POLI 412/512
Migration, Nationalism and Identity in Asia

Instructor:
Dr. Feng Xu (Fall 2020)

Course description:
Migration has greatly complicated and unsettled the taken-for-granted associations between people, places, and identity. Seemingly simple questions: “Who is Chinese”? “Who is Indian”? “Who is a migrant?”, or “What is a nation?” are fraught with nuance and complexity. Migration connects several important issues such as colonialism/empire, global uneven development, racism, wars and revolutions, nationalism, identity, citizenship rights/legal regimes and gender relations. Migration provides us an exciting opportunity to understand an important issue through the lens of scholarship from political science, human geography, sociology, anthropology and history. This course aims to help students critically analyze the complex political, economic and cultural dynamics of migration, colonialism, capitalism, nationalism and identity in Asia. In particular, we will critically interrogate myths surrounding migration, nationalism, identity and Asia. We do not consider migration in Asia to be unique or exceptional; rather, we view migration in Asia as part of a global phenomenon.

Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Understand basic political, economic, and social features of migration in Asia
- Think conceptually about migration, identity and nationalism
- Recognize and identify key concepts in migration in Asia
- Explain the significance of key concepts to the study of migration in Asia
- Apply key concepts to contemporary migration in Asia
- Speak in seminars using skills that present your ideas clearly
- Write using skills that present your ideas clearly

Topics may include:
Colonialism/Empire and migration
Free and unfree labour
Migration industries
Asian diasporas
Climate change and migration
Critical political economy, including feminist political economy and migration
Asian Settlers and Settler-Indigenous Relations

This online summary is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.
Course delivery: In the Fall 2020 term, this course will be delivered synchronously.