Spring 2013
Economics of International Migration
Ec 62 E+ MW 10:30 a.m.

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Email is the best way to communicate with me outside class, and I hope you will use it to send me questions, suggestions, and comments throughout the semester.

Time and Place: E+ block Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:45am in Braker 118
Call Number: 01139
Prerequisite: Principles of economics (Ec 5) or instructor’s consent

Office Hours: Wednesday 4:30pm - 6:00pm and Thursday 1:15pm - 2:00pm
I can also meet with you at other times. To set up a meeting email me or see me right after class to fix a time.

Course web page: The course web page is on Trunk. If you are enrolled then it will be listed among your courses. If you are not enrolled, let me know to add you to the course.

Academic Integrity: I take academic integrity very seriously. Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. You risk being accused of plagiarism if you do not refer properly to your sources. If you are not sure what plagiarism is you can go to two useful websites: http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/writingresources/plagiarism.asp and http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/writingresources/differentforms.asp
Tufts subscribes to a program called Turnitin which evaluates the content of written work for originality. I may use it to check your submissions; you can also use it to check your own work before you submit your assignments (many faculty use it to check their own research for accidental plagiarism).

Disabilities
It is the university's policy for students with documented disabilities to receive specific accommodations on examinations. Students needing special accommodation must provide a letter of support from the program director of disability services explaining what special accommodations are needed. I must receive that letter early in the semester and at least two weeks before the midterm examination or any other assignment for which you need special accommodations.

What the course is about:
This course is about economic forces in international migration and its economic impacts on individuals and nations – and this is an exciting time to examine the economics underlying political and policy debates about international migration. The share of foreign-born in the US population rose from 9.3% in 1995 to 12.5% in 2006. More foreign-born (one definition of ‘immigrants’) entered the US in the last decade than in the ‘Great Migration’ in the first decade of the twentieth century.

International trade models in the past regularly assumed that labor was an ‘immobile’ factor of production. That assumption has become less and less plausible. Cheaper international travel and long communication easier in
the last decades of the twentieth century led growing numbers of workers and their families to cross international boundaries as migrants, legally or illegally. Changes in legal barriers to migration and better access to information about options abroad accelerated migrant labor flows worldwide. Numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers have risen at the same time. More and more countries have become part “the immigration market” as hosts and home countries of migrant workers. Economists have learned a lot about what drives that market in the past decade or so, and have become increasingly interested in modeling migration flows. As they do so economists are finding both new questions and answers to them.

Migrants play a critical role in the economies of both receiving (and host) and sending (or home) countries. Market forces are driving cross-border flows that governments find difficult or impossible to control. Patterns of migration are changing: former migrant sending countries now receive significant inflows. While many migrants move for clearly economic motives, to find work or higher wages, others are ‘forced migrants’ and economists have recently begun to look at how we can better understand those flows as well, asking for instance how host countries can distinguish economic migrants from refugees.

The migrants are increasingly moving to new destinations like the Ireland, Japan, Thailand and India, while others still move to places with a long history of hosting migrants (like the United States, Canada, and Australia). Others move legally or illegally across borders in Africa and Latin America and within the Caribbean. In the European Union migration is a hot political issue. New member countries have generated migrant movements across national borders and flows of undocumented migrants have grown dramatically. Migration within Africa has accelerated. Some countries have a long tradition of labor immigration (South Africa) or emigration (Botswana); others have become host countries and are still sending their own migrants abroad (Morocco). Moreover, Africa is already home of some of the world’s largest refugee movements.

Research by economists on migration has developed new and sometimes contentious insights onto an old phenomenon. Software firms seeking skilled workers have used the H-1b visa program to hire skilled foreign workers – high skilled guest workers whose visas did not allow them to stay in the US if they lost their jobs. Some flows of labor into the US have been replaced by flows of jobs to offshore firms set up and manned partly by return migrants from the US. Europe is competing with the US for highly skilled immigrants who have seen fewer US visas available for them. Successive administrations have tried to address the problem of illegal immigration with legislation that would allow some to change status. But an effort by the Bush administration was abandoned in 2007. There are now rumors that the Obama administration will try to introduce immigration reform legislation.

What we will do this semester:
This course will apply and extend the theoretical and empirical tools that you have learned in other economics courses. We will first look at models to explain individual migrant decisions and the impact of migration on sending and receiving countries’ economies and to analyze policy problems facing both types of country. The course will consider how migration affects migrants’ home countries and communities as well as at their destinations. We will compare experience, policies and evidence from the US with other those in other migrant host countries. Topics we will look at in the first part of the semester include:

• Economic models of individual and family migration decisions. Who migrates? Who does not? Why?
• What determines the magnitude of migrant flows between countries?
• How do economists model the impact of immigration on migrant receiving countries?
• The economic impact of migration on migrant sending countries.
• Economic models of illegal migration and of refugee migration.
• High skilled migration: what do we know about impacts on home and host countries?

In the second part of the semester, we will look at specific topics and policy problems in more detail. The topics we focus on will depend on you. There is a wide range of topics we could look at and I have asked you to let me know what interests you most on the information sheet at the end of the syllabus. I hope you will use email to update me on the topics you want us to cover and to suggest others.

