

# ILLEGAL (IRREGULAR) MIGRATION

Monday 9.30. -11.15.am. Room 202

Instructor: Dr. Katalin Danesi ([kdanesi@gmail.com](mailto:kdanesi@gmail.com)) assistant professor, Dept of Economics

Office hours: before or after class or by appointment

## Course objective:

The objective of the course is to introduce students to the main debates of irregular migration with a special emphasis on the unprecedented 2015/16 influx of the one million (plus) asylum seekers into the EU (mostly Germany) via the land routes of Turkey, Greece and the Balkan countries. Students acquire a theoretical and critical overview of the concepts and explanations of irregular migration. They learn to debate the most important issues (labor and social rights for irregulars, upgraded border security, undocumented entry and human smuggling, remittances) surrounding irregular migration and gain the skills to articulate their own grounded interpretation of the „refugee crisis” currently unfolding in the EU.

## Course description:

02/08. week 1: Course introduction

02/15. week 2: Definition of irregular migration and theoretical overview  
Düvell, F (2006): chapter 1: p.5-22, 29-35.

02/22. week 3: Historical overview of irregular migration: trends and statistics in the quest for border control  
Castles and Miller (2009): chapter 8. p.181-195, 202-205.

02/29. week 4: Entry without inspection  
Walton-Roberts, M and Hennerby, J (2014): chapter 5.

03/7. week 5: Human smuggling  
Sarah Stillman 2015. “Where are the children? For extortionists, undocumented migrants have become big business” *New Yorker* April 27, 2015 Issue p.40-53.  
Nicholas Schmidle 2015. “Ten Borders. One refugee’s epic escape from Syria.” *New Yorker* October 26, 2015 Issue p. 42-53.

03/14. week 6: National holiday

03/21. week 7: Spring break

03/28. week 8: Easter holiday

04/4. week 9: Undocumented labor  
Walton-Roberts, M and Hennerby, J (2014): chapter 3.

04/11. week 10: Refugees and asylum regulations  
Walton-Roberts, M and Hennerby, J (2014): chapter 6.

04/18. week 11: Border enforcement  
Walton-Roberts, M and Hennerby, J (2014): chapter 7.

04/25. week 12: Border enforcement II  
Alice Bloch. 2014. “Living in Fear: Rejected Asylum Seekers Living as Irregular Migrants in England.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 40(10): 1507-1525  
Steffen Mau et al 2015. “The Global Mobility Divide: How Visa Policies Have Evolved over Time.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 41(8): 1192-1213

05/02. week 13: Regularization programs for undocumented laborers  
Jeffrey Tobin, Jeffrey. 2015. “American limbo. While politicians block reform, what is happening to immigrant families” *New Yorker* July 27, 2015 Issue p.30-35  
Ruth Gomborg-Munoz 2015. “The Punishment/El Castigo: Undocumented Latinos and US Immigration Processing.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 41(14): 2235-2252

05/09. week 14: Conclusion and grading

### **Requirements:**

Students are required to read the assigned texts before each class, come to class prepared and contribute to class-discussion in a meaningful way. The required reading will be presented every week by somebody in max. 15 minutes. Each week one student is also strongly encouraged to bring to class a (link of a) short video or news segment (from CNN's or IOM's, UNHCR's, etc website) addressing the 2015/16 refugee crisis, so that we can have an ongoing conversation of this issue as it is unfolding. Our class is equipped with a projector connected to the internet.

Writing two short research papers (**a 3 page-long mid-term essay and a 5 page-long final essay**) is required to complete the course (font size 12, spacing 1.5). For the papers students can work individually or in groups upon summarizing (collectively) a selected case concerning irregular migration. Group members may share information sources and research materials regarding their case, but they are required to hand in individually written papers. **The mid-term paper is due by April 4, 2016.** In the second part of the course, students will continue to work on their mid-term papers and transform them into final essays. The task is to revise their interpretations of their selected cases by employing the key conceptual tools of the textbooks and turn them into argumentative essays. Ideally, by the end of the course, we will have different explanations of the outcomes of similar cases, all in direct conversation with each other. Regarding the format of the final paper, student should start with posing a question in the title, and then formulate a reply/position to this question. The final paper should be an argumentative essay, that tries to prove to the reader that this particular position explains the outcomes of the case in the most meaningful way. **The final paper is due by May 2, 2016.**

### **Grading:**

Final grades will be based on an intricate proportion of the mid-term and final essays, class activity and short presentation of the required reading.

### **Reading list:**

- Franck Düvell (ed) (2006): *Illegal Immigration in Europe. Beyond Control?* Palgrave-Macmillan, New York.
- Margaret Walton-Roberts – Jenna Hennerby (eds) (2014): *Territoriality and Migration in the EU Neighborhood: Spilling over the Wall.* Springer Science+Business Media, Dordrecht NL.
- Steffen Mau, Fabian Gölzau et al (2015): „The Global Mobility Divide: How Visa Policies Have Evolved over Time.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.* 41(8): 1192-1213.
- Ruth Gomberg-Munoz (2015): „The Punishment/El Castigo. Undocumented Latinos and US Immigration Processing.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.* 41(14): 2235-2252.
- Alice Bloch. 2014. “Living in Fear: Rejected Asylum Seekers Living as Irregular Migrants in England.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 40(10): 1507-1525

### **Further suggested reading:**

- Stephen Castles – Mark J. Miller (2009): *The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World.* 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Palgrave Macmillan, New York
- Alejandro Portes - Josh DeWind (2008): *Rethinking Migration: New Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives.* Berghahn Books, New York
- Bill Jordan – Franck Düvell (2002): *Irregular Migration. Dilemmas of Transnational Mobility.* Edward Elgar, Northampton, MA, USA
- Susan Forbes Martin (2004): *Refugee Women.* Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland, USA