

**SOC 715 – CURRENT ISSUES IN SOCIOLOGY: MIGRATION  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA**

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**Class:** Monday 10:30AM to 1:00 PM

**Room:** BUSAD E204

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, we will examine the social organization of something we call “migration,” and with it, the legal and social categorization of people we now know as “(im)migrants.” People have moved from one place to another for tens of thousands of years. They have moved for a long list of reasons, ones that are not dissimilar from those that propel people to move today. However, with the advent of state rule over people’s lives, mobility has been constrained in one way or another. The form that state power takes profoundly effects how states tamper with people’s ability to move.

In this course, we will focus on contemporary state policies on immigration and citizenship controls. We will examine how they shape now-nationalized and capitalist markets for employment, housing, services, land and so on. We will examine how they shape who we think “we” are, and who we think “we” are not. We will examine the sociological links between material and representational practices and the patterns of migration these produce. A special emphasis will be placed on understanding the social, political and economic processes that are productive of ideas of “national belonging.”

Our main focus will be the highly restrictive immigration policies of what has been termed the “Rich World.” To better understand their formulation, we will situate these policies historically. Our discussions will include an investigation of how ideological practices of racism, sexism and nationalism have been central to the creation of a now-international system of nation-state controls on immigration and to the equally global system of capitalism. We will consider the development of one of the central theoretical perspectives in the sociological literature on migration –global apartheid - to understand how nation-state immigration and citizenship policies create two or more different legal regimes that distinguish - and discriminate - between people on the basis of whether they are “citizens” or “non-citizens” (i.e. “migrants”). Remembering that “migrants” and “citizens” are agentive people, we will also examine varieties of internationalism, cosmopolitanism and ecological perspectives to investigate practices of assimilation, accommodation and resistance.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES**

Students will develop their critical learning skills by: examining the historical origins of key ideas, concepts and categories shaping human experience today; examining the relations of ruling that organize dominant ideas, concepts and categories and; examining how people have variously contested these ideas, concepts and categories. Students will also develop their reading, writing and oral presentation skills in order to become clear thinkers and articulate communicators of theoretically informed empirical research.

## **REQUIRED READINGS:**

**SS:** Sassen, Saskia. *The Mobility of Labor and Capital: A Study in International Investment and Labor Flow*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.

**NS:** Sharma, Nandita. *Home Economics: Nationalism and the Making of 'Migrant Workers' in Canada*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006.

**BA:** Anderson, Bridget. *Us and Them? The Dangerous Politics of Immigration Control*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013

**NDG:** Nicholas De Genova. *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.

**CR:** Course Reader, Select Journal Articles and Book Chapters

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

Participation (preparation and level of engagement)	10%
Weekly Discussion Questions	10%
Short Papers on two texts (3 pages each)	30%
Major Research Paper (approx. 25 pages)	50%

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

Your attendance is expected. You are responsible for everything that is covered during class time, including materials covered in classes that are missed. Moreover, attendance is usually a good indicator of your participation in this course (i.e. interest, commitment and enthusiasm). *Just as importantly*, you are expected to come *fully prepared* for each class by having completed your assigned readings and having developed questions and comments that will allow you to be an *active* participant in class discussions.

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments must be submitted on the day they are due. A late paper will be penalized at 10% for each day it is late.