Course: JPG1814H – Cities and Immigrants

Department of Geography and Planning
University of Toronto

Weekly Class Schedule: Wednesday 1-3pm

Location: Room SS562 (Sidney Smith Hall)

Instructor: Dr. Vincent Kuuire

Email: vincent.kuuire@utoronto.ca

Course description
Globalization processes and changes in immigration laws in recent decades have led to an upsurge in cross-border movement of people and ushered in sequential waves of immigration from various regions of the world to Canada and the U.S. This has created a situation where Europe is no longer the main source region of immigrants to Canada and the U.S. — resulting in increased ethnic diversity in many locations. Cities and their adjoining metropolitan areas are the biggest beneficiaries of these changing dynamics where immigrants are important contributors to economic growth and social reinvigoration — even in contexts where they are confronted with socio-political obstacles of discrimination and legal recognition. This course will examine the dynamics and changing patterns of immigrant integration in cities and urban locations. Topics of focus will include theories of immigrant integration, socio-spatial patterns of immigrant settlements in cities, labour market participation, socio-cultural identity formation and transnational engagements. The course will rely on contemporary examples and case studies to provide a thorough understanding of how immigrants are shaping dynamics within cities.

Course objectives
By the end of this course Masters and Doctorial students should be able to:

- Analyze, evaluate, and apply a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches taken from Cities and Immigrants within the broader discipline of geography
- Synthesize and critically appraise theoretical arguments and published research from a geographical perspective
- Critically appraise how spatial processes, social institutions, social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of socio-spatial experiences impact immigrants and how immigrants intend impact cities and urban landscapes
- Demonstrate competence in the research process at an advanced level by applying an existing body of knowledge in the critical analysis of a new question or of a specific problem or issue in a new context in order to contribute to the broader discipline of geography
- Demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss ideas through effective oral and written communication
- Demonstrate an ability to engage productively in scholarly debates and discussions in a learning environment.
- Demonstrate an awareness and a deep understanding of the complexity of knowledge, the potential contributions of varying interpretations, competing/complementing methodologies,
and disciplinary inclinations, and their respective limiting impacts on research within geography and beyond

**Evaluation Methods and Components**

Evaluation is split among two section reflections, participation, class participation and a term paper as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Section reflections (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Section reflections (Total=2)**

Note that your reflection is not a summary of readings. It is a critical analysis of the salient points covered from your own perspective. Feel free to incorporate your feelings and personal experiences about the factors which stand out from a section. Indicate whether these challenged you socially or culturally and describe your overall understanding of the section and lessons learnt. Your reflection on each section should not exceed 600 words. Reflections for the two sections are due on February 15 and April 5.

**Class participation & Presentations**

Each week, a presenting student will select any paper of their choice from the assigned readings and use it as the bases of a student-led discussion and presentation for part of the seminar. Students should circulate discussion questions ahead of the class. Students are expected to 1) summarize, 2) raise relevant questions and 3) critically discuss the merits of the selected paper. Credit will be given for engaging other students in the seminar, quality of discussions and contributions and comparing/contrasting ideas from relevant sources.

**Term paper requirements**

The main deliverable at the end of the term is a well research paper on any aspect of Cities and Immigrants. Your topic selection does not have to follow topics/themes covered in the seminar. The paper can be either an empirical that involves data analysis or review which involve a thorough interrogation of the selected topic based on existing literature.

You can arrange to discuss with me about the topic of your chosen paper or submit an outline of your research paper by Week 6. If you chose to submit an outline, include a very brief description of the paper, a clearly stated objective, themes to be covered, and strategies for addressing the objectives and at least three relevant references. The completed research paper for this course is due on April 12 2018.

The research paper is designed to provide you an opportunity to focus on key concepts and themes on Cities and Immigrants which are of particular interest to you. The paper should be approached as an investigation which uses evidence to address an issue/question/problem, rather than a summary of existing studies. Paper should be 10 – 15 pages. Papers will be graded on appropriateness of suitting the topic within the literature, readability, originality and insightful discussions of the subject.
READINGS

Part One: Immigrants in Canadian and American cities

1. Theoretical perspectives

2. Settlement patterns

3. Ethnic communities and social integration

4. Economic integration


5. **Transnationalism**


**Part Two: Migrants in cities around the world**

6. **Immigrants and urban planning**


7. **Migrants and health**


8. **Migrants and urban politics in Europe**


9. Ethnic enclaves and spatial integration in China

10. Media and defining immigrant identity and space

11. Migration impacts on urban landscapes in origin
## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Theoretical Perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Settlement patterns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Ethnic communities and social integration</td>
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<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Economic integration</td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>Transnationalism</td>
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<td><strong>Part One: Immigrants in Canadian and American cities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Migrants and urban planning</td>
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<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>Reading week break</td>
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<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Migrants and health</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
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