Migration in the modern and contemporary era - 6 ECTS

Lina Venturas

Migration in the modern and contemporary era

a. Understanding migration: the problems of presentism and ethnocentrism. The historical and transnational approach.

b. Migration: a discussion on concepts, theories, periodisation, typologies.

c. Modern and contemporary history of migration:

Capitalism and asymmetrical international relations. European dominance and colonialism. Free, involuntary and forced migrations. Multi-ethnic empires / nation-states. Archetypical, commercial and comtemporary diasporas. Rural exodus Urbanization and industrialization. International division of labor, national and local labor markets. World Wars, international and local conflicts and refugee flows. State policies for migrants and refugees. Decolonisation and the North-South divide. The politicisation of migration. Integration / exclusion / segregation. Revising the emigration-immigration dichotomy. Assimilation / integration / transnationalism. Migration and the ex-socialist countries after 1989. Globalisation and regionalization. Upheavals in the international balance of power, late capitalism, neo-colonialism and recent population mouvements. Diversification and feminisation. Temporary and undocumented migration. From state to regional and international migration policies. Migration industry.

Objectives

The understanding and use of key concepts and theoretical perspectives on migration

The understanding:

a. of the complex causes of human mobility and their differential weight in different historical contexts

b. of the variability of migration waves and migrants in time

c. of the importance of time in integration processes

The critical assessment of state policies

Learning outcomes

- To identify and explain the main transformations in the history of migration movements
- To analyse comparatively facets of the migration phenomenon

- To understand the historicity and the complexity of migration movements and the variation of migration policies in time

- To analyse critically the role of structures, policies and strategies in processes of integration

- A deeper understanding of contemporary migration movements

Structure

7 weekly 3 hour seminars with input from tutor, critical reading of sources and articles, projection of documentaries, and discussion.

Students' Assessment

Written examination.

Students who wish to obtain a deeper understanding of historical approaches to migration may prepare a written essay (5000-7500 words), which will account for 50% of their final grade.

Bibliography

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E. Morawska, A sociology of immigration. (Re)thinking multifaceted America, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

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