George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form
Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  

_X__ NEW   ___ MODIFY   ___ DELETE

Local Unit:  SOAN         Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation:  ANTH   Course Number: 632

Full Course Title: International Migration in Comparative Perspective

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): International Migration

Credit hours: 3         Program of Record: ANTH

Repeatable for Credit?  

_D=Yes, not within same term   Up to hours

_T=Yes, within the same term   Up to hours

N  N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  

_Lecture (LEC)   _Lab (LAB)   _Recitation (RCT)

_Studio (STU)   _Internship (INT)   _Independent Study (IND)   _Seminar (SEM)   ___X___

Catalog Credit Format  3:3 :0       Course Level:  GF(500-600)   ___X___ GA(700+)

Maximum Enrollment: 18   For NEW courses, first term to be offered: F2004

Prerequisites or corequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses: ANTH 632 International Migration in Comparative Perspective, (3:3:0). Seminar on international migration in the contemporary world. The course is comparative, with attention to the full range of economic, political and social reasons for migration and the effects of different national policies on that process

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:
Last term offered:   Previous Course Abbreviation:   Previous number:
Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:   ________________________________ email:  
pblack@gmu.edu
ANTH 632
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

COURSE OVERVIEW

The causes, dimensions, and consequences of international migration have garnered increased attention as the number of migrants has increased and the nature of the migration experience has grown to include more types of movement among a wider range of countries. International migration now includes a broad range of legal and illegal labor migrants, officially recognized and denied refugees, temporary workers who become permanent migrants, and permanent migrants who return to their home country. The increase in human smuggling, including situations of forced servitude, underlines both the global extent and commercially lucrative nature of contemporary international migration.

This seminar examines the underlying political, economic, and social dynamics of international migration from the perspectives of the migrants, the countries that receive them, and the sending countries that retain important connections to them. The course will be conducted in seminar format, addressing general theoretical issues, broad historical patterns, and specific case studies. Particular attention will be paid to international migration as a policy issue that cuts across economic, political, humanitarian, and cultural agendas. A research project built on library or field research will be central, but will be supplemented by shorter essays and general class discussion. Coordination of this course with an internship or thesis is possible.

The course begins with an overview of the economic and political dynamics of contemporary international migration. That overview will be followed by a more detailed consideration of the experience of the migrants and how that varies depending on their own motivations and the various legal categories into which they are placed, such as legal (long-term) immigrant, refugee, temporary worker, visitor, student, asylum-seeker, or “illegal.” The effects of migration on receiving and sending societies will then be considered in general terms and in terms of specific institutions (such as schools) that are the most sharply affected and immediately affected. The final part of the course will focus on international migration as a set of policy issues. One practical problem for most countries is that different kinds of migrants require very different approaches. Even for a specific kind of migrant, domestic political considerations and foreign relations may themselves be at odds.

Preliminary Syllabus

Overview
Given greatly increased flows and variety, the dimensions and consequences of international migration have become a central area of concern for almost all countries in the world. This seminar reviews the underlying political, economic, and social dynamics of international migration, examines the personal and cultural experience of being a
migrant, analyzes the short and long term consequences of migration for sending and receiving countries, and assesses national and international efforts to regulate and channel the flows of migrants. The course is inclusive in its definition of international migration, thus covering both long-term economic migrants as well as politically-motivated refugees and a wide range of more temporary migrants.

**Structure**

The course will be conducted in seminar format, addressing general theoretical issues, historical patterns, and specific case studies. A research project built on library research and/or site work will be an important part of the course. Since the course is specifically cross-national in perspective, comparative material will be essential for that paper.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on a 25-page research paper (40%), three 5-page concept papers (15% each), and class contributions (15%).

**Course materials**

**Required books**

Margolis, *An Invisible Minority*
Song, *Helping Out*
Portes & Rumbaut, *Immigrant America*
Cornelius, Martin, & Hollifield, *Controlling Immigration: A Global Perspective*
Smith, *Human Smuggling*
Gimpel & Edwards, *The Congressional Politics of Immigration Reform*

**On reserve for specific readings**

*Cambridge Survey of World Migration* (Cohen)
*Illegal Immigration in America* (Haines/Rosenblum)
*Internal Displacement* (Cohen/Deng)
*Manifest Destinies* (Haines/Mortland)
*OECD Documentation on European Migration*
*World Refugee Survey* (USCR)

**On the web**

See links on <http:\mason.gmu.edu/~cori> for major governmental and nongovernmental organizations involved in policy, advocacy, and programs at the national and international levels.
Schedule

1. Global migration: call, response, and accommodation
   
   **Read:** Margolis, first half
   Portes/Rumbaut, chapters 1 and 2

2. The economics of migration
   
   **Read:** Margolis, second half
   Song, chapters 1 and 2
   Portes/Rumbaut, chapter 3

3. The politics of migration
   
   **Read:** Gimpel/Edwards, chapters 1, 2, and 3
   Cornelius/Martin/Hollifield, chapter 1

4. The personal experience: Immigrants and refugees
   
   **Read:** Song, remainder
   Portes/Rumbaut, chapters 4 and 5

   →→→ **Due:** First concept paper: Identify what you see as the two or three key issues in contemporary international migration. Discuss how these issues play out on the national and international scene and the extent to which they might be subject to policy control or influence.

5. The personal experience: Visitors, workers, asylum-seekers, and fellow travelers
   
   **Read:** Smith, chapter 8
   Portes/Rumbaut, chapters 6 and 7
   Cohen, selected readings on reserve

6. The governmental experience: Recruiting, controlling, and channeling
   
   **Read:** Smith, chapter 7
   Cohen, selected readings on reserve

7. Consequences: Demographic and socioeconomic
   
   **Read:** Haines/Mortland, selected readings on reserve
Due: Plan for research project. Identify the topic, the sources (written and/or field), the specific issues you wish to address, and why.

8. [Break]

9. Consequences: Education, housing, health care; the implications for governments at national, regional, and local levels

Read: Haines/Rosenblum, selected readings on reserve

Due: Second concept paper. Develop a comparative critique of how two countries manage current migration. What are they trying to do (and why) and how successful are they? Feel free to pick two countries that are relatively similar (e.g., the U.S. and Australia), relatively different (e.g., France and Greece), or are even at the opposite ends of migration chains (e.g., the U.S. and the Philippines).

10. Policy: general introduction

Read: Cornelius/Martin/Hollifield, chapters 2, 3, and 4
   Portes/Rumbaut, chapter 8

11. Humanitarian issues regarding refugees, displacees, and vulnerable populations

Read: USCR and Cohen/Deng, selected readings on reserve
12. Economic issues for the long-term and short-term, for the high-tech and low-skilled

   Read: Smith: Chapters 1, 2, and 3
   Cornelius/Martin/Hollifield, chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8

   →→→ Due: Third concept paper. Draft a general position paper on migration for a selected country. Indicate the level of success you are likely to have with the policy and its implications for future migrants, previous migrants, your own citizens (in all their variety), and your relations with other countries.

13. Political pressures at home and abroad

   Read: Cornelius/Martin/Hollifield, chapters 9, 10, and 11

14. Cultural issues of social change, migrant compliance, and long-term commitments to assimilation and diversity

   Read: Gimpel/Edwards, chapters 4, 5, and 6

15. Final review and discussion

   Read: Gimpel/Edwards, chapter 7

   →→→ Due: Research paper