

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES,
PROGRAM IN MEDIA STUDIES
MDST 4530 Media Framing of Immigration**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Lecture posted: **Thursday at 9:00 am**

As students in Media Studies and as individuals interested in the contemporary, you have probably noticed how the attention devoted to immigration and immigration-related issues has increased quite exponentially in the past few years. Climate Change, Wars, Economic Crisis are only a few of the reason why people migrate. In most cases, this is not a choice. Yet, the causes are dictated by a wide variety of factors. Thus, the immigrant is not a monolith, but a complicated individual with different needs, motivations, ambitions, and cultural identity. This course is an investigation of ways in which immigrants, refugees, migrant workers and illegalized or non-status people are represented in mainstream and alternative media, exploring theories of capitalism and labour, as well as the relationships among neoliberal capitalist global labour migration and poverty, gender, queer subjectivities, race, disability and sex work. By no means exhaustive, this course seeks to provide some analytic tools towards a critical understanding of the complexity of Migration. First, we will examine what constitutes migration and its definitions, who migrates and why. Second, we will analyse how a number of media, including newspaper, social media, visual culture etc.. have grappled with this phenomenon.

Objectives

- To provide a nuanced and inquisitive comprehension of the phenomenon of migration
- To attain a historic and critical perspective on the concepts of migration, migrant, global travel, human traffic
- To provide a critical analysis that will enhance a comprehension of the migrant as a complex figure and migration as a multifaceted phenomenon

Required Materials

All readings and links will be on D2L except for a movie (Children of Men, on week 2), which has been placed on reserve at the library.

EVALUATION

Component (Paper, Participation, Test, Midterm, Exam, etc)	Value	Due Date	Individual/Group
Study Questions and Media Examples	10%	Ongoing minimum participation = 1 posting every 2 weeks (total of 6. Feedback every month)	Individual
Forum Discussion	15%	Ongoing 5% each = 4 postings. 1 every 3 weeks	
Media Commentary #1 (film)	15%	Sept. 22	Individual
Research Assignment Part 1 - Media Organization	15%	Oct. 20	individual

Media Commentary #2 (Doc)	20%	Nov 3	Individual
Research Project Part 2 – Final	25%	Due Dec. 1	Individual or group

PARTICIPATION & DISCUSSION

Study Questions and Media Examples 15%

This exercise will evaluate your individual ability to interpret the readings, to ask pertinent questions and to apply theoretical concepts to the media practices we will examine during each week.

Every week has a discussion topic. You will have two options:

- 1) Ask two questions about the readings for the week
- 2) Ask one question + one media examples that you think is resonating (or is establishing a dialogue) with the reading

Questions are due on Thursday morning (before I upload class content for the week). Every week I will review your questions and media and will choose 1 or two items for further discussion in the forum

Forum Discussion (4) 5% each = 20%

Each of you will participate to the forum with at least 4 entries each.

Each week I will pick a forum question from the set of questions you have asked. Read the question and respond critically by articulating your answer in relation to the readings. Please, answer honestly, but respectfully, and do cite the readings.

Remember: because the online forum often feels a bit impersonal you might be under the impression that everything goes. Remember that people read your answers and I grade them. Grammar and syntax are important; shallow answers, disrespectful, sexist, or racist considerations will not be tolerated.

ASSIGNMENTS

Media Commentary #1 = (film) 15% Due on Sept 22 (handout on first day of class)

This is a preliminary assignment meant to assess your/our opinions on the way in which media are tackling immigration and its related issues. In order to do this assignment, you are required to watch “Children of Men”, a scifi movie and provide a comparison between the way migrants (or wannabe immigrants) are portrayed and treated in the movie, and the way you think they are in today’s media. Questions and guidelines will be provided on the first day of class. This is a short but very important assignment which will inform the entire course

Media Commentary #2 (Other Media) 20% Due on Nov. 3 (Handout on Sept. 15)

This second assignment is linked to the previous exercise. Instead of looking at fictional narrative, we will now turn to real news and media coverage. You will be required to choose one of the documentaries that by now we have watched. Examine how the narratives and the motivations described in the readings are reflected in the documentaries. More instructions on Sept 15.

