

POLS 31

BORDERS AND MIGRATION

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This course offers an introduction to the causes and consequences of international migration and examines the political responses of different national communities to the phenomenon. In the first part of the course we will explore why and how people move from one country to another and analyze the strategies through which states attempt to manage mobility and exercise control over their territories. Students will learn about patterns of regular and irregular migration, including economic and undocumented migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. We will also interrogate the efficacy of border walls and other strategies of containment and control. In the second part of the course we will consider how migration transforms both sending and receiving countries and evaluate how countries accommodate (or fail to accommodate) newcomers to their territories. The growing ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity generated by international migratory flows has spawned fierce debates over national identity, social cohesion, and political stability. In order to make sense of these debates, we will analyze different regimes of immigrant integration, incorporation, and assimilation and evaluate the meaning of citizenship, social membership, and belonging. Classroom meetings will be supplemented with outside lectures and occasional fieldtrips to Philadelphia to observe immigration hearings and to meet with NGOs and community organizations working on issues surrounding migrant rights and refugee re-settlement.