COURSE DESCRIPTION

The role of migration between rich and poor countries is becoming a major issue of policy in terms of world development, the reduction of world poverty and the achievement of the United Nations Millennium goals. The immediate spur in this is the surprising size (more than the double of official aid flows) and rate of growth of remittances, income transfers from workers abroad to their home countries. In the past, opinion tended to see labor migration as a symptom of the failure of development, the failure to generate jobs and incomes at home which would retain the workforce. Even recently, the debate on the economic impact of international labor migration tended to focus on the loss of developing countries of their most skilled labor force for developed countries which offer better salaries and social benefits. This seminar will examine both the positive and negative aspects of international migration on developing countries. The departure of highly skilled migrants is often considered as a loss, or brain drain, for the country of origin, and as a benefit, or brain gain for the country of destination. The negative effect in this case goes beyond the loss of skilled manpower, and includes the loss of return on the investment made by the country of origin towards training and education of its nationals. This is particularly acute in such sectors as healthcare that has a direct impact on the ability of developing countries to maintain and improve the quality of life of their citizens. However, it is also increasingly acknowledged that the emigration of the highly skilled is not necessarily a net loss, and that it may in fact benefit both receiving and sending countries. Available evidence shows that countries of origin stand to benefit through the inflow of remittances, but also from access to knowledge, new technologies and new markets through the linkages to their migrant communities, as well as the eventual return of their expatriate skilled manpower and their superior training and skills, management experience, their ties to foreign institutions and networking capacity acquired while abroad. This seminar will address through reading across disciplines the recurrent debate about the complexity of the relation between migration, development and cooperation in an era of globalization.

It will examine the following themes:
- Development and Migration Theories
- Modernization, Urbanization and Internal Labor Migration
- Mobility as the Rule and not the Exception
- International Migration: Opportunities and Challenges.
- Immigration Policies and the Global Competition for Skilled Labor
- The Consequence of Brain Drain on Developing Countries’ Health Systems
- Ethical Issues Related to the Brain Drain
- Circular and Return Migration, Brain Gain and Local Development
- Hometown Associations, Remittances and Development in Sending Areas
- Remittances and Dependency
- Demographic Challenges and the Future of Brain Drain

READING MATERIALS


These books will be available at the University Bookstore. Additional reading materials will be available in the course reserve section of UF Library West.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: 40 points

Each student will be expected to participate in class discussion. Students will be evaluated for their familiarity with required readings and their productive contributions to class debate.

Oral Presentation: 60 points

Each student will be expected to give one oral presentation of the required readings for one class and then lead a discussion on those readings. Students are expected to prepare a
25 minutes presentation followed with a 30 minutes leading discussion. To prepare for these presentations and discussions the student must not only read the assigned text, but also complementary readings pertinent to questions and themes at study. (It is not a requirement but those who want to talk to me about their presentation or their strategy for stimulating and leading discussion can come to me during my office hours).

Questions on readings: 30 points

Each student will be expected to write 3 questions that he or she found important about the required readings. The questions have to be posted in the blog reserved for this class at the following site: http://afs6905.wordpress.com

Midterm paper: 60 points

Each student is expected to write a midterm paper on a subject related to migration and development and addressing important theoretical orientations and current debates in the field. Students are required to choose their topic by September 27 at the latest. Students are expected to discuss their choice with the instructor during the regular office hours for this class. The midterm paper should be turned in on November 1 in class. The paper should be 10 to 15 pages, double-spaced, in 12 pt font, with 1” margins on all sides.

Final project: 100 points

Each student is expected to do an empirical research on brain drain and/or remittances by interviewing UF faculty, students or administrative or technical personnel who happen to be part of the phenomenon we are examining in this seminar. This is a small scale research but it requires a rigorous method of collecting, analyzing and reporting qualitative data. Students are supposed to have their topic and research plan no later than November 1. I will provide guidance and advice to students during my office hours. Those who cannot make it during my office hours can request an appointment by contacting me. Students are expected to write a 15 pages research paper. The paper should be double-spaced, in 12 pt font, with 1” margins on all sides. The dateline for turn in this paper is April 22nd 2008. Place all papers in my mailbox in the Anthropology Office by 4 pm on that Tuesday. There will be no extensions.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Monday, August 23: Course Overview

Week 2: Monday, August 30

Development: a theoretical overview


Week 3: Monday, September 6: Labor day

Week 4: Monday, September 13

Modernization Theories: Urbanization through internal migration as an indicator of modernity.


Week 5: Monday, September 20

Global Economic Order and Migration


Week 6: Monday, September 27


Week 7: Monday, October 4

Brain drain as the result of immigration policies: global competitions for skilled labor


**Week 8: Monday, October 11**

**Impact of Brain Drain on Poor Countries’ Health Systems**

1. Loewenson R., Thompson, C. “Health Personnel in Southern Africa: Confronting Maldistribution and Brain Drain”. Regional Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa (EQUINET), Health Systems Trust (South Africa) and MEDACT (UK)


**Week 9: Monday, October 18**

**Ethical Issues Related to the Brain drain of health professionals from poor countries to rich countries**


Week 10: Monday, October 25

Brain circulation and brain gain.


Week 11: Monday, November 1

Remittances and Connection with Home


Week 12: Monday, November 8

Impact of Remittances on Local and National Economies of Sending Countries


Week 13: Monday, November 15.

Remittances and Dependence

Week 14: Monday, November 22

Hometown Associations’ Role in Home Communities Development


Week 15: Monday, November 29

Demographic Challenges in the West and the Future of Skilled Labor Migration


Week 16: Monday, December 6

General discussion on policy recommendations