

**Anth 235A**  
**Transnational Migration**  
Winter 2023  
University of California, Irvine  
Meeting Time: Tue 12:00-2:50 pm  
Location: SBSG 3200  
<https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/51362>

Prof. Lilith Mahmud  
lmahmud@uci.edu  
OFFICE HOURS:  
TH 2:30-3:30 pm & by appt  
Location: SBSG 3312

# TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION

\*

## Anthropology 235 – Graduate Seminar

\*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

---

This seminar reviews research on global migration in anthropology and related fields. Drawing from a range of cases across the world—from the Mediterranean to North America, Asia, and across the Global South—the course focuses on feminist and ethnographic approaches to studies of borders, xenophobia, mobility, and nationalism. Through close readings of racial, gendered, and sexual regimes of migration, this seminar examines the biopolitics of mobility, identity, and survival in everyday life.

### **READINGS**

---

The following **required** books are available for purchase from the UCI Hill bookstore or other retailers:

- 1) Chavez, Leo R. 2013. *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.
- 2) Luibhéid, Eithne. 2013. *Pregnant on Arrival: Making the Illegal Immigrant*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

3) Ticktin, Miriam Iris. 2011. *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

4) Carter, Donald Martin. 2010. *Navigating the African Diaspora: The Anthropology of Invisibility*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

The following **required** books are available as free e-books through our library, or you may choose to purchase your own copy:

5) Luibhéid, Eithne, and Karma R. Chávez, eds. 2020. *Queer and Trans Migrations: Dynamics of Illegalization, Detention, and Deportation*. Urbana, Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

6) Vora, Neha. 2013. *Impossible Citizens: Dubai's Indian Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press.

All other assigned readings will be available on our course Canvas space or through UCI library's e-resources: <https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/51362>

## **REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES**

---

### **DISABILITY**

Any student who feels the need for an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. Also contact the *Disability Services Center* at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. <https://dsc.uci.edu/>

### **ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION**

Attendance in this seminar is mandatory. You are expected to come to class fully prepared to engage actively in the discussion. Repeated unexcused absences are grounds for failing the course, regardless of the quality of performance in written assignments.

### **PRESENTATION (10%)**

Starting on Week 2, every student or group of students will be responsible to present the assigned material and to lead the discussion for a given week. The presenter's duties include:

1. Emailing a few reading questions to the whole class by the Sunday preceding our scheduled meeting: [ [migration-W23@classmail.eee.uci.edu](mailto:migration-W23@classmail.eee.uci.edu) ].
2. Give a 15-minute analytical presentation of the readings in class (this must not be a summary—you should assume that everyone else has read the texts closely), including contextual information about the authors and about the texts' placement in

a larger body of scholarship. In order to do so, you might track the title through major journals, or check its published reviews to see how a book was received when it first came out. Your presentation should offer both a broad picture of the text(s) and a close analysis of some of its specific arguments.

3. Lead class discussion effectively and bring questions that might stimulate the conversation.

### **RESPONDENT (5%)**

Every week, at the end of the scheduled presentation, one or more students will be called on without prior notice to act as Respondent. The Respondent will have 10 minutes to provide an informed critique of a peer's presentation. An effective response will go well beyond an assessment of the strengths and weakness of the presentation. It will also offer alternative interpretations or critiques of the assigned texts based on an independent reading.

### **Weekly RESPONSE PAPERS (15%)**

Starting on Week 2, please post 5 response papers (approx. 1 single-spaced page in length) to the online Discussion Board for the class. On weeks in which you choose to post, your post must address all of the assigned readings for that week, and it must appear in advance of our class meeting, no later than **12 pm on Monday**. You can choose to write your response in the style of a précis (as is most common in anthropology) or as a short analytical piece that reflects the conventions of your primary discipline of affiliation. Please refrain from providing a simple summary of the text. In the last paragraph of your response paper, please discuss how the assigned text(s) might relate to your own research project. On weeks in which entire books are assigned, you may choose to model your response paper after book reviews in major journals in your field.

