



POLI 412

Migration, Nationalism and Identity in Asia

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Feng Xu

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

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:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Understand basic political, economic, and social features of migration in Asia
- Think conceptually about migration, identity and nationalism
- Explain the significance of key concepts to the study of migration in Asia

Topics may include:

Colonialism/Empire and migration

Free and unfree labour

Migration industries

Climate change and migration

Critical political economy, including feminist political economy and migration

Asian Settlers and Settler-Indigenous Relations

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.