I have a number of possible topics in mind. There definitely will not be time to look at all of them in class; some may be good starting points for picking a research paper topic.
• US immigration policy: how can economics inform the debate?
• Temporary migrant visas: who gains and who loses from this immigration policy?
• Immigrant entrepreneurship: are immigrants more enterprising than natives?
• Women and international migration: who leaves, where do they go, and why?
• Chinatown, Little Italy and Greektown: the economics of immigrant enclaves
• Mexican migrants to the US: history, future flows and their role in the US economy.

Requirements and evaluation criteria:
Your course grades will be based on the following weights for your work:
Review 10%
Midterm exam 30%
Research paper 35% (details below)
Participation 10%
Final exam (optional) 15%

You will find more information about each of these below.
You must complete all the assignments (except the optional final exam) to pass the course. If you do not take the final, your grade will be out of 85 instead of 100.

Exams:
The in-class midterm exam will include a variety of question types. The optional final will be at the regularly scheduled time. I will give a review for the class before the midterm and the final, as well as a list of sample questions. Students who choose not to take the final exam will have the grades for each of the other assignments increased proportionately.

Assignment 1 Review:
I will distribute the full description of this assignment in class the first week. You will work in groups to see movies (either documentary or fiction) about international migration and then prepare individual reviews of the economics of migration in the movie. Each group will give a short (~10 minute) group presentation to the class about what you found.

Assignment 2 Research Paper:
The research paper is a major part of your grade. I want the paper topic to be something which truly interests you. I will be meeting with each of you to help you to find a paper topic and to identify sources for your research. Your paper may be empirical (if you want to apply what you have learned in statistics or econometrics, for example) or a literature review, or a case study assembling and organizing data and theories
about migration to or from one nation or region. You (or you and I brainstorming together) may have better ideas. It is important to get going early on the research for the paper. You will develop the paper through a sequence of topic statement, written proposal, and rough and final drafts. You will present the term paper research to the class.

More and more employers are emphasizing the need for good writing skills, and skills at giving (and taking) constructive criticism. Good writing generally means rewriting. It is very important to learn how to revise something you have written in response to comments on its content and clarity. These skills all take practice. The sequence of requirements for the research paper is designed to give you practice in revising. The review (see below) is a warming-up exercise for the research paper as well as a requirement for the course. I hope it will also get you thinking about how to use less conventional resources and references in your research. I will be posting samples of good topic statements and proposals on the course website as well as detailed instructions for the research paper.

Reading materials and web links on the economics of migration are on the Trunk website. To provide a starting point for your research, we will have a session in Tisch Library to provide resources for locating materials for your research using the internet, the Tufts libraries, and in other libraries via interlibrary loan and the Boston Library Consortium.

The grade for the research paper (35% of your course grade) is allocated: Topic statement and Proposal 10%, Paper draft and final 20%, Presentation 5%.

Everyone can use one three-day rain check. That means that you can turn in one research paper assignment up to 3 days late without penalty – use it wisely! For other late assignments I will reduce grades by one third of a point (A becomes A- for example) for each day or part of a day they are late.

Participation:
The grade for participation will be based on your contributions to discussions in class, and on your other contributions: comments on other students' reviews and papers, in-class presentation of your own research, and discussion of other students' research.

Assigned Readings:

Borjas is the most prominent economist working on immigration to the US and this book makes his research on the topic accessible to more general readers. We will also read some of the more technical papers that underlie the ideas in the book. Used copies of the book are available on Amazon and from other online bookstores. You can also buy an electronic copy of the book.

Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance MIT Press 2008

Used copies are available on Amazon of the hardback and the paperback.


This is an excellent handbook for anyone writing a research paper. I expect you all to get it. It includes useful advice and ideas for the research as well as the writing components of the major assignment for the course.
Class Schedule: Topic, reading and deadlines

- I expect you to read the assigned material before the class it is listed for (except the first day)
- Participation in class discussion of the readings counts in your grade.
- Dates and material in this syllabus may change. It is your responsibility to make sure you know where we are in the syllabus: Listen carefully for announcements in class. Check with classmates and the posted lecture on Trunk if you ever have to miss a class or arrive late.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wednesday January 16</td>
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<td>Mon Four important questions in the economics of migration.</td>
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<td>Monday January 21 Martin Luther King Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday January 23</td>
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<td>Assignment 1 given out</td>
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<td>Paradoxes in the economics of migration and in the migration policy debate.</td>
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<td>Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey Williamson Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance Chapter 1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Monday Jan 28</td>
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<td>U.S. Immigration: conflicting goals, rules and policy</td>
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<td>Borjas: Heaven’s Door Chapter 1: “Reframing the Immigration Debate”</td>
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<td>Wednesday Jan 30</td>
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<td>Immigration numbers and statistics</td>
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Monday Feb 4
Economic history of Migration –what we can learn
Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey Williamson *Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance* Chapters 2-4 (Pages 7-76) There are plenty of graphs and tables – it’s not hard reading.