Research Assignment (Handout for Part 1 and Part 2 on Sept 22)

The following assignments are also connected and are part of a single research project. The reason for choosing this structure lies in the complexity, the interconnected nature and the timeliness of the issues you will examine.

Part 1 - Media Organizations %15 Due on Oct 20

For this assignment, I ask you to choose 1 particular issue (stigma, stereotypes, hospitality etc..) or 1 particular type of migration (climate change, economic, war etc.): find at least 3 organizations (they can be local or national, or even international) that deal with such issues. Compare and contrast the policies, the structure, the operations of these organizations. include a short bibliography with 3-4 items providing a critical context to the topic you have chosen

Part 2 – research project 25% Due on Dec 1

Using the material above, now you will be in the condition of building a more specific research question and an argument.

you can choose to create a creative project that illustrate this argument, a paper that examines and interrogates the issues at stake or create a blog/website that zooms in to the topic.

More instructions on Oct 20. This assignment is a somehow challenging task, but given that most of you are upper level students, I am confident that you will get amazing results. I hope we will be able to publish them publically

LATENESS POLICY

I generally have little tolerance for late assignments. If you are late without any particular reason, you will lose **0.5 grade every 2 days** lateness. If you have serious reasons for your lateness or if you think you need one extra day to finish, please contact me WELL in advance! Do not wait until the last minute.

Of course, I will deal with special accommodations on a case to case basis and I am happy to help with suggestions or planning.

GRADING SCHEME:

A+	90 to 100%	Outstanding understanding of the course concepts including integration of materials and ideas, ability to apply knowledge to situations
A	80 to 89%	Above average to excellent knowledge, ability to apply knowledge to situations
B	70 to 79%	Satisfactory knowledge including ability to recognise and apply major course concepts, and to progress to next level of course
C	60 to 69%	Some grasp of course concepts; will likely encounter difficulty with higher levels
D	50 to 59%	Failed to meet minimum requirements of the course
E	40 to 49%	Failure
F	1 to 39%	Failure resulting from academic dishonesty
F	0	

Students are advised to refer to the University Calendar to ensure that they have adequate grades and/or average to proceed in their program.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Please, always refer to the online schedule to check for changes and news)

Sept 8 Week 1 intro

Intro to the course

➔ **Handout Media Commentary #1 (film)**

Sept 15 Week 2 Between fiction and reality

Watch: Children of men [DVD videorecording] / Universal Pictures presents a Strike Entertainment production in association with Hit and Run Productions ; produced by Marc Abraham ... [et al.] ; screenplay by Alfonso Cuaròn [et al.] ;directed by Alfonso Cuaròn.

Sandro Mezzadra, Brett Neilson: Border as Method, or, the Multiplication of Labor | eipcp.net. (2008). Retrieved August 26, 2016, from <http://eipcp.net/transversal/0608/mezzadraneilson/en>

→ Media Commentary #2 (other media) handout (due on Nov. 3)

Sept 22 Week 3 Narratives I: migration and/as contagion

White, M. A. (2012). Viral/Species/Crossing: Border Panics and Zoonotic Vulnerabilities. *Women's Studies Quarterly*, (1/2), 117.

Duhaime-Ross, Arielle. (2014). Ebola panic is getting pretty racist. *The Verge*, (October).

Phillips, Leigh. (2014). The Political Economy of Ebola | Jacobin, (8).

→ Media Commentary #1 (film) due today

Sept 29 Week 4 Narratives II: migration and climate change

Nash, M. P., & Hogan, J. (2016). Climate refugees : The global human impact of climate change. [San Francisco, California, USA] : Kanopy Streaming, 2016.