### **PAPER ABSTRACT (5%)**

A title, 250-word abstract, and list of keywords are due on Friday 2/3 by 5 pm.

### **PAPER OUTLINE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY (10%)**

A descriptive outline and preliminary annotated bibliography of 8 sources are due on Sunday 2/12 by 12 pm (noon).

### **PAPER DRAFT (15%)**

A draft of your final paper will be due on Sunday 2/26 by 12 pm (noon).

### **ANONYMOUS REVIEWS (5%)**

Anonymous peer-reviews of up to 2 other students' papers. Each review will be approximately 1 page in length. DUE on Sunday 3/5 by 12 pm (noon).

### **FINAL PAPER (35%)**

A final research paper of 15 to 25 doubled-space pages is DUE on TUE 3/21 by 5 pm.

## **SCHEDULE**

---

### **WEEK 1: (1/10) GLOBALIZATION**

- Ong, Aihwa. 1999. "Introduction." In *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press; pp. 1-26.
- Cooper, Frederick. 2001. "What Is the Concept of Globalization Good For? An African Historian's Perspective." *African Affairs* 100:189-213.
- Mohanty, Chandra. 2003. "Under Western Eyes Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggle." *Signs* 28(2):499-535.

### **WEEK 2: (1/17) REFUGEES**

- Coutin, Susan Bibler. 2005. "Being En Route." *American Anthropologist* 107(2):195-206.
- Cabot, Heath. 2014. *On the Doorstep of Europe: Asylum and Citizenship in Greece*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. (Chapter 1)
- Albahari, Maurizio. 2016. "After the Shipwreck: Mourning and in the Mediterranean, Our Sea." *Social Research* 83(2):275-294.

### **WEEK 3: (1/24) ILLEGALITY**

- Chavez, Leo R. 2013. *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

### **WEEK 4: (1/31) SOIL**

- Luibhéid, Eithne. 2013. *Pregnant on Arrival: Making the Illegal Immigrant*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

**\*Paper Abstract DUE by Friday 2/3 at 5 pm\***

### **WEEK 5: (2/7) SEXUALITY**

- Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. 2000. "Migrant Filipina Domestic Workers and the International Division of Reproductive Labor." *Gender and Society* 14(4):560-580.
- Constable, Nicole. 2021. "Migrant Mothers, Rejected Refugees and Excluded Belonging in Hong Kong." *Population, Space and Place* 27(5):e2475.
- Williams, Erica L. 2014. "Sex Work and Exclusion in the Tourist Districts of Salvador, Brazil." *Gender, Place & Culture* 21(4):453-470.

**\*Paper Outline and Bibliography DUE by Sunday 2/12 at 12 pm noon\***

**WEEK 6: (2/14) GLOBAL SOUTH**

Vora, Neha. 2013. Impossible Citizens: Dubai's Indian Diaspora. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. (E-book available through UCI libraries).

**WEEK 7: (2/21) QUEERING MIGRATION STUDIES**

Luibhéid, Eithne, and Karma R. Chávez, eds. 2020. Queer and Trans Migrations: Dynamics of Illegalization, Detention, and Deportation. Urbana, Chicago: University of Illinois Press. (E-book available through UCI libraries).

**\*Paper Draft DUE by Sunday 2/26 at 12 pm noon\***

**WEEK 8 (2/28) HUMANITARIANISM**

Ticktin, Miriam Iris. 2011. Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**\*Anonymous Peer Reviews DUE by Sunday 3/5 at 12 pm noon\***

**WEEK 9: (3/7) PEER-REVIEW WORKSHOP**

In-class peer-review workshop. Details will follow.

**WEEK 10: (3/14) BLOOD**

Carter, Donald Martin. 2010. Navigating the African Diaspora: The Anthropology of Invisibility. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.