Course Description: This course is intended as an introduction to migration policy and economic analysis of migration topics. We will focus primarily on the US, but there will be developing country applications and topics included as well. The course will explore the effect of migration on receiving and sending countries at the microeconomic level. Topics include self-selection, household dynamics, human capital investment decision-making, individual and group inequality, inter-generational effects, remittance decisions and effects, effect on receiving country labor force, assimilation effects. We will discuss current and important research in this area and relate it to existing and historical migration policy. Letter grading.

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on three items: 1) class participation, 2) eight weekly discussion papers based on a current reading for that week, and 3) a final project—paper and oral presentation.

The elements will be weighted as follows:

Class participation: 30%

Class Participation: Full participation by all students is critical to developing understanding about these topics and examples. Participation means regular attendance, knowledge of the reading assignments, and participation in class discussions. Additionally, each student will be required to lead the discussion of a particular paper at least twice in the quarter. This can coincide with the selected paper for the weekly discussion paper (see below).

Discussion Papers: 30%

Discussion Papers: These one page write-ups (due at the beginning of each class) will include a one paragraph, brief summary of the research paper or article. It will then include additional points of commentary by the student. These items should include questions about importance of the question/research, methodology, suitability of data and additional concerns or research possibilities. These papers will be graded based on the quality and depth of analysis.
Final Project: 40%

**Final Project:** The final project will be a research project that provides some policy analysis on a migration-related topic using models, data and evidence. Students are encouraged to go beyond the articles, books and examples used in class for their analysis. I am interested in students providing a brief background of their specific topic. Second, there should be a clear discussion of the state of research and information on the area as it stands today. Finally, the paper should provide some ideas and questions about where and how this topic area could be expanded in the future through further research, theory or economic modeling.

The paper will be due on the final day of class (30% of the course grade). There will also be in-class presentations of no more than 15 minutes each that will be graded as part of the final project (10% of the course grade).

**Readings:**

Books:


Optional:

**Course Schedule:**

I. Migration Theory and Models


II. Migration History in the US


b. Different Migration Policies. Australia, NZ, Canada. Open Migration Policy.


III. Effects in the Receiving country

a. Displacement of Natives


b. Effects on New Immigrants, Assimilation, Second Generation Effects.


c. Immigrant Enclaves and networks
IV. Effect in the Sending country


b. Households and Remittances


c. Return Migration


V. Illegal and Illicit Immigration