Hausheer, J. E. (2016, June 29). Species On the Move: Mapping Barriers for Wildlife in a Warming World. Retrieved August 27, 2016.

Hausheer, J. E. (2016, August 19). Migration in Motion: Visualizing Species Movements Due to Climate Change.

→ Research Assignment guidelines handout Part 1 and 2 Media Organization + final project due on Oct 20 (part 1) and Dec 1 (part 2)

Oct. 6 Week 5 Narratives III: Migration and Human trafficking

Basu, S., Gallagher, A. T., Brennan, D., Shih, E., Lerum, K., & Weitzer, R. (2014). Selling People. *Contexts*, 13(1), 16–25. <http://doi.org/10.1177/1536504214522004>

Hughes, D. (2000). The “Natasha” Trade: The Transnational Shadow Market of Trafficking in Women. *Journal of International Affairs*, 53(2), 625–651.

DOCUMENTARY: Kelly, C., Kelly, A., Spera, C., Baqué, I., Khalili, M., Lamb, L., & theguardian.com. (2015, July 20). Thai fishing industry turns to trafficking: “We witnessed girls being raped again and again” – video. *The Guardian*.

Oct. 20 Week 6 The Migrant: visual and social prejudices

Anderson, B. (2013). Ch. 2: Subjects, Aliens, Citizens, Migrants. In *Us and them?: the dangerous politics of immigration control*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Heller, S. (2014, February 20). The Artistic History of American Anti-Asian Racism. *The Atlantic*.

→ **Research Assignment Part 1 due - Media Organizations Due today**

Oct. 27 Week 7 The Border

Cohen, R. (2006). The Free Movement of Money and People: debates before and after 9/11. In *Migration and Its Enemies: Global Capital, Migrant Labour and the Nation-state* (pp. 196–215). Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.

PODCAST: Gunja, A. (2015). Is Migration a Basic Human Right? Retrieved from <http://freakonomics.com/podcast/is-migration-a-basic-human-right-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/>

DOCUMENTARY Caoimhe Butterly (2016) The Border - <https://vimeo.com/168365310>

Nov. 3 Week 8 Internal Migrations

DOCUMENTARY: Fan, L. (2009). *Last Train Home*.

→ **Media Commentary #2 due**

Nov. 10 Week 9 Arrivals

Giese, R. (2011, June 12). Arrival of the Fittest. *TheWalrus.ca*. Retrieved from <http://thewalrus.ca/arrival-of-the-fittest/>

Mass Arrival: De-colonial Aesthetics in Action. (2013, October 4).

Keung, N. (2013, September 2). Art experiment aims uses Tamil arrival to provoke discussion on race | Toronto Star. *Thestar.com*.

Nov. 17 Week 10 Being Undocumented

Anderson, B., Gibney, M. J., & Paoletti, E. (2011). Citizenship, deportation and the boundaries of belonging. *Citizenship Studies*, 15(5), 547–563.

“We Have No Rights”: Arbitrary Imprisonment and Cruel Treatment of Migrants with Mental Health Issues in Canada | International Human Rights Program. (2015).

Let Alvaro Stay! Queer artist Alvaro Orozco is facing imminent deportation. (2014).

Nov. 24 Week 11 Newcomer’s Struggles

Nir, S. M. (2015, May 7). The Price of Nice Nails. *The New York Times*.

Oltermann, P. (2016, August 5). Syrian refugees design app for navigating German bureaucracy. *The Guardian*.

PODCAST – BureauCrazy app

Dec. 1 Week 12 Happy endings ?

Krug, T. (2016, August 3). The story of Samia Omar, the Olympic runner who drowned in the Med. *The Guardian*.

Mejia, M. L. (2016, May 4). Syrian refugees find comfort at Toronto’s Depanneur.

Rio 2016: The Syrian refugee who swam for her life - all the way to the Olympics. (2016, July 28). *BBC Sport*.

→ **Research Assignment Part 2 due**