



STUDY PROGRAMME

European General Studies

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-2024

SEMESTER

Second

COURSE TITLE

Migration, Mobility and Demography in the EU

COURSE PROFESSORS

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COURSE ASSISTANT

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Seminar

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

LAW 3 ; ECO 3 ; ELEA 2 ; POL 4

1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course aims to provide students with the conceptual and practical tools necessary for **analysing and understanding the dynamics of Europe's changing population. This involves understanding migration and demography trends that have shaped the EU, placing them in their wider global context, and exploring their impacts on EU politics and policies.**

Migration and mobility involve movement across space- these can be regions or countries. They influence and change both the origin and destination locations. Migration is often caused by individual or household decisions, and it is facilitated, encouraged, controlled, or restricted by states.

In recent years, **the impacts of migration and demography on societal change has risen to the top of the political agenda across Europe, both domestically and in relations with third countries.** The **ageing of our societies, the growing diversity of our cities, and the depopulation of rural or remote areas** as younger people leave for opportunities elsewhere, are **complex trends** that are posing **important public policy choices and challenges across all EU Member States.** At the same time, **migration trends** are more global than ever. The movement of people across borders often triggers a deep sense of uncertainty. As nationalism and border sovereignty are on the rise, so are borders and walls. And yet, more people than ever are continuously finding ways to cross them.

Although migration is an integral part of human history, the media and political discourse tend to represent migration often as a 'crisis', or as a 'new' and 'exceptional' phenomenon,



limited in space and time. Population movements have characterised the history of Europe in all periods, but in recent decades:

- Intra-EU mobility and demographic trends are creating tensions in many European countries as some move in search of opportunities, and others feel increasingly left behind and insecure.
- Growing numbers of people seeking asylum mixed with irregular migrants have become highly polarising issues shaping electoral choices.
- The need to better integrate third country nationals and address labour shortages has been driving debates for improved legal migration pathways to Europe.
- The challenge of better managing diversity within more ethnically and culturally diverse societies has led to policies aimed at promoting equality and addressing discrimination, as well as countering radicalisation and extremism.

These challenges are likely to become even more **complex in the years ahead** as demographic and migration trends **intersect with the impacts of climate change, new technologies and geopolitical shifts**.

Against this background, this course first looks back at **how migration and demography trends** have evolved from the end of WWII to today. It examines the push and pull factors of human mobility, and the causes and drivers of migration to the EU. It highlights how changes in international relations, the global economy and the EU, have shaped migration patterns, pathways and choices. It will also look at societal changes that have contributed to Europe's urbanisation, ageing population and more diverse labour force.

Second, it examines the **migration experience of different parts of Europe as sending, receiving and transit migration countries**. It looks at **migration and integration policies** that the EU Member States have formulated in response to changing demographic, societal and economic needs, and, in turn, how migration has **impacted the economy and the labour market**.

Third, the course examines the **governance of diversity in Europe**. It explores how migration and demographic trends have impacted **understandings of identity across the EU Member States**. How do immigrants adapt and how do European societies change in response? How have newcomers been incorporated? Which policies have aimed at preventing discrimination and exclusion? What role has the EU played in this context?

The course will not only look back. It will also look forward. It will consider **demographic and migration projections over the period 2024-2035, the drivers of social, economic and political change, and their impact on the future of the EU**.

Finally, this course aims to develop students' abilities to **critically assess policy developments** in this field, **conduct research on migration, mobility and demography**, and **present their findings to the class**.



2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course examines the **above issues** combining both their **specific historical context and the changing realities** on the ground today. At the end of the course the student is expected to have an understanding of:

1. The drivers of population change in Europe and how these are shaping politics and policies;
2. The way that migration trends and patterns within Europe and towards the EU have evolved in recent decades and place these in the global context and the transformations that have occurred in international relations from the end of World War II until today;
3. The policy choices, the similarities and differences between the different EU MS in managing migration, in integrating migrants and refugees, and in addressing demographic trends;
4. The governance implications of migration and diversity at the local (urban), regional, national as well as European and international levels;
5. The role that the EU has played as regards migration and mobility, including the most recent initiatives and developments as regards migration and demography;
6. The definitions and interpretations of different measures of migration and migrants used in national, EU and international statistics and research studies;
7. Present and evaluate arguments, explanations and theoretical perspectives, and discuss alternative viewpoints through written work and in-class presentations.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

In Sessions 1 and 2 we shall **discuss the causes and consequences of migration, the drivers of population change, the relevance of political demography**, and the different **migration pathways in and to Europe** from the end of the Second World War to today. We will review **the main theoretical models that explain why migration starts and why it continues**. We will also look at **current trends, data and measurements concerning migration, integration** (labour market, education, etc) **and demographic change** (fertility rates, life expectancy, household composition, urbanisation etc).