Wednesday Feb 6
Draft Reviews due on Trunk
Peer feedback on drafts assigned
Models of individual migration decisions


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Monday Feb 11
Peer feedback on drafts due
Meetings to brainstorm research paper topics this week. I will circulate a sign-up list.
Introduction to economic models of migration

Gianmarco I.P. Ottaviano and Giovanni Peri “Rethinking the Effects of Immigration on Wages” NBER Working Paper 12497 2006


Wednesday Feb 13
Self-Selection: who migrates, who stays?
Borjas Heaven’s Door Chapters 2 and 3

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Monday Feb 18
Presidents' Day (University Holiday)
Meetings to brainstorm paper topics this week and next
Revised reviews due Tuesday Feb 19 on Trunk

Wednesday Feb 20
Library Session: Class meets in Tisch Library ERC (on left in hall leading to Tower Café)

Thursday Feb 21
Empirical Models of migration and the migration market


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Meetings to brainstorm paper topics continue this week
Monday Feb 25
Empirical Models of migration and the migration market continued

Wednesday Feb 27
Immigrant host countries’ economies: who gains and who loses
Borjas: Heaven’s Door Chapters 4 and 5


Abdurrahman Aydemir and George Borjas, Journal of the European Economics Association

Paper topic statement due Sunday 9pm (I will give out a list of topics in class on Monday)

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Monday March 4
Other host countries’ immigrant flows and policies

Hatton and Williamson Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance Chapters 10-13

**Review session for the midterm to be scheduled**

**Wednesday March 6**

**Midterm Exam**

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**Monday March 11**

**Economics of illegal migration**


**Wednesday March 13**

**Migration and Trade**

Timothy J. Hatton and Jeffrey G. Williamson Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance Chapter 6

**Paper proposal due on Trunk. Proposals circulated for peer feedback.**

**10**

**Spring Break**

**11**

**Monday March 25**

**Peer feedback on proposals due**

**Impacts on migrant sending countries**


Louka T. Katseli, Robert E.B. Lucas and Theodora Xenogiani “Effects of Migration on Sending Countries: What Do We Know?” OECD Development Centre Working Paper No. 250. June 2006 (pages 11-12 and 25-55; more if you have time and are interested)
Wednesday March 27

Sending countries continued: Skilled migration: brain drain and brain gain
Frederic Docquier, Olivier Lohest, and Abdeslam “Brain Drain in Developing Countries” World Bank Economic Review 2007

Devesh Kapur and John McHale Center for Global Development Brief: The Global Migration of Talent: What Does it Mean for Developing Countries?

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Monday April 1

Remittances and Return migration


Wednesday April 3

Economics of refugee migration


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Monday April 8

Paper drafts due

US Immigration Policy
Borjas Chapters 10 and 11

Hatton and Williamson Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance Chapter 8

Hatton and Williamson *Global Migration and the World Economy: Two Centuries of Policy and Performance* Chapter 8

**Wednesday April 10**
European Immigration Dilemmas and Policy

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**Monday April 15**
Patriots Day – No class
Peer Comments on paper drafts due Sunday 10pm

**Wednesday April 17**
Presentations of research

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**Monday April 22**
Presentations of research

**Wednesday April 24**
Presentations of research

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**Monday April 29**
Last Class - Review and summary
Final Paper due on Trunk at 8am.

16 3:30-5:30 Monday May 6, 2013 Optional Final Exam (this will be the same length as the midterm).
Student Information for Ec 62 Economics of International Migration

Name:

Email address (if you also use a non-Tufts email address then give me that— and tell me which you prefer):

Cell and/or local phone number:

Tufts ID (I grade exams by ID number, not by name)

Major(s) (and minor(s) if any) and class:

What courses have you taken that provide background for this course?
Economics courses?

Courses on migration?

Other courses?

Any statistics or econometrics courses? (It is not a requirement, but it helps me to know what background you all have).

What do you want to get out of this course (topics you want to see covered, skills or expertise you hope to gain, why you are here . . .?)

How is this course relevant - directly or indirectly - to what you plan to do when you graduate? Or, if it isn’t relevant, tell me more about why you are interested in it.

OVER
Tell me something else about yourself - something I would not know otherwise

Please rank (1 is best to 5 least desirable) these possible topics for the last part of the semester in the list below, including any requests or suggestions you have:

*NOTE any of these might also be a good starting point for defining a research paper topic*

**Mark them: 1= most like or want  2= okay  3=not interested**

- Immigration policy class discussion/debate – with any suggestion(s) for topic(s)
- How is the Great Recession affecting international migration?
- Return migration
- High tech immigration and its impacts on the US labor force
- Guest worker and temporary migration programs
- Migrant Entrepreneurs and immigrant networks
- Refugee migration and asylum seekers – (how) is economics relevant?
- Changing destinations in receiving countries where do immigrants settle and why?
- Immigrant assimilation – education and language skills
- Transnational migration – living in two countries
- Immigrant enclaves and neighborhoods
- Immigrants and housing: who owns, who rents, who shares?
- Immigration and crime

**Other topics you would like to see this semester?**