DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 4710: The Comparative Politics and Policies of Immigration

Credit Weighting: 1.0

Pre-/Co-Requisites: (POLS*2080 or POLS*2100) and 1.00 credits at the 3000 level in the Comparative Politics stream

Restrictions: -

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

Over the last four decades, immigration has become one of the most prominent and volatile issues in Western democratic politics. It is not just that the flow of people across borders is increasing. Immigration has also left an indelible mark on public policy, political discourse, and party politics. This course offers an introduction to the politics and policies of immigration. By analyzing theoretical insights in academic literature as well as crucial events and developments in recent history, it aims to not only expand your knowledge on immigration politics but also equip you with the analytical and theoretical tools to make sense of this issue in the future.

The course is divided into two main sections. In the first half of the course, we will examine how Western democracies have aimed to govern migration with policies related to admission, residence, citizenship, and integration. In the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to the ways in which immigration has become a transformative force in electoral and legislative politics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:
- Understand and apply crucial distinctions between different categories of migration and migration policies
- Appreciate the political sensitivity of immigration and the challenges associated with governing migration
- Engage academic literature on immigration policies and politics
- Apply theoretical literature on immigration to recent political events
- Engage in a thoughtful debate with fellow students on immigration
- Apply comparative typologies and distinctions to specific cases

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Most of your weeks will follow a largely similar schedule. The expectation is that you watch a short lecture online, complete both academic and journalistic readings, write a short reflection on those readings, and comment on the reflections of your fellow students. At the end of the week, you can decide to join the weekly online discussion in case you want to share more of your thoughts on the readings, ask questions about the subsequent week, or would like me to clarify or elaborate on any of the material.

Your final grade will be determined by four components: reflection papers (30%), video presentation (20%), comments on other students' work (20%), and country report (30%)

REQUIRED READING

The course material will consist both of academic material and what I will call ‘case study’ readings: journalistic accounts of recent events that illustrate or engage some of the theoretical discussions. All readings can be accessed online through your University of Guelph account.