In sessions 3 and 4 we will look at how the **main phases of immigration to Europe** have evolved. We will look at both the impact of **international developments** on migration patterns to Europe (the end of the Cold War, 9/11, the Arab Spring, the global financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, etc) and the developments at EU level that shaped migration and mobility, notably **EU widening and deepening**. We will then look at the **common policy challenges and opportunities that EU member states** face: population decline and ageing societies; labour and family migration; integration of migrants, inequalities and social cohesion; citizenship and identities; irregular migration and informal economies, high-skill migration and EU competitiveness. Drawing from this we will discuss the policy responses that have been developed, the **politics of immigration, populism and narratives of the 'other'** that have defined the public space.



Session 5 involves a **deeper dive into understanding the EU's unique free movement regime and current intra-EU mobility trends and issues**. We will also look closer at current **socio-demographic and economic challenges posed by in particular intra-EU labour mobility; regional depopulation; and post-Brexit developments**.

Session 6 will explore the **main tenets and phases of EU migration policy** and its **consequences for migrants** coming into the EU. This will involve a critical discussion at the **pressing challenges that the EU and its Member States face today**, notably the 'mixing' of labour migration and asylum flows, irregular routes after the implementation of Schengen, responses to the refugee crisis; and the consequences of the war in Ukraine.

Sessions 7 and 8 will look at **how migration intersects with other major transformations underway**. Particular attention will be paid to how **climate change** may impact migration to and mobility within Europe; and how **new technologies** may impact migration choices and policies in Europe (skills needs on the labour market; digitisation, surveillance and border management, social media, identity and belonging). These sessions will also **include a foresight exercise focusing on future demographic and migration trends. Students will work in teams to develop scenarios and explore how decisions and developments today may impact the EU in the decade ahead**.

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures by the professors and participation by the students: students are expected to participate actively in all sessions and brief in-class break out team exercises will be assigned.

According to EG course requirements, students will be expected to submit a **written piece** of work and participate in a **foresight exercise**.

The professors will ask the students' opinions, understanding and knowledge on the economic, social and political dimensions of demographic and migration trends. The questions are meant to stimulate critical thinking rather than assess the student's specific knowledge.

5. EVALUATION

- Essay to submit on a chosen subject approved by the professors: 40 %
- Participation in class and in the foresight exercise: 20%
- Oral examination at the end of the course: 40%

6. COURSE MATERIAL

Given the breadth and interdisciplinary character of the topic, the course will offer an overview of theoretical approaches and country cases based on a short list of compulsory readings. Compulsory readings are clearly marked. Other readings are optional. The overall list indicates the range of materials, approaches and cases to be covered during the course.

There is no single book assigned as reader for this course. The compulsory readings on



which students will be examined are however specified in each course session. Other suggested readings are also included in the course outline but interested students may consult with the professor for further readings that interest them and/or that they need for the preparation of their essays or presentations.

The following general readers are useful **reference books** for the course:

Triandafyllidou, A. Gropas, R. (eds) (2014), *European Immigration: A Sourcebook*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2nd edition (1st edition 2007).

Geddes A., Hadj Abdou L. and L. Brumat (2020), *Migration and Mobility in the European Union*, London: Macmillan, 2nd edition.

General bibliographical sources of interest > useful for background research & paper

(Selected) specialised journals:

Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; International Migration Review; Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies; European Journal of Migration and Law; Ethnic and Racial Studies; International Migration

Useful web sites:

EASO, European Asylum Support Office: <https://easo.europa.eu/>

FRA, Fundamental Rights Agency: http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home_en.htm#

FRONTEX European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union <http://frontex.europa.eu/>

ECRI, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Council of Europe: http://www.coe.int/t/E/human_rights/ecri/

European Commission:

Directorate General Home: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/>

Directorate General Justice: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/justice/index_en.htm

Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography: https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/migration-demography_en

IMISCOE Network, International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion, <http://www.imiscoe.org/>

International Migration Outlook, OECD, <http://www.oecd.org/migration/international-migration-outlook-1999124x.htm>

International Organisation for migration IOM, <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home.html>

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna, Austria: <http://www.icmpd.org/>

European University Institute, Migration Policy Centre including the Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration: <http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu>

The Migration Policy Group: <http://www.migpolgroup.com/>

COMPAS, Oxford University, <https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk>



SESSIONS 1 and 2: MIGRATION, MOBILITY and DEMOGRAPHY: TRENDS, THEORIES and DATA

- General Introduction on migration, mobility and demography: definitions, trends and statistics
- Drivers of demographic change
- An overview of population change in Europe
- Theories of international migration and their relevance in the contemporary context
- Migration pathways in and to Europe

Compulsory readings:

