



STUDY PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN GENERAL STUDIES

ACADEMIC YEAR

2020 - 2021

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

MIGRATION, MOBILITY AND DEMOGRAPHY IN THE EU

COURSE PROFESSOR

Roubini GROPAS

COURSE ASSISTANT

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Optional

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

LAW: 3 ECTS; ECO: 3 ECTS; ELEA (LAW): 2 ECTS; POL: 4

## 1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course aims to provide students with the conceptual and practical tools necessary for analysing and understanding migration and demography trends, as well as related policies in Europe.

Migration is an integral part of human history. Although 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. Over the past few years, migration has risen to the top of the political agenda across the EU. Against a wider context of increased volatility, insecurity and uncertainty – largely driven by contrasting demographic trends, changing economic and social conditions, the changing nature of globalisation, global power shifts, new security risks, and new opportunities and challenges offered by technology - this course aims to contextualise migration in Europe.

First, the course looks into the origins of immigration and the main pathways into Europe from the end of the Second World War until today. It examines the causes and drivers of migration to the EU by zooming out to the global context and highlighting the push and pull factors of human mobility, as well as how changes in international relations, the global economy and the EU, have shaped



migration patterns, pathways and choices. It also zooms in to the demographic drivers of migration patterns and choices.

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. It explores how migration, in turn, has impacted the economy and the labour market, society, and also understandings of identity across the Member States. Special focus will be devoted to the changes that have taken place in the last 10 years and how migration flows and mobility have contributed to the dynamics of Europe's ageing labour force, particularly in shaping its occupational and educational composition.

Third, the course will not only look back at how migration and mobility trends have evolved from the end of WWII to today, and at Europe's demographic transformation over the course of the past 7 decades, it will also look forward. It will consider projections over the period 2015-2030, and aim at identifying the drivers of change in working-age population in European countries, and in particular the role of migration flows.

Fourth, the course examines the governance of migration and diversity in Europe. It explores the opportunities and challenges that EU Member States face. How have European societies changed in terms of (ethnic/cultural/religious) diversity? How have newcomers been incorporated? Which policies have aimed at preventing discrimination and exclusion? What role has the EU played in this context?

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

**At the end of the course the student is expected to be able to:**

- 1) Give an overview of migration trends, within Europe and to Europe;
- 2) Underline the policy similarities and differences between countries or regions as regards migration and mobility;
- 3) Better understand the governance implications of migration and diversity at the local (urban), regional, national as well as European and international level;



- 4) Explain in broad lines European migration policy and intra-EU mobility and the most recent policy developments;
- 5) Use the most relevant and robust analyses and information sources on migration, mobility and demography.

### 3. COURSE CONTENTS

This course examines the **above issues** combining both their **specific historical context and the changing realities** on the ground today.

We shall **first discuss main terms and definitions**, and the new and old **migration pathways** in Europe. Session 2 will focus on **the main theoretical models that explain why migration starts and why it continues**.

Sessions 3, 4 and 5 will concentrate **on migration in specific country cases**. Session 3 will cover **'old' host countries** including France and Germany. Session 4 will look at more **recent receiving countries** in Southern Europe: Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Session 5 will discuss the **immigration and emigration challenges faced by several Central and South Eastern European countries in the post-1989** period. All country cases will be discussed in their European context and from a comparative perspective. Emphasis will also be placed on current and forward-looking challenges that EU Member States share, ranging from demographic pressures, to labour market needs and skills needs, and intensified humanitarian migration flows.

Sessions 6 and 7 will look at the **EU dimension of migration policy** and particularly at **intra-EU mobility and its demographic and social implications**.

Session 8 will **include a foresight exercise focusing on future migration trends and scenarios exploring their potential impacts on Europe**.

### 4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures by the professor 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.

The course will include the writing of an **essay** and participation in a **foresight exercise** on what current trends may mean for future prospects for migration, and particularly for the EU.



The professor will ask questions about the students' opinion, understanding and knowledge on a number of issues. The questions are meant to stimulate critical thinking rather than assessing the student's specific knowledge.

## 5. 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. An effort has been made to include materials from different national languages even if the main literature on migration is anglophone and secondarily francophone.

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. They consist of one (and up to four) journal articles or book chapters per 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:

- Anna Triandafyllidou & Ruby Gropas (eds), *European Immigration: A Sourcebook*, Aldershot, Ashgate, 2nd edition, 2014 (1st edition 2007).
- Andrew Geddes, Leila Hadj Abdou and Leiza Brumat (eds), *Migration and Mobility in the European Union*, London, Macmillan, 2nd edition, 2020.

## 6. EVALUATION

- **Essay** to submit on a chosen subject approved by the professor: **30 %**
- **Participation** in class and in the **foresight exercise**: **20%**
- **Oral examination** at the end of the course: **50%**