POLI 433
Issues in Politics (Seminar): Borders and Migration

Instructor: Dr. Michael Carpenter (Summer 2021)

Course delivery: In the Summer 2021 term, this course will be delivered synchronously, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-12:00.

Course description:
Borders and migration have become highly contentious issues in politics and public debate. Among other factors, the 2015/16 ‘refugee crisis’ further contributed to the rise of populist-nationalist forces that mobilize based on anti-immigrant sentiments and a fundamental opposition to mainstream liberal and neoliberal politics. This course addresses this context as well as the conditions experienced by migrants themselves. While borders are the primary obstacle to the free movement of people, borders are also complex filters and interfaces between jurisdictions. Not simply confined to the boundary line, borders are powerful policy instruments for states to govern migration, not only to prevent it. How are borders and migration politicized with a view to debates surrounding irregular migration, refugee policy, security, identity, citizenship, and the integration of newcomers? How are borders and migration bound up with the rise of the populist, anti-immigrant right and its effects on democracy?

About the instructor: Dr. Michael Carpenter received his PhD in Political Science from UVic. His research focusses on international politics, conflict, borders, migration, and the Middle East.

Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Develop reading and analytical skills through required readings
- Understand the challenges surrounding migration and its politicization
- Explore nuanced theoretical conceptions of borders

Topics may include:
Populism and popular politics
Securitizing migration
Citizenship and exclusion
Humanitarian borders

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.
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