

CSOn4006 MIGRATION, TRANSNATIONALISM AND THE CITY AUTUMN 2025

Class is held from 12:00 to 15:40, in Room M117
September 25, October 9, October 23, November 13, November 20, and December 4

Instructors

prof. Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky, Ph.D. (room 3.66, Wednesdays 11:00 – 12:00;
jaworsky@fss.muni.cz)

RNDr. Markéta Seidlová, Ph.D. (office hours by appointment; seidlova@fss.muni.cz)

Guest lecturers

Jan Kopkáš (Brno Expat Centre)

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Don Sparling (Brno Expat Centre)

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Course Outline

The course introduces students to the study of migration and immigrant incorporation from the perspective of transnationalism. It traces the formation of transnational approaches to the study of migration and its implications for the methodology of migration research. It explores how moving beyond the perspective of the nation state changes the study of migration and related phenomena. Moreover, the course studies transnational migration from the city perspective: it explores the city as a context of reception for immigrants and discusses how cities respond to the arrival of newcomers. Classes are highly interactive and special attention is paid to application of theoretical knowledge in the understanding of contemporary migration events as well as discussion of solutions to selected problems in the sphere of migration. Invited guest lecturers provide students with fresh insights into their work in the field of migration.

Course objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Define and discuss transnational studies and transnational approaches to migration, including the critical assessment of transnationalism
- Design a research methodology for studying transnational migration
- Analyze the context of reception for immigrants in a city
- Understand formation of integration policies for immigrants in the city context

Conditions for Passing the Course

1) Participation in class (discussions, group projects) (20 %)

- 5 points for each class (students who cannot attend the class due to illness, technical problems or other serious personal reasons should contact the instructors for individual extra work);

2) Written Assignments (20 %)

- 5 points for each home assignment (4 discussion papers);

3) Final group paper (3,500 – 4,000 words) (60 %)

- 10 % for the draft;
- 5 % for the peer review;
- 10 % for the presentation of the final paper draft;
- and 35 % for the final paper.

Subject	Points	Delivery term	Notes
Discussion Papers	20	Wednesdays at 11:00	Sessions 2, 3, 4, 5 (5 points each)
Class Participation	20	Thursdays in class	Sessions 2, 3, 4, 5 (5 points each)
Topic of the final paper	(included in the points for draft)	October 31 at 23:59	E-mail to both of instructors
Draft of the final paper	10	December 2 at 11:00	
Peer review of final paper draft	5	December 4 at 11:00	
Presentation of the final paper draft	10	December 4 in class	
Final group research paper	35	January 19 at 23:59	

Evaluation is based upon this scale:

90-100 points – A

80-89 points – B

70-79 points – C

66-69 points – D

60-65 points – E

0-59 points – F

Study Materials and Instructions

- For each session, readings are specified in the syllabus. All the required texts are available in electronic form in the IS Study Materials folder and are linked to the Interactive Syllabus.
- Instructions for group projects will be specified in class.
- Instructions for the assignments will be available in the Study Materials.

- Please, check the **Interactive Syllabus** regularly for actual readings and study instructions: <https://is.muni.cz/auth/el/fss/podzim2025/CSOn4006/>

Academic Honesty

The Faculty of Social Studies at MU expects students to know the study rules and maintain academic honesty by refraining from plagiarism and from cheating during exams. Plagiarism means that one presents other peoples' ideas as one's own and does not credit the author. Plagiarism is one of the most serious breaches of ethical standards in the academic environment, for it denies the mission of the university and the meaning of studying. From a legal perspective, plagiarism is the stealing of intellectual property. In addition, the use of AI tools should be judicious and under the direction of the teacher. The official FSS policy on academic honesty and on the use of AI technology are available in the course's interactive syllabus in IS. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated under any circumstances at FSS. **The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty is expulsion from the course, a grade of F for the semester, and referral to the Faculty disciplinary committee.**

PLEASE NOTE:

All assignments may require an oral defence. Students will have to prove that their paper does not contain parts that can be classified as plagiarized or contain academic fraudulence. Students have to demonstrate that they used all the references enlisted in the paper and show beyond doubt that they wrote the paper by being able to defend it in a discussion.

In general, all assignments submitted in this course must be your own work. Any use of generative AI in working on non-designed assignments is prohibited. The non-designed assignments assigned in this course are designed to motivate you to develop creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The use of AI technology will limit your ability to develop these skills and achieve the learning objectives of this course.

However, in this course, students can use AI-based tools for some of the assignments, see the guidelines in the IS given for each type of assignment. The instructions for each task include information on whether and how you can use AI-based tools to complete them. All sources, including AI tools, must be properly cited. Using AI in a way that is not in line with the above parameters will be considered academic misconduct and will be sanctioned.

Course schedule

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE (September 25) (Jaworsky/Seidlová)

We have linked the Syllabus and the Discussion Paper Guideline files in the Interactive Syllabus.

2. MIGRATION THEORIES AND THE RISE OF THE TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION PERSPECTIVE (October 9) (Seidlová)

Readings prior to class:

Szaló, Csaba. "Transnational Migrations: Cross-Border Ties, Homes, and Theories." In: Ondřej Hofírek, Radka Klvaňová, Michal Nekorjak (eds). 2009. *Boundaries in Motion. Rethinking Contemporary Migration Events*. Brno: CDK.

Amelina, Anna, Faist, Thomas. 2012. "De-naturalizing the national in research methodologies: key concepts of transnational studies in migration." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35, 10 (2012): 1707–24.

Boccagni, P., Hondagneu-Sotelo, P. 2021. Integration and the struggle to turn space into "our" place: Homemaking as a way beyond the stalemate of assimilations vs. transnationalism." *International Migration*, 2023 (61): 154-167.

