The Economics of Immigration

Professor Manuela Angelucci
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1 Course Outline

This course focuses on key topics in the economics of immigration. We will look at the US immigration policy, how it changed during the XX century, and how it differs from other countries; we will study migration determinants and migrant self-selection. We will devote a considerable part of the course discussing the effects of immigration in both the host and the home country. Lastly, we will look at public opinion on immigration, its correlates, and its relationship with culture and identity. This course is intended for students with no previous knowledge of immigration and of labor economics. The only prerequisites are microeconomics (ECON361) and econometrics (ECON418).

2 Logistics

Your Professor: My name is Manuela Angelucci (angelucm@eller.arizona.edu). I do empirical research in the fields of Development and Labor Economics.

My office is McClelland Hall 401AA. My office hours are on Tuesdays 12:50-1:50 and Thursdays, 3:30-4:30.

Meetings: The course meets from 2:00 to 3:15 in MCLND122 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Your Teaching Assistant: Joseph Cullen is your TA for this course. Joseph will be the primary grader for the class. His email address and office hours will be made available through Blackboard.

3 Textbooks and Computer Programs

Textbooks: there is no required textbook, as this is a paper-based course. We will make use of various journal articles and unpublished research papers. In most cases you can access the material over the internet, typically JSTOR or the author’s web page. If not, I will make them available on Blackboard.

Distribution of Course Materials: All materials for the course will be distributed through Blackboard. You can log in to blackboard at:
http://blackboard.eller.arizona.edu

If you have not used blackboard before, it can sometimes take a few days for your name to be set up. See the website above for more information or help.

In a number of cases I will make my lecture notes available on the class web page on Blackboard.

**Computer Program:** There are going to be required empirical problem sets using an econometrics program called Stata. The department of economics has purchased copies of Stata for all of the computers in the Sands Undergraduate Computing Lab. The interested students may purchase their own copy of Stata, although this is not required. If you are interested, you can buy it for a discounted student rate. See [http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gpcampus.html](http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gpcampus.html) for details. Choose Intercooled (IC) STATA, not SMALL STATA. SMALL STATA is not adequate for many of the applications we will consider. One reasonably good introduction is


### 4 Assignments and Grading

During this seminar you will be assigned 8 problem sets, which together account for 56% of the final grade; you will have a midterm exam and a final exam, which account for 20% and 24% each. The problem sets and exams will ask questions on the papers discussed in class. Therefore, attendance is strongly encouraged. In addition, some problem sets will include econometric exercises that replicate the results of some key papers we will read. The problem set with the lowest grade will not count towards the final grade. This means that each problem set has a weight of 8%. There will be no makeup midterm or final, unless unexpected medical problems arise, as documented by a doctor’s note.

The problem sets are handed to me at the beginning of class. We will then go through the solutions together. Joseph will return the graded problem sets within a week from submission. Note: some students find it very useful to make two copies of each problem set. They hand one in and keep the other one while we solve the exercises in class.

**Working in Groups** It is permitted to work together in solving the problem sets, but each student must turn in their own written answers, clearly indicating the names of all group members. Groups for solving the problem sets may *not* be more than 3 students.

### 5 Topics and reading list

Here is the course schedule, followed by an outline of the topics we’ll cover and the related reading list.
Topic 1: US immigration - characteristics, trends, and immigration policy

Required reading:


- “International migration outlook: recent trends in international migration” (2007), OECD.

Additional reading:


**Topic 2: Migration determinants; temporary and permanent migration.**

Required reading:


Additional reading:


**Topic 3: Cohort and life cycle effects**

Required reading:


**Topic 4: migrant self-selection**

Required reading:


Additional reading:


**Topic 5: effect of migration on host country wages**

Required reading:


Additional reading:


**Topic 6: effect of migration on prices and public coffers**

Required reading:

Additional reading:


Topic 7: illegal migration

Required reading:


Additional reading:


**Topic 8: public opinion, culture, and identity**

Required reading:

• Card, D., Dustmann, C. and Preston, I. (2005), “Understanding attitudes to immigration: the migration and minority module of the first European Social Survey,” CReAM discussion paper 03/05.


Additional reading:


**Topic 9: effect of migration in the home country - remittances**

Required reading:


Additional reading:


**Topic 10: other effects of migration in the home country - brain drain, wages, health**

Required reading:
• Beine, Michel, Frederic Docquier and Hillel Rapoport (2007), “Brain drain and hu-
man capital formation in developing countries: winners and losers”, Economic Jour-
nal, forthcoming.


in Mexico,” Economia, 257-89.

• Mishra, P. (2007), “Emigration and wages in source countries: evidence from Mex-

Additional reading:

• Docquier F. and Hillel Rapoport (2007), “Skilled Migration: The Perspective of 
Developing Countries,” IZA Discussion Paper No. 2873.

• Faini, Riccardo (2003): Is the brain drain an unmitigated blessing? UNU-WIDER 
Discussion Paper No 2003/64, September.