This is an advanced level graduate seminar designed to cover the main areas of social science research on migration and migrants. Migration is a phenomenon of central interest and an important topic of study in all the disciplines in social science. These days it has become a hot political topic as well, in the United States and worldwide. We will focus on sociological, demographic, and economic approaches to the study of migration and migrants. The literature on migration and migrants is vast; we will only have time to scratch the surface and cover the main themes. We will start by examining theories of migration (who migrates, why, where do they go) and attempts to answer these questions empirically using macro and micro level approaches. We will then look at some case studies of migration systems, with one week devoted to US-Mexico migration and one week to contemporary patterns in Europe. From there we will turn to examining the experiences of migrants and consequences of migration, with particular attention to the United States. First, we’ll discuss theories of immigrant incorporation and assimilation. Next we will consider economic, socio-cultural, and demographic realms of immigrant experience in the US. Then we will examine comparative approaches to these questions. We’ll analyze key debates about the consequences of migration for sending countries and for the United States. We will conclude by looking at studies of immigration policies, the state, and refugees.

Each week, all students are responsible for completing the required readings (those listed without any asterisks below) and participating in class discussions. Twelve class sessions will be run by student teams of 2-3 people. Each student will participate in two of these teams during the course of the semester. I will ask you to send me your top five preferences (in rank order) and I will assign groups on that basis. The teams are responsible for preparing discussion questions regarding the assigned readings in advance, providing a short introductory presentation about the readings, and running the discussion. They should also report in detail on at least one of the optional readings and relate it to the mandatory readings.

A seminar writing assignment (roughly 15-20 pages) is due at the end of the semester. The writing should reflect your interests in and understanding of migration and migrants. I propose three different formats, but I am open to alternative suggestions:

1. An original research paper on a topic of interest to you. This might serve as the basis for an MA thesis, a journal submission, or a chapter of your dissertation.
2. A detailed proposal for a research project, including an extensive and critical review of the existing literature on the topic. This might serve as the basis for a grant proposal to support your dissertation research or future work.

3. A thorough, critical analysis of the literature and state of theory in a broad topic area (theories of migration, illegal migration in the US, assimilation patterns in the US, political struggles over immigrants in Europe, economic well-being of immigrants, analyses of particular case studies) including both the readings from the syllabus and additional readings, in which you lay out the key issues, the primary arguments and perspectives, assess the various contributions to the literature, and indicate what needs to be done further.

Finally, I will be taking volunteers who will present their paper topics and findings and the last class. This is not mandatory, but those who participate will find it very helpful to get feedback and the whole class will benefit from hearing about the interesting work that you are all doing on the broad topics of migration and migrants. Depending on the number of volunteers, we may start the presentations the week before the last session.

Six required books are available at the University bookstore:


Most of the article and chapter readings can be obtained electronically via JSTOR or another UW library-subscribed electronic service. I will have the other items scanned and stored in an electronic reserve.
Schedule
Note: required readings are listed first. Readings marked with * are “recommended.”

Week 1 (9/2): Introduction

Week 2 (9/9): International migration: trends and theories
Castles and Miller, chs. 1, 3, 6, 7
Worlds in Motion, chs. 1-3, 6


Week 3 (9/16): Modelling migration: regional approaches (Group 1)

Week 4 (9/23): Modelling migration: individual-level approaches (Group 2)


Week 5 (9/30): Case study: Mexican migration to the United States (Group 3)
Massey et al., Beyond Smoke and Mirrors


Week 6 (10/7): More case studies: Contemporary European and post-Soviet patterns (Group 4)
Castles and Miller chs. 4, 8, 9, 11
Worlds in Motion, ch. 4


*Vitkovskaya, Galina. “Potential Migration of Russia-Speaking Populations from Central Asia to Russia.” Chapter 8 in Demko et al. (eds.)

Week 7 (10/14): Theories of incorporation and assimilation (Group 5)


Week 8 (10/21): Economic experiences of US immigrants (Group 6)

Portes and Rumbaut, Chapters 4, 8


**Week 9 (10/28): Demographic and socio-cultural experiences (Group 7)**
Portes and Rumbaut chs. 3, 5-7, 9


**Week 10 (11/4): Comparative approaches (Group 8)**
Foner, In a New Land.


**Week 11 (11/11): Economic impact of migration in the US (Group 9)**


**Week 12 (11/18): Impact of out-migration on sending areas/countries (Group 10)**

*Weeks in Motion*, chs. 8, 9


**Week 13 (11/25): Migration, Policy, and the State (Group 11)**

Zolberg, Aristide. *A Nation by Design* (chapters TBA)


*Portes and Rumbaut, ch. 10.

**Week 14 (12/2): Refugees (Group 12)**

Castles and Miller, ch. 5


**Week 15 (12/9): Student Presentations**