Discussion Paper: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vault by **October 8, 11:00.**

(Please check the discussion paper guidelines in Study Materials)

Group Project (in-class): In this class we will take a quick journey through the development of migration theories and transnational perspective on migration.

Additional readings (recommended):

Levitt, P. and N. Glick Schiller. 2004: Conceptualizing Simultaneity: A Transnational Social Field Perspective on Society. *International Migration Review* 38(3): 1002-1039.

Glick Schiller, N., L. Basch, and C. Szanton Blanc. 1995. "From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration." *Anthropological Quarterly*, 68(1): 48-63.

Portes, A. 2001. "Introduction: The Debates and Significance of Immigrant Transnationalism." *Global Networks* 1(3): 181-194.

Interview with Peggy Levitt: "How can migration theory do better?" *Medium.com*. Accessed August 31, 2022 from <https://medium.com/migration-systems/how-can-migration-theory-do-better-a5ba48e94eae>

3. MIGRATION AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE (October 23) (Seidlová)

Readings prior to class:

Ambrosini, M., Boccagni, P. 2015. "Urban Multiculturalism beyond the 'Backlash': New Discourses and Different Practices in Immigrant Policies across European Cities." *Journal of Intercultural Studies* 36 (1): 35 – 53.

Scholten, P., Penninx, R. (2016). The Multilevel Governance of Migration and Integration. In: Garcés-Masareñas, B., Penninx, R. (eds) *Integration Processes and Policies in Europe*. IMISCOE Research Series. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-21674-4_6

Discussion Paper: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **October 22, 11:00.**

Group Project (in-class): TBA

Additional readings (recommended):

de Graauw, E., Vermeulen, F. 2016. "Cities and the politics of immigrant integration: a comparison of Berlin, Amsterdam, New York City, and San Francisco." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 42:6, 989-1012.

Gebhardt, D. 2016. "Re-thinking urban citizenship for immigrants from a policy perspective: the case of Barcelona." *Citizenship Studies*, 20:6-7, 846-866.

Research reports of Migration Policy Institute,
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/reports>

Margie McHugh. 2014. *Immigrant Civic Integration and Service Access Initiatives: City-Sized Solutions for City-Sized Needs*. MPI Report:
<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrant-civic-integration-and-service-access-initiatives-city-sized-solutions-city-sized>

INTERIM HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:

Paper topic due to be sent by email to both instructors by **October 31, 23:59**; one paragraph describing your paper topic and theoretical perspective.

4. LEGAL AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS (November 13) Jaworsky)

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION, THIS CLASS IS TAKING PLACE ON NOVEMBER 13
(and not on November 6 as the usual interval between the classes would suggest)

Readings prior to class:

Ekman, J., & Amnå, E. (2012). Political participation and civic engagement: Towards a new typology. *Human Affairs*, 22(3), 236–18. <https://doi.org/10.2478/s13374-012-0024-1>

Jaworsky, B. N., Klvaňová, R. & Sidiropulu Janků, K. (2024). "‘I Always Felt I Have Something I Must Do in My Life’: Meaning Making in the Political Lives of Refugee Non-Citizens." *Identities* 31(2):218-37. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1070289X.2023.2189374>

Discussion Paper: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **November 12, 11:00.**

Group Project (in-class): TBA

Additional readings (recommended):

Bilodeau, A., & Scott, C. (2023). Gender Gaps in Immigrants’ Political Participation within and across Borders: Political Socialization or Opportunity Structures? *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2022.2161687>

Dollmann, J. The Political Integration of Immigrants: How Pre- and Postmigration Contexts Matter. *Int. Migration & Integration* 23, 1091–1125 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-021-00867-5>

5. CITIES AS A CONTEXT OF RECEPTION FOR IMMIGRANTS (November 20) (Jaworsky/Brno Expat Center)

Readings prior to class:

Jaworsky, B. N. et al. 2012. New Perspectives on Immigrant Contexts of Reception: The Cultural Armature of Cities. *Nordic Journal of Migration Studies* 2 (1), pp. 78-88.

Glick Schiller, N., & Çağlar, A. 2009. Towards a Comparative Theory of Locality in Migration Studies: Migrant Incorporation and City Scale. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 35 (2), pp. 177–202.

Foner, N. 2007. "How exceptional is New York? Migration and multiculturalism in the empire city." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30 (6), pp. 999-1023.

Blog of Brno Expat Centre: What do expats say (available at <http://www.brnoexpatcentre.eu/category/what-expats-say>)

Discussion Paper: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **November 19, 11:00.**

Group Project (in-class): In the first part of this class, we will discuss the readings assigned for this week's meeting and analyze Jaworsky et al.'s concept of "cultural armature." **Students should bring their own observations from a city of their choice** that we would discuss in relation to the readings. In the second part of this class, we will first listen to a short lecture about Brno from the perspective of migrants prepared by Jan Kopkáš and Don Sparling from Brno Expat Centre. We will then work on a project to be announced by them.

Additional reading (recommended):

Kong, L. 2012. "Ambitions of a global city: arts, culture and creative economy in 'Post-Crisis' Singapore." *International Journal of Cultural Policy* 18 (3), pp. 279-294.

6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF ESSAY DRAFTS (December 4) (Jaworsky/Seidlová)

In this session, each group will shortly (10-13 minutes) present its draft of the final essay. There will then be approximately 15 minutes for discussion of the presentation. Detailed instructions to follow.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Final group essay draft: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **December 2, at 11:00.**
2. Peer-to-peer feedback on your colleague's paper proposal: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults and to your assigned peer by **December 4, at 11:00.**
3. Final version of the final group research essay: to be submitted to IS-Study Materials-Homework Vaults by **January 19, at 23:59.**