

### **Global Migration and Human Society**

- Instructor: Assistant Professor of Political Science Song Jiyoung
- School: School of Social Sciences
- Previously offered: Term 1 AY2014-15 (Aug – Nov 2014)
- Next course-run: Term 1 AY2015-16 (Aug – Nov 2015)

#### Course Description

Global migration is one of the most interdisciplinary areas approached from political science, human geography, law, economics, sociology, anthropology or social work. This course introduces theories of migration and security, and discusses international organisations and national governments that deal with transnational migration. Throughout the course, students learn how to conduct country-specific research projects with comparative perspectives in Asia, under the instructor's academic supervision with international organisations.

The module is designed as a highly interactive learning-by-doing course where students develop advanced research skills while working directly with international, governmental or non-governmental organisations on the subject areas. In doing so, students learn to use their knowledge by practice and into practice. The instructor organises and coordinates online or offline discussions and live WebEx or Skype conferences with partner organisations in a weekly basis. The course focuses on high quality academic writing and research skills by running weekly workshops, special sessions by a law librarian and a data visualisation expert, and progressively developing a research proposal into a draft, revision, and final paper whilst giving regular feedback.

Participating organisations vary each year. They include the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the British High Commission, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, the Embassy of Timor-Leste, the Royal Thai Embassy, the Embassy of the Philippines, Asia Human Rights Commission, EmancipAsia, World Refugee and Save the Children.

The participating organisations for this term are IOM Regional Office, the UN Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) and WorldRefugee/IOM Thailand and Myanmar.

#### Course Goals

At the end of the module, students should be able to:

- 1) comprehend basic theories of migration and human security;
- 2) develop research agendas collaboratively;
- 3) critically analyse issues involving global migration and human security and evaluate existing policies from theoretical perspectives;
- 4) engage meaningfully with partner organisations and meet their expectations; and
- 5) present the research outcomes orally and visually to a public audience

### Assessment Methods

Workshop Participation and Weekly Briefing 30% (Individual)

Mid-Term Paper 20% (Individual)

Symposium Presentation 20% (Group)

Final Report 30% (Individual 20% + Group 10%)

Total 100% (Individual 70% + Group 30%)

Each week, students are expected to report their weekly progress and actively participate in various workshop activities (30%). The class invites representatives from the partner organisations and/or holds Skype/WebEx conferences with the overseas partners. Students must brief weekly updates on the respective research projects, followed by discussions on the readings. Group activities will be assigned each week, which include research proposals and methodologies, theoretical frameworks, data collection and information sharing and brainstorming for policy implications in a form of interactive peer review and instant feedback from the instructor as well as supervisors from partner organisations.

For the Mid-Term Paper (20%), students must write a theoretical academic paper, identifying relevant theories and concepts learnt from previous classes to the respective research projects. The paper should include backgrounds of the research, research questions and full literature review. Word limit is 3,000. Late submission will be penalised by 1 point per day from the final grade. Plagiarism is not tolerated and will fail the course immediately once caught. See the SMU 'Guidelines to Prevent Academic Dishonesty' for your reference.

In Week 13, a SMU-Carnegie Council Symposium on Global Migration and Human Security (tentative title, 20%) will take place, which is open to the public. It is the avenue for students to present their research outcomes to partner organisations as well as to other faculty members and SMU students. Q&As will follow and students need to constructively engage with comments and reflect in their final group reports.

Final Paper (30%) is due in Week 15 so that students can reflect the questions and comments, raised during the Symposium and complete their reports. Final Paper will be evaluated based on the coherent structure, the originality and wealth of data collection and research findings. Late submission is penalised by 1 point per day from the final grade.

### Instructional Methods and Expectations

Students are expected to be highly responsible, communicative, engaging and motivated to work with partner organisations. Communication failure will affect the grades. This module is multidisciplinary. Incorporation of theories and conceptual frameworks are not limited to this class. Students are highly encouraged to bring theories from other disciplines such as law, business, economics, sociology, psychology and system information.

### Weekly Lesson Plan

Week	Topic
1	Politics and Migration
2	Migration, Human Security and Development
3	Globalisation and Labour Migration: International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UN-ACT (United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons)

4	Refugees and Asylum Seekers: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
5	Migration, Development and Human Rights: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
6	Research Methodology
7	Data Visualisation: Tableau
8	Recess (No Class)
9	Migration and State Sovereignty
10	Political Economy of Migration
11	Gender and Migration
12	Civil Society and Global Governance
13	SMU-School of Social Sciences Symposium

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