

SOCI 438 ¹

Issues in Contemporary Sociology: Sociology of Migration

Instructor: Sanam Vaghefi

Course Description:

This course explores various aspects of international migration through a sociological lens. The aim is to underline how all forms of migration (ranging from temporary migration to labour migration, marriage-based migration, refugee movements, and exile) interact with social locations through class, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexuality. The readings and discussions may examine the representation of migrants and refugees in media, politics, and society through case studies from Canada, the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

Course Objectives:

- Understanding the complex interactions of migration with gender, sexuality, class, religion, and culture on a global scale
- Recognizing the diversity of migrant identities and experiences
- Learning various theoretical approaches towards international migration and refugee movements
- Developing a critical perspective and a capacity to rethink the narratives around immigrants and refugees

Course Pre-requisites:

- Minimum third-year standing; and
- declared Honours or Major in Sociology; or
- permission of the department.

Topics May Include:

Sociological theories of migration, anti-immigration discourses, refugee rights movements, health and wellbeing of immigrants and refugees, international labour migration, the feminization of migration, marriage-based migration in the U.S., Canada, and Asia, LGBTQ+ refugees, the Islamophobia vs. secularism debate

Required Resources May Include:

No textbook required. Journal articles and book chapters will be posted on Coursespaces.

Grading May Include:

Participation in discussions (using online discussion forums), two reflection papers, and a final paper.

The Mode of Delivery May Include:

Asynchronous online learning, which relies on pre-recorded short lectures, question-answer videos, and written discussion questions on Coursespaces. Synchronous (live) online meetings and/or discussions may also take place through Zoom or other video conference software.

¹ This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.