AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies

SOAN 242/ SOAN 324T: Seminar in Globalization and Migration

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Professor

Fall 2015  
Thursday 3:30-6:00 pm. Nicely 105

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I. Introduction
This course is an introduction to a range of issues related to theories of forced and voluntary migration with particular emphasis on the peculiarities of contemporary globalization. Theoretical considerations include assumptions and case studies from sociology, anthropology and political economy. Concepts such as network theory, transnationalism, and the international division of labor are used to illuminate issues such as citizenship and identity, refugees, forced migration, nationalism, and ethnicity as they relate to the migratory experience.

Learning outcomes
1. Apply potential solutions to migration issues including their historical roots
2. Explain critically the key concepts and theoretical approaches of migration and their historical formation.
3. Effectively communicate orally and in written topic related to migration fields (presentation et research assignement).

II. Course Policies
1- You are strongly encouraged to participate in the discussion periods during classes and indeed beyond the classroom. It will make the classes more interesting and vibrant.
2- You should have a sense of responsibility. Class attendance is required and assessed. Coming late is not permitted without a proper justification. If you are absent, you should send a three–page summary of the reading before the next class.
3- It is strictly prohibited to use or to show mobile phones during the class.
4- Academic integrity: The heart of the teaching profession is integrity. Any violation of academic integrity will NOT be tolerated and will result in serious repercussions. Please refer to AUB policies and procedures on academic integrity.
http://pnp.aub.lb/university/handbook/158010044.html

III. Assessment
1. 25% Class Attendance, class presentation and participation
2. 35% memos
3. 40% Research paper (Due Nov. 1)

IV. Format
The course will be held in the form of a seminar, including lectures and class discussions.

Seminar Presentation
Each student is required to give one or two oral presentation on a chosen topic. The presentation should be no more than 20-25 minutes. Presenting the reading will provide a synthesis of the assigned readings and raise questions, counterarguments and connections to other theoretical issues, or comparisons with other places and times. I will select two students to react primarily on the presentation and on the reading. Then discussion will be open to the whole class. Students will bring the assigned readings, the memo and prepare some quotes to be discussed.

Memos
Students will submit a 700-1500 word memo each week, to be submitted in moodle before Thursday 8 AM. They present your reaction to your readings. They are not a summary of the readings but an analytical critical account of them. You should highlight some quotes from the readings.
What the meeting of critical ready?
Never take what you read at face value! Reading critically requires the reader to engage actively with a text, formulate questions about it, examine the claims it makes and actively explore the implicit bias in the way the text is framed and the way it selects and presents information. This is particularly important in the social science where claims and counterclaims about positive and negative actions are frequently encountered.
Amongst other things, critical reading involves asking the following questions about a text: Who wrote this text? For what purpose? From what viewpoint? For what audience? What line of reasoning is evident in the text? What evidence is provided for the arguments? How is it presented? What do the surface forms used in the text tell us about agency/responsibility; subjectivity/passivity, moral stance, bias and emotional engagement with the subject? In brief, students should read through a text systematically, interrogate it for its use of evidence, signs of bias, moral stance and emotional involvement and evaluate its purposes and outcomes. Don't believe everything you read. Be a sceptic, question the author, the claims and the evidence, and evaluate dispassionately.

Research Essay
Each student will choose a topic related to migration. S/he will send me one or two paragraph in how s/he will approach the topic and the suggested bibliography, to be approved by me. Students will be expected to explore the topic in an original fashion, applying concepts they learn in the seminar. The research may be conducted from written primary and secondary source materials and supplemented by original research which may include interviews and observation fieldwork, taking care to follow professional standards of social science methodologies. A 4000-words research paper, must follow normal standards of an essay with proper referencing, introduction, discussion and conclusion. Paper is to be submitted by Dec. 1, 2013 exclusively through Moodle.

V. Topics and Readings

Topic 1 Understanding Globalization

Discussion Topic: Globalization is not a new phenomenon, but it is a term used to describe a more recent set of phenomena. What are these recent developments and how can we understand them in a critical way?

Essential Reading:


Short vedio: What kind of Asian are you?

Further Reading:


**Topic 2  Sociology/Anthropology of Migration**

**Essential Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


**Topic 3  Transnationalism**

**Discussion Topic:** Analyse the: a) usefulness and b) limitations of these concepts, using examples from Lebanon or the Middle East generally. Where does transnationalism fit into the assimilation/segmented assimilation debate? Do you think that transnationalism is “new”? Why or why not? What are the theoretical implications of accepting a transnational view of immigration?

**Essential Reading:**


**Further Readings:**


**Topic 4    Migration in the Arab region: an overview**

**Essential Reading**


**Further Reading:**
**Topic 5  Statelessness and refugees**

**Essential Reading**


Giorgio Agamben. “We Refugees” in [http://www.egs.edu/faculty/agamben/agamben-we-refugees.html](http://www.egs.edu/faculty/agamben/agamben-we-refugees.html)

**Further Reading:**

Daly, Frances “The non-citizen and the concept of ”human rights”” borderlandse-journal. Volum 3 no 1, 2004


**Topic 6 Ethnicity: groups and Networks**

**Essential Reading:**


**Further Reading:**

**Topic 7  Contract Labour Migration**

**Essential Reading:**

**Further Reading:**
**Topic 8 Citizenship and Migration**

Would one believe that traditional citizenship is being eclipsed by a new postnational model of belonging? Do you think citizenship and membership increasingly derive from global processes rather than national policies and ideologies? Along which paths do you think membership and belonging will go in the century -- national, transnational or global (postnational)? Why do you think this?

**Essential Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


**Topic 9 Diaspora: the Lebanese case**

**Essential Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


الجاليات العربية في استراليا (2013) بيروت: مركز دراسات الوحدة العربية

**Topic 10**  
**Refugee Camps in the Arab East and Return Migration**

**Essential Reading**


Impact of the Arab Spring on refugees: The Syrian case (to be assigned later on)

**Further Reading:**


**Topic 11**  
**Migration, Euro-Islam and Multiculturalism**

**Essential Reading**


**Further Reading:**

**Topic 12 Gender and Trafficking**

**Essential Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


(George, 2005 , pp. 19-38)

Topic 13  Film and Seminar conclusion
Samir, Forget Baghdad

General References


Academic Journals
Journal of ethnic and migration studies. - UK.
Ethnic and racial studies. - UK.
International migration review. - USA.
International migration: migrants entering or leaving the United Kingdom a. - UK.
Race and class. - UK.
Urban studies. - UK.
European urban and regional studies. - UK
International journal of urban and regional research. - UK.
International journal of population geography. - UK.
Journal of Common Market studies. - UK.
West European politics. - UK.

The Internet
The following website will give you access to hundreds of information sources.
Virtual Library on Migration and Ethnic Relations: http://www.ercomer.org/wwwvl/
Metropolis - Site international / International Site
Transnational Communities Programme
ERCOMER - The European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations, Home Page
CEMES - Centre for European Migration and Ethnic Studies
IMES - Institute of Migration and Ethnic Studies
Migration research centre. University of Bremen
http://www.migration.uni-bremen.de
Migration Research Unit Homepage
Migration dialogue. UC-Davis. California
Reading for Some Topics

On Slave Migrations:


On Migrations of Indenture:


On European Migrations in 18th and 19th centuries:


**On World Systems Theory:**