- European Commission (2023), Report on *The impact of demographic change in a changing environment*, available at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/impact-demographic-change-europe_en
- Gropas R. and A. Triandafyllidou (2023), 'Migration,' in R. Costello and N. Robinson (eds) *Comparative European Politics: Distinctive Democracies, Common Challenges*, Oxford: OUP, Textbook, forthcoming.
- de Haas, Hein (2014) [What drives human migration?](#) In B Anderson and M Keith (eds.) *Migration: A COMPAS Anthology*, COMPAS: Oxford.
- Triandafyllidou et al. (2014), 'Introduction' in A. Triandafyllidou and R. Gropas (Eds) *European Immigration. A Sourcebook*, Second Edition, Aldershot: Ashgate.
- De Haas, H. et al (2019), 'International Migration: Trends, Determinants, and Policy Effects' in *Population and Development Review*, see: <https://heindehaas.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/international-migration-trends-determinants-and-policy-effects.pdf>
- Massey D. Arango, J. Hugo, G. Kouaouci, A. Pellegrino, A. and Taylor, E. (1993): 'Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal,' in *Population and Development Review*, 19, 3, 431-466, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2938462>

Further reading:

- de Haas, Hein (2021), A theory of migration: the aspirations- capabilities framework, *Comparative Migration Studies*, <https://comparativemigrationstudies.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40878-020-00210-4.pdf>

SESSIONS 3 and 4: MIGRATION and POPULATION CHANGE IN “OLDER” and “NEWER” HOST COUNTRIES

- Main phases of immigration to Europe
- Common EU policy challenges and opportunities: population decline and ageing societies; labour and family migration; integration of migrants, inequalities and social cohesion; citizenship and identities; irregular migration and informal economies, high-skill migration and EU competitiveness
- Policy responses, the politics of immigration, populism and narratives of the 'other'

Compulsory readings:

- Triandafyllidou et al. (2014), 'Concluding Remarks', in A. Triandafyllidou and R. Gropas (Eds) *European Immigration. A Sourcebook*, Second Edition, Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Boubtane E. (2022), 'France Reckons with Immigration Amid Reality of Rising Far Right,' at MPI, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/france-immigration-rising-far-right>
- Finotelli C and S. Rinken (2023), 'A pragmatic bet: the evolution of Spain's immigration system' at MPI, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/spain-immigration-system-evolution>



- Sommerville W. and P.W. Walsh (2021), 'United Kingdom's Decades-Long Immigration Shift Interrupted by Brexit and the Pandemic,' at MPI, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/united-kingdom-shift-immigration-interrupted-brexit-pandemic>

Further reading:

- Triandafyllidou, A. Gropas, R. (Eds) (2014): *European Immigration: A Sourcebook*, 2nd Edition, Aldershot: Ashgate, chapters on *France, Germany, Italy and Poland*
- Goździak E. (2019), 'Using Fear of the "Other," Orbán Reshapes Migration Policy in a Hungary Built on Cultural Diversity', at MPI, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/orb%C3%A1n-reshapes-migration-policy-hungary>
- Spencer S. and A. Triandafyllidou, 'Irregular migration,' in Peter Scholten (ed.), *Introduction to migration studies : an interactive guide to the literatures on migration and diversity*, Cham : Springer, 2022, pp. 191-204 – <http://hdl.handle.net/1814/75196>

SESSION 5: INTRA-EU MOBILITY

- Understanding the free movement regime and current intra-EU mobility
- Current socio-demographic and economic challenges: intra-EU labour mobility; regional depopulation; post-Brexit developments

Compulsory readings:

- Engbersen G., et al (2017), The intra-EU mobility regime: Differentiation, stratification and contradictions, *Migration Studies*, Volume 5, Issue 3, November 2017, Pages 337–355, <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnx044>
- Geddes A. et al (2020) *Migration and mobility in the EU*, chapters 8 and 9.

SESSION 6: EU IMMIGRATION, ASYLUM AND BORDERS POLICY

- The main tenets and phases of EU migration policy and its consequences for migrants coming into the EU
- Pressing challenges: 'Mixing' of labour migration and asylum flows, irregular routes after the implementation of Schengen, responses to the refugee crisis; the war in Ukraine

Compulsory readings:

- Guiraudon V. (2017) The 2015 refugee crisis was not a turning point: Explaining policy inertia in EU border control, *European Political Science* 17, 03/2018, Pages 151-160. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41304-017-0123-x>
- Geddes A. et al (2020) *Migration and mobility in the EU*, chapters 3, 6, and 7.

SESSION 7: GLOBAL MEGATRENDS and THEIR IMPACT ON MIGRATION TO EUROPE

- Main megatrends and their impacts on migration: a closer look at climate change and new technologies and the new challenges and opportunities they pose in relation to migration and mobility

SESSION 8: LOOKING AHEAD 2024-2035: FORESIGHT EXERCISE

- Foresight exercise: Demographic Change and the Future of Migration in Europe
- Concluding remarks
- Course evaluation and feedback