GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Migration and Society: an Interdisciplinary Introduction (HOO2395)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Vandevoordt, Robin	PP23	lecturer-in-charge
Toma, Sorana	GE39	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Laws in Laws	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Civil Engineering	5	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	5	A
Master of Science in Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Micro-credential Migration and Society: an Interdisciplinary Introduction	5	A
Exchange Programme Architecture	5	A
Exchange Programme in Educational Sciences	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	5	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies	5	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Social Work and Social Pedagogy	5	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	5	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	5	A
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Ghent University Elective Courses	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Social Work and Social Pedagogy	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Migration, interdisciplinarity, migration governance, migration laws, superdiversity, integration, discrimination

Position of the course

This educational component is a university-wide elective course.
Migration is a highly diverse and fast changing phenomenon, with implications for all the institutions of our societies. As such, it is studied by an increasing number of disciplines, each with its own focus, questions and preferred methods. This course will give students enrolled in 3rd Bachelor and Master programs across Ghent University, a multi- and interdisciplinary introduction to migration studies. Key concepts will be explained, and important theories and authors from different disciplinary traditions will be presented. All of this is done in a critical manner, which is also accessible to students with very diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

Contents

The course is divided into two parts. In the first part, we offer a general introduction of key concepts and debates in migration studies. The lectures present the global patterns and trends of international migration; the governance and politics of migration; its legal pathways; its determinants and imaginaries; and superdiversity and integration. They draw on a broad set of disciplines - social-demography, geography, political science, law, economics, social work, educational sciences, anthropology, sociology and history, among others, but each lecture takes a specific discipline as a starting point. The main goal is that students gain a broad grasp of the field of migration studies, which enables them to explore more specific approaches and issues.
In the second part, we offer a more focused discussion of specific issues (in previous years, this included discrimination and racism, language and access to public services; legal identities and age assessment; communication and representation).. These are set up as dialogues between two disciplines approaching the same issue through a different lens. The double goal of this part is to provide a more in-depth view on current debates on migration, and to foster interdisciplinary dialogue. The specific topics will (partly) change across the years to reflect contemporary debates in the field.

Initial competences

None

Final competences

1 To be able to critically follow the public and political debates related to migration, asylum, integration and discrimination
2 To be able to critically interpret the results of multidisciplinary research on international migration
3 To Integrate cultural sensitivity and respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance in your own field of scientific study and work
4 To have insight into interactions between disciplines and into multidisciplinary issues, as applied in the case of migration

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Introductory lectures. The first 5 lectures will each be given by one expert speaking from a specific disciplinary lens covering a broad span of concepts, theories and findings relevant to different dimensions of migration. Each lecture will try to answer a (broad) key question: Has the world become more migratory? How is migration governed? Why do people move? How are they integrated in their host societies, and how do these societies change in the process? These lectures will also showcase the contributions that different disciplines have made to achieving a holistic understanding of the multifaceted nature of migration.
Topic-focused lectures The last 5 lectures will focus on specific topics and life domains impacted by migration. They will each be taught by two experts from different disciplines, engaged in an interdisciplinary dialogue. This is followed by a discussion.
In **a practical seminar**, students engage more elaborately with different disciplinary and local perspectives on migration.

This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI). During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

No lecture recordings will be made available

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus Migration and Society
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Syllabus of texts will be provided through Ufora
Slides and hand-outs of lecturers are available through Ufora
Guidance: questions during lectures, seminars

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment: 1. assignment: a second examination period is possible by reworking the assignment. 2. participation: a second examination period is posible by submitting an alternative assignment.

Calculation of the examination mark

A combination of end-of-term (exam) and contiuous assessment (seminars with written) preparation): 90-10%. In addition, there is compulsory participation in the seminar and its written preparation. Non-participation in these leads to not being able to pass the course. The grade of the end-of-term and continuous assessment will in that case be reduced to 9/20 if the final grade is higher. Partial results on which the student has acquired at least half the points can be carried over to a next examination period within the same academic year. Partial results are never rounded off.