Syllabus: SOC700 Latin American Migration and Transnationalism

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Course Description

This multidisciplinary course will examine issues related to Latin American migration to North America, Europe and Asia, and the transnational relationships that link migrants with people in both their sending and receiving communities. In particular, we will look at case studies of migrants from Mexico, Central America, Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. We will also discuss how immigration and refugee policies, international trade agreements, foreign policy, and domestic political and economic conditions shape the context of migration in both sending and receiving societies as well as how migration impacts the countries of origin and how migration varies across the region. The course is integrated with the PLAC speaker series and the annual PLACA conference (cosponsored with Cornell University) and through the speaker series and conference, students will have the opportunity to meet with some of the authors from the course and talk about their work. Through participation in the conference and engagement with speakers, students will have the opportunity for professional development within the field of immigration research.

Featured speakers will include:

* **Alfredo López** (Physician and former migrant worker) who will speak about the lives and health issues of migrant farmworkers

* **María Cristina García** (Professor of History at Cornell University) who will speak about her research on Central American refugees in Mexico, the US, and Canada

* **Jorge Durand** (Professor of Anthropology at the Universidad de Guadalajara), who is the codirector of the *Mexican Migration Project* and the *Latin American Migration Project* (focused on migration from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Colombia, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic), and who will speak about the findings from these large-scale research projects on Latin American migration

* **Robert Courtney Smith** (Professor of Sociology at Baruch College and CUNY Graduate Center) who will speak about the transnational lives of Mexicans in New York

Although not part of the PLACA Lecture Series, students will also attend a talk by **Min Zhou** (Professor of Sociology at UCLA).

Course Objectives
The objective of this course is for students to become professionalized within the field of immigration research on Latin America through intense reading and discussion of research, meeting with scholars in the field and learning about their research, conducting their own original research or literature reviews, and presenting research in a formal conference setting.

**Course Requirements**

Students will be expected to post a weekly memo on the readings in the discussion section of Blackboard at [http://blackboard.syr.edu](http://blackboard.syr.edu). This includes an approximately one-page reflection on or elaboration of the ideas from the readings. Memos should be posted on blackboard by 10 am on the day of class. Students are expected to read the memos of other students before class and to participate in all of the class discussions on the readings.

Students are expected to attend and participate in the PLACA conference on Saturday, April 11. SOC700 students will serve as Session Chairs, which includes introducing the speakers and fielding questions during conference panels. This will provide students with an opportunity to meet and interact with immigration scholars from around the world.

Students will also be expected to write an approximately 15-page paper on a topic relevant to the course material and make a presentation on their work in progress during the PLACA Graduate Student Mini Conference on Monday, April 12. The paper can either be a literature review or original research. If students are already working on projects relevant to migration, students may use the course to continue with their ongoing research and writing.

In addition, each student will lead the discussion on the readings for one evening.

**Required Readings**

Students will read about one book per week for the course. The full citations for all books are listed in the course schedule. All books are available at the University Bookstore and Follett’s Orange. They may also be found online.

**Academic Honesty**

The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see [http://academicintegrity.syr.edu](http://academicintegrity.syr.edu)

Using online material verbatim from sources such as Wikipedia without proper citation is considered to be a form of plagiarism.

Violations of the academic integrity policy may result in a failing grade in this course.
Disability Accommodations

Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 304 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, Office of Disability Services http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/

Grading

Grades will be granted based on the following scale:

- **A** = 93+
- **A-** = 90-92
- **B+** = 87-89
- **B** = 84-86
- **B-** = 80-83
- **C+** = 77-79
- **C** = 74-76
- **C-** = 70-73
- **D** = 66-69
- **F** = 65 and below

Useful Resources on Student Writing

The Writing Center: The Writing Center provides writing assistance to students at Syracuse University. http://wrt.syr.edu/wc/wcintro.html

Learning Resource Center: The Learning Resource Center provides tutoring to students at Syracuse University. http://tutoring.syr.edu/

Writing Style Sheet: The Sociology Department of Syracuse University has a Writing Style Sheet on its website to provide sociology students with some basic information about writing papers for sociology classes. http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/soc/index.htm
Course Schedule

Jan. 20- Introduction to the Course

Jan. 27- Durand, Jorge and Douglas S. Massey. 2004. Crossing the Border: Research from the Mexican Migration Project. New York: Russell Sage Foundation., Ch. 1, Ch. 16, Chaps 2-7

Feb. 3 – Crossing the Border, Chaps. 8-15


Feb. 24- (no assigned reading)

Lecture by Alfredo López, 4 pm, Meet at Eggers 341, All SOC700 students are invited to dinner following the lecture.


Lecture by María Cristina García, 4 pm, Meet at Eggers 341


March 17- Spring Break- No Class


Lecture by Min Zhou, Time and Location TBA, Meet in class and we will walk over.


SU/CORNELL CONFERENCE DAYS, APRIL 9-11

“Re-Imagining the Americas: (Im)migration, Transnationalism, and Diaspora”
FRIDAY, April 9 - SU/Cornell Conference “Re-Imagining the Americas: (Im)migration, Transnationalism, and Diaspora” at Cornell University. Attendance is not required, but there will be free transportation to Cornell from SU for students who would like to attend.

SATURDAY, April 10 - SU/Cornell Conference “Re-Imagining the Americas: (Im)migration, Transnationalism, and Diaspora” at Syracuse University

Paper presentations 9 am-6 pm. Dinner reception 6pm -8 pm. All meals are provided. Students in the SOC700 course are required to attend and serve as Session Chairs during the conference on April 11.

MONDAY, April 11- 9am-2:30pm. PLACA Graduate Student Mini Conference, Public Events Room, Eggers 220, Lunch will be provided.

SOC700 students are required to present their works in progress (approx 15 minutes) at the mini conference on April 11. The keynote speaker for the PLACA Graduate Student Mini Conference will be Jorge Durand.

April 14- Articles on Latin American Immigrants in Europe, posted on Blackboard


Lecture by Robert Courtney Smith, 4 pm, Meet at Eggers 341


May 10- Final papers due

PLACA Events of Interest

Brown Bag Presentations (all are at noon in Eggers 341):

- January 24 – Catherine LaVoy, PhD Student, Anthropology
- February 17 - Lorena Vinuela Ortega, PhD Student, Political Science
- March 10 - Yazmin Rivera, PhD Student, SUNY ESF
- March 24 - Donald Rayome, MS Student, Ecological Engineering, ESF

Lectures

- February 10, 4pm, Egger 341 – Francisco Sanin, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Syracuse University

April 1, 4pm, Room TBA – Panel on Brazil: Christen Smith, Johns Hopkins University, and Jose Miguel Hernandez, local popular theater artist; organized by John Burdick, Professor, Anthropology, Syracuse University