a meeting). You are welcome to come to my office, call me on the phone, or schedule a Zoom conference.

**Assignments**

*Daily Grades*: You will receive a grade for each class period. These grades include participation in discussion, and homeworks or quizzes or homeworks on the readings. If you are absent, you will be given a makeup assignment for that day's discussion grade.

*Readings*: You are expected to do the assigned reading and come to class ready to discuss it. To encourage you to do the reading there will be homework or a quiz due at the beginning of class. I will also distribute discussion questions for you to think about while reading the text.

*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 in a country other than the US. You should describe the policy and analyze either the politics of how the policy was passed or the economic effects of the policy. You will present your results both as a 10-minute oral presentation and as a paper of 2000-2500 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**

Daily Grades 20%

Interview 10%

Test 1 15%

Test 2 15%

Research Paper 20%

Presentation 5%

Policy Paper 15%

**Academic Credit**

This course complied with the Wabash College Academic Credit Policy. In addition to regular class meetings, direct faculty instruction takes place in this course through faculty office hours, advising for papers, detailed feedback on student work, and required attendance at lectures by outside speakers.

**Academic Honesty**

Your work must be your own and original for this class and its assignments. You may not share answers with other students on the Canvas quizzes. In written work cite your sources. All direct quotations should be in quotation marks and should have a citation including the page number. Should circumstances require you to attend class virtually, specific instructions on what constitutes academic dishonesty will be given for each assignment. 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. 4, 9, 16

*Other readings available on Canvas:*

Abrahm 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 |
| Jan. 25 |  | Introduction |  |
| 27 |  | Why Migration | Bansak Ch. 2 & 3 |
| 29 |  | Climate Change | Lustgarten "The Great Climate Migration" and "How Climate Migration Will Reshape America" *NYT* |
| Feb. 1 |  | Refugees | Hatton 2020 "Asylum Migration to the Developed World" *JEP* |
| 3 |  | Assimilation | Bansak Ch. 5 |
| 5 |  | Data Lab: Cohorts |  |
| 8 |  | Assimilation of Refugees | Brell, Dustmann and Preston, 2020, "The Labor Market Integration of Refugee Migrants" *JEP* |
| 10 |  | How to Interview | Yow, *Recording Oral History*, Ch. 4 |
| 12 | Interview Qs Due | Selection model |  |
| 15 |  | Selection | Bansak Ch. 4 |
| 17 |  | Economic Mobility | Bansak Ch. 6 |
| 19 |  | Undocumented immigration | Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans*, Ch. 1 & 2 |
| 22 |  | Visitor: Gail Merriman |  |
| 24 |  | Undocumented immigration | Hanson, 2006, "Illegal Migration from Mexico to the United States" *JEL* |
| 26 |  | Undocumented  immigration | Villavicencio, *The Undocumented Americans,* Ch. 5 & 6 |
| Mar. 1 | At the Free Clinic;  Interview Summary Due | Undocumented  immigration |  |
| 3 |  | Discuss interview results |  |
| 5 | Test One |  |  |
| 8 |  | Efficiency gains |  |
| 10 |  | Wage effects: Theory | Bansak Ch. 7 |
| 12 | Meet at the Library | Library Day: Sources |  |
| 15 |  | Wage effects: Evidence | Bansak Ch. 8 |
| 17 |  | Effects of the Great Migration | Boustan, *Competition in the Promised Land,* Ch. 3 |
| 19 |  | Fiscal effects | Bansak Ch. 10 |
| 22 |  | Crime | Fasani Ch. 3 "Immigration and Crime in the United Kingdom |
| 24 | (Meetings on research paper) | Effects on the source country | Bansak Ch. 11  Hatton & Williamson pp. 327-336 |
| 26 | Annotated Bibliography Due | Overview of US policy |  |
| 29 |  | Rise and fall of mass migration | Hatton & Williamson Ch. 4 & 9 |
| 31 |  | Bracero program | Calavita, *Inside the State,* Ch. 2 & 3 |
| Apr. 2 | Reading Day | | |
| 5 |  | Current US policy | Bansak Ch. 13 |
| 7 | Test 2 |  |  |
| 9 |  | Voter attitudes | Hatton & Williamson Ch. 16 |
| 12 | Presentations |  |  |
| 14 | Presentations |  |  |
| 16 | Research Paper Due | Celebration of Student Research – No Class |  |
| 19 |  | Underlying Ethics | Nussbaum "Can Patriotism Be Compassionate?" *The Nation* |
| 21 |  | Proposal 1 | Vedder "Proposal for a Visa Market" |
| 23 |  | Underlying Ethics | Borjas, *Heaven's Door*, Ch. 10 |
| 26 |  | Proposal 2 | Borjas, *Heaven's Door*, Ch. 11 |
| 28 |  | Proposal 3 | Caplan, *Open Borders*, Ch. 1-3 |
| 30 |  | Proposal 3 | Caplan, *Open Borders,* Ch. 4, 6-8 |
| May 3 |  | Discuss policies |  |
| May 11 | Final Paper Due 4:30 pm |  |  |