

