PUBP 710-017: Immigration Policy and Politics

Instructor: Professor Justin Gest
Classroom: Founders Hall 479
Office: Founders Hall 553
Class times: Tuesdays, 7:20pm-10:00pm
Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description:

This course examines the challenges posed by global migration and the political responses of national communities to this phenomenon. In the first half of the course, we consider the nature of migration, and the dynamics of immigration policy, border control and diversity. In the second half, we consider contemporary approaches to citizenship and integration, once migrants have become settled. We examine different regimes of integration and political incorporation, before concluding the course by considering the impact of transnational affiliations and supranational governance on a process that conventionally has been overseen by national authorities.

At hand each week are some of the great social and political debates confronting public policy in the United States and many other countries today. Who may join the state? What are the qualifications of membership? What are the limits of tolerance? What is the objective of migrants’ integration? Does the state have a responsibility to adapt to a diversifying constituency or must migrants adapt to the state? Should global institutions govern migration?

By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of how government institutions, society, and individuals have responded to immigration. Students will have a grounded conception of the classical structures of political membership, and how migration complicates that structure. Students will be fluent in the different approaches to integration and political incorporation. And finally, students will have a greater acquaintance with the transnational nature of contemporary migration and its relationship to local (and global) governance and policy.

Prerequisites:

There are no pre-requisites for this course. Students are expected to have varying levels of familiarity with concepts in political science and policy analysis. In any case, background reading is assigned for Week 1 and each week offers supplemental material for further enrichment.
Assessment Requirements:

Class participation and activities (20%)  

One individual half-memo due on March 6\textsuperscript{th} (20%)  

One collaborative half-memo due on March 27\textsuperscript{th} (20%)  

One collaborative, full-length memo due on May 1\textsuperscript{st}. (40%)  

Half-memos should be submitted electronically before the commencement of class on the due dates. Students are also asked to bring a hard copy to class.

Late assignments:

All assignments will be docked a three points for each day they are submitted late. Final papers will be docked six points for each day they are submitted late.

Readings and Books for Purchase:

Syllabus readings listed in **bold** are essential and available on Blackboard or through the University Library, while all others are supplemental for enrichment or research. Books recommended for purchase include:


Grading and Expectations:

All papers will be marked for the strength and structure of their analysis, not the determination of the analysis. Students’ work will be evaluated on its rigor, the depth of its evidence, its organization and clarity, and the contextualization of its ideas amongst the others being studied. Students should take care to ensure that they avoid spelling and grammar errors. In the case of the final submission, students will be evaluated on similar grounds. However, a significant portion of evidence should emerge from primary and independently collected sources.

As this course is a seminar, we will together discuss, analyze and debate key topics. This requires that all course participants come to class fully prepared, having done the assigned readings, completed the required written assignments, and having considered the issues and materials. It also requires that seminar participants contribute their thoughts and ideas to the collective conversation, engaging openly, thoughtfully, and respectfully.

This course is very much dependent on content delivered and discussed during weekly meetings. Consequently, attendance is mandatory. Seminar participants are expected to notify the instructor in advance when their other responsibilities will prevent class attendance. Student grades will be lowered for unexcused and uninformed absences.

If your schedule or professional obligations require you to miss more than two classes, you should consider enrolling in another elective or taking this course in a different semester.

Office Hours:

Students are encouraged to arrange office hours anytime by appointment. Email queries are also very welcome.

Feedback:

This course is meant to be intellectually stimulating, idea-based, open-minded, and real world relevant. It is very useful to receive student feedback about the progress of the course. There are three primary avenues for giving feedback, and students are encouraged to make use of them all. (1) An anonymous mid-term survey. (2) Book an appointment for office hours. 3) Students may stay shortly after class to discuss their ideas. Your input is valuable.
University Honor Code:

Per the University’s honor code, cheating, plagiarism, and lying will not be tolerated. These are defined in the University Catalog as follows:

A. Cheating encompasses the following:
   1. The willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students.
   2. The above may be accomplished by any means whatsoever, including but not limited to the following: fraud; duress; deception; theft; trick; talking; signs; gestures; copying from another student; and the unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information.
   3. Attempted cheating.

B. Plagiarism encompasses the following:
   1. Presenting as one's own the words, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment.
   2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment.

C. Lying encompasses the following:
   1. The willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work. This includes but is not limited to the following:
   2. Lying to administration and faculty members.
   3. Falsifying any university document by mutilation, addition, or deletion...

Schar School Policy on Plagiarism:

The following is Schar School policy regarding plagiarism (www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook):

“The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the Schar School. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

“Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

“Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a
prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

“The faculty of the Schar School takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g., F-1, J-1, J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

“To help enforce the Schar School policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The Schar School policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Codes; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.”

**Academic Accommodation for a Disability:**

The following is Schar School policy regarding accommodation for a disability:

“If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.”

**Use of Electronic Devices in Class:**

Seminar participants are expected to focus their attention entirely on seminar discussion during class meetings. They are expected to refrain from carrying on other professional or personal activities while the class is meeting. Seminar members engaged in other professional or personal activities during class time will be asked to leave the classroom until they are finished with such activities and to return only when they are prepared to participate in the seminar.

Use of mobile phones in class is not permitted, unless otherwise specified. Seminar members who, for professional or other reasons, need to carry a mobile phone with them must turn these devices off or set them to “vibrate.” The use of computers or other electronic devices while class is in session is permitted but limited to seminar-related purposes.

Seminar members with disabilities that necessitate the use of other electronic devices should inform the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). All accommodations must be arranged through ODS.
PUBP 710-005 in Brief:

1) January 23: Introduction
2) January 30: Migration in History and Policymaking
3) February 6: Admissions: Temporary, Economic, and Family
4) February 13: Admissions: Humanitarian and Undocumented
5) February 27: Citizenship: In Theory and Practice
6) March 6: Citizenship: The Market Model
7) March 20: Diversity: Latinos and Muslims
8) March 27: Diversity: Nativism
9) April 3: Group Meetings
10) April 10: Integration: Assimilation and Multiculturalism
11) April 17: Integration: Incorporation and Transnationalism
12) April 24: Development and Global Migration Governance
13) May 1: Presentations
1) Introduction (January 23)


2) Migration in History and Policymaking (January 30)

On Writing Policy Memos:


On History:


On International Norms:


On interest group theory:


On neo-institutional theory:


On economic theory:

3) Admissions: Temporary, Economic and Family (February 6)


Economic Migration:


Family Migration:


4) Admissions: Humanitarian and Undocumented (February 13)

**Humanitarian Migration:**


Thielemann, E. 2011, 'How effective are migration and non-migration policies that affect forced migration'. *Migration Studies Unit Working Paper*, vol. 2011, no. 14, pp.1-14


**Undocumented Migration:**


5) Citizenship: In Practice and Theory (February 27)


6) Citizenship: The Market Model (March 6)


7) Diversity: Latinos and Muslims (March 20)


8) Diversity: Nativism (March 27)


9) Group Meetings (April 3)

No Assigned Readings.

10) Integration: Assimilation & Multiculturalism (April 10)


11) Integration: Incorporation & Transnationalism (April 17)

Political Incorporation:


Transnationalism:


12) Development and Global Governance (April 24)

Development and Migration:


Global Migration Governance:


13) Presentations (May 1)

No Assigned Readings.