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

Requirements

1. **Attendance and participation** (40 points)

   After the first day of class I will pass around an attendance sheet for each student to sign. You are allowed 3 absences without penalty. After 3 absences, 10 points will be subtracted from your attendance and participation grade for each additional absence. Exceptions to this rule will only be granted under extreme circumstances (as judged by instructor).

2. **Quizzes** (60 points)

   Three Quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. They’ll probably be short answer format. No make-up quizzes will be given. They will be administered in class and last for 15 minutes.

3. **Midterm Test** (100 points)

   The midterm Test will be a take home test. It will consist of one essay of 4 to 5 pages.
4. **Book Review (60 points)**

Each student should pick up one chapter from the two required books and write a 3-page double-spaced review. You are required to notify me in advance of which chapter you will review. The chapter review should be organized as follows. On page 1 you should summarize the chapter. On page 2 you should explain how the chapter helps you better understand one of the topics discussed in this course. On page 3 you should offer your criticisms and compliments of the text.

5. **Final Test (150 points)**

Just like the midterm Test will be a take home test. It will consist of two essays of 4 to 5 page each.

**Academic Honesty:**

Please visit: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm) for University of Florida Policy on Academic Honest Guidelines.

**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