

## The Migration Experience

ANT 315.01

Spring, 2009

Time: MWF 9:30-10:30 am

Location: Cooper Rm. C03

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:15-3:15pm and Fridays, 10:45-11:45am

Dr. Pilapa Esara

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### ***Course Success & Objectives:***

In a globalized world, physical distance, different time zones, and ignorance of local languages and customs no longer impedes the exchange of information, goods or people between nations. Migration is both a result of globalization and a dynamic force propelling it. This class will study migration as a process and an experience. We will use an anthropological perspective, which acknowledges that various forms of mobility are undertaken and experienced differently depending upon one's circumstances and cultural context.

Our study of migration will be limited to the past half-century in order to focus our attention on the current process of globalization. Case studies based in Thailand, Mexico, Cambodia, Cape Verde, and other countries will provide opportunities for understanding migration within a specific geography, society, and belief system. Every week, provocative topics will fuel our inquiries as we consider issues of labor migration, identity and transnationalism, economic development and social change, immigration and citizenship, ethnic conflict and refugees, and the costs of immobility.

This course is designed for students with little to no prior coursework in Anthropology. Class sessions consist of short presentations, discussions and small group activities. Readings are part of the learning process and should be completed by their due dates. Overall ANT 315 benefits students interested in issues of identity, economic development, immigration policy, social justice, human rights issues as well as persons pursuing the following career fields: Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science and International Studies, International Business and Economics, Health Science, and Social Work among others. Credit from this course satisfies general education requirements for Contemporary Issues (I) and Perspectives on Women (W).

### ***Course Goal and Objectives:***

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to...

- Identify migration as a process which operates as a force of cultural change
- Describe how migration is an experience that influences identity on multiple levels
- Explain how increased migration is both a product and cause of globalization
- Differentiate between different migration types, and between mobility and immobility

### ***Course Requirements:***

*Punctual attendance, active class participation, and the timely completion of all reading/submitted assignments* are expected of each student and required to earn a passing grade (though I hope students will strive for higher). Student performance in this course will be evaluated in accordance to the Department of Anthropology's *Guidelines*

*for Student Evaluation* (available on ANGEL class site). Letter grades are calculated as follows: A: 100-94; A-:93-90; B+:89-87; B:86-84; B-:83-80; C+:79-77; C:76-74; C-:73-70; D+:69-67; D: 66-64; D-: 63-60; E:59-0. Additionally, I recommend that you read *Student Handbook* (<http://www.brockport.edu/publications/yrtk/>) which details policies concerning attendance and academic dishonesty.

Evaluation of student performance includes the following tasks totaling 100 points:

- 10 Class Participation (includes Discussion Starter task)
- 20 2 Essay Assignments/3 options (10 pts. each, 2 highest scores will be counted)
- 40 Essay Test #1 and #2 (20 pts. each)
- 10 Migration Interview
- 20 Migration Paper
- 100 pts

#### *Late Assignment Policy*

Assignments must be submitted in hard-copy form at the start of the class in which it is due (unless otherwise stated). I **do not accept** late assignments except in emergency situations as defined in the *Handbook*.

#### *Office hours & Contact Information*

Immediate questions and assignment-specific concerns are best addressed during office hours or through appointments. Email should only be used for *non-immediate* topics and responses can be expected in *2-3 business days*. I am happy to grant learning accommodations if given a couple of weeks notice.

#### *Academic Dishonesty*

“Academic dishonesty, ‘cheating’ and other forms of misrepresenting others’ work as your own, such as plagiarism ...can result in a range of disciplinary actions including failure of a course or even conduct dismissal from the College.” (This text is excerpted from Chapter 7 of the *Handbook*.)

#### *Electronic Devices:*

Cell phones, PDA, and other electronic devices should be **turned off** when in the classroom. Moreover, I do not allow note-taking on laptops in my classroom. If you would like note-taking assistance to better facilitate your learning process, please talk to me *and* the staff at the Student Learning Center.

#### *Course Materials:*

Assigned course readings will be accessible through ANGEL Reserves (designated by brackets) or Library Reserves in Drake Memorial. Copies of required texts will be put on Library Reserve whenever possible. For budget-minded students, consider sharing the cost and use of books, or schedule time weekly to utilize the library reserves.

REQUIRED: (Note: these books are referenced using APA citation style)

1. Mills, M. B. (1999). *Thai Women in the Global Labor Force: Consuming Desires, Contested Selves*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
2. Chavez, L. (1997). *Shadowed Lives: Undocumented Immigrants in American Society*. Fort Worth: Wadsworth Publishing.
3. Ung, L. (2001). *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*. New York: Harper Perennial.

The following assigned readings can be found on the ANGEL Reserve section of the course website (under "Assignments").

- Acuna, Rudolfo. (2002). The Mexican Connection: Un Pueblo, Una Lucha. In G. Joseph and T. Henderson (Eds.) *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham, U.S.A.: Duke University Press.
- Carling, Jorgen. (2002). Migration in the age of involuntary immobility: theoretical reflections and Cape Verdean experiences. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 27(1)p 5-42.
- Chavez, L. (2007.) Culture Change and Cultural Reproduction: Research on the Transnational Migrant. In G. Spindler, G. and J. Stockard (Eds.). *Globalization and Change in Fifteen Cultures: Born in one world, living in another* (pp.283-303). Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Coutin, S.B. (2003). Cultural Logics of Belonging and Movement: Transnationalism, naturalization, and U.S. Immigration Policy. *American Ethnologist* 30(4): pp.508-526
- Haines, David W. (2007). Refugees. In M. Waters and R. Ueda (Eds). *The New Americans: A guide to immigration since 1965* (pp. 56-69). Cambridge, U.S.A.: Harvard University Press.
- Langewiesche, William. (2002). The Maquiladoras. In G. Joseph and T. Henderson (Eds.) *The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham, U.S.A.: Duke University Press.
- Lim, Linda. (1984.) Capitalism, Imperialism and Patriarchy: Third world women workers in multinational factories. In J. Nash and P. Fernandez-Kelly (Eds.) *Women, Men and the International Division of Labor* (pp.70-82). Albany, NY: SUNY Press.
- Ludlam-Taylor, Louise. (2002). Recent Literature on IDPs In Norwegian Refugee Council and The Global IDP Project, *Internally Displaced People: A Global Survey* (pp. 34-38). London: Earthscan Publications.
- Mortland, Carol. (1997). Khmer. In D. Haines (ed). *Case Studies in Diversity: Refugees in America in the 1990s* (pp. 232-258) Westport, U.S.A.: Greenwood Publishing.
- Smith, Robert. (1997). Transnational Migration, Assimilation and Political Community. In M. Crahan and A. Vourvoulias-Bush (Eds). *The City and the World* (pp. 110-132). New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press.

### **Course Schedule:**

Readings and assignments are due *on the day* and at the start of the class in which they are listed. For days in which a reading assignment is not listed, I recommend reviewing prior class notes and the week's reading in preparation for class discussion. (Note: Schedule is subject to change with notice.)

***Part I. Moving Forward? What are the Costs of Industrialization?***

**WEEK 1 – Introduction to Course**

*Monday, Jan. 26, 2009*

Welcome and Course Information

*Wednesday, Jan. 28th*

Read: Mills, Ch. 1 “Women, Migration” & Ch. 2 “Village ” (pp. 1-46)

*Friday, Jan. 30th*

**WEEK 2 – Economic Development and the International Division of Labor**

*Monday, Feb. 2nd*

Read: Mills, Ch. 3 “Cash, Commodities” & Ch. 4 “Parents, Children” (pp. 47-91)

*Wednesday, Feb. 4th*

Read: Mills, Ch 5 “Gender & Mobility” & Ch. 6 “Bangkok Workers” (pp. 92-126)

*Friday, Feb. 6th*

**WEEK 3 – Modernization and Gender Role Change**

*Monday, Feb. 9th*

Read: Mills, Ch. 7 “Consumption, Desire” & Ch. 8 “Courtship, Marriage” (pp. 127-162)

*Wednesday, Feb. 11th*

Read: Mills, Ch. 9 “Gender and Modernity” (pp. 163-170)

*Friday, Feb. 13th*

**WEEK 4 – Is Moving to Bangkok a Step Up or a Fall to the Margins?**

*Monday, Feb. 16th*

Video: Handel, Alan (Producer and Director). (1998). *Behind the Smile* [Motion picture] (Available from Filmmaker’s Library, New York, NY 10016)

**Due: Essay Assignment #1**

*Wednesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>*

Reading: [ANGEL] Lim, “Capitalism, Imperialism and Patriarchy”

*Friday, Feb. 20th*

***Part II. The Land of the Free? A Nation of Immigrants?***

**WEEK 5 – The Meaning of National Borders**

*Monday, Feb. 23rd*

Read: Chavez, Introduction, Ch. 1 “Setting”, & Ch. 2 “Separation” (pp. 1-44)

*Wednesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>*

Read: Chavez, Ch. 3 “Crossing Borders” & Ch. 4 “Life on Farm” (pp. 45-86)

Read: [ANGEL] Langwiesche, “The Maquiladoras”

*Friday, Feb. 27th*

**WEEK 6 – Immigrant as Needed Laborer and Feared Stranger**

*Monday, Mar. 2nd*

Read: Chavez, Ch. 5 “Suburban Shantytown” & Ch. 6 “Green Valley’s Days” (pp. 87-120)

Video: American Playhouse and Nava, Gregory. (1983). *El Norte*.

*Wednesday, Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>*

Read: Chavez, Ch. 7 “Families” & Ch. 8 “Work” (pp. 121-158)

Read:[ANGEL] Acuna, “The Mexican Connection”

*Friday, Mar. 6th*

**WEEK 7 – In the Pursuit of Happiness: Life as an Undocumented Worker**

*Monday, Mar. 9th*

Read: Chavez, Ch. 9 “Illegal Alien,” Ch. 10 “Incorporation,” & Epilogue (p. 159-200)

*Wednesday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>*

Read: [ANGEL] Chavez, “Culture Change and Cultural Reproduction”

*Friday, Mar. 13th*

**Due: Essay Assignment #2**

**WEEK 8 - SPRING BREAK**

*Monday, Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday, Mar. 20th*

**WEEK 9 – Globalization & Migration: The Creation of Separate Worlds**

*Monday, Mar. 23rd*

Read: [ANGEL] Saurez-Orozco, “Right Moves? Immigration, Globalization, Utopia and Dystopia”

*Wednesday, Mar. 25th*

*Friday, Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>*

**NO CLASS Due: Take-home TEST # 1 by 3:30pm**

Leave test in my Departmental mailbox (Cooper, Rm. C-17)

***Part III. Alienation, Displacement, and Immobility in the Face of Violence***

**WEEK 10 – Who has the right to belong? Citizenship and Transnationalism.**

*Monday, Mar. 30th*

Read: [ANGEL] Coutin, “Cultural Logics of Belonging and Movement: Transnationalism, naturalization, and U.S. Immigration Policy”

*Wednesday, Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>*

Read: [ANGEL] Smith, Transnational Migration, Assimilation and Political Community”

*Friday, Apr. 3rd*

**Due: Migration Interview Check-in**

**WEEK 11 – Forced From Home: Evacuation of whom by whom**

*Monday, Apr. 6th*

Read: Ung, April 1975 – Waiting Station July 1975 (pp. 1-49)

*Wednesday, Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>*

Read: Ung, Anlungthmor July 1975 – Nov. 1975 (pp. 50- 68)

Read: Mortland, “Cambodia”

*Friday, Apr. 10th*

**WEEK 12 – A Life of Flight and Fright: The implications**

*Monday, Apr. 13th*

Read: Ung, Jan. 1976 – May. 1977 (pp. 69-128)

Read: [ANGEL] Ludlam-Taylor, “Recent Literature on IDPs”

*Wednesday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>*

Read: Ung, Aug. 1977 – May. 1978 (pp. 129-157)

*Friday, Apr. 17th*

**Due: Essay assignment #3**

**WEEK 13 – Dealing with Displacement, Alienation, & Resettlement**

*Monday, Apr. 20th*

Read: Ung, Nov. 1978 – Flying Bullets Feb. 1979 (pp. 158-194)

Read: [ANGEL] Haines, “Refugees”

*Wednesday, Apr. 22nd*

Read: Ung, Khmer Rough Attack Feb. 1979 – Epilogue (pp. 195- 238)

*Friday, Apr. 24th*

**WEEK 14 – Acknowledging Immobility in a Mobile World**

*Monday, Apr. 27th*

Read: [ANGEL] Carling, “Migration in the age of involuntary immobility: theoretical reflections and Cape Verdean experiences”

*Wednesday, Apr. 29th*

*Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Due: Migration Paper**

**WEEK 15 – Globalization, Human Rights, & Borders**

*Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>*

Read: [ANGEL] TBD

*Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>*

Read: [ANGEL] TBD

*Friday, May 8th*

**Take-home TEST #2** will be posted on ANGEL Wed., May 13th  
**DUE** on the **Final Exam Day, May 15<sup>th</sup>** in my departmental mailbox **by 3:30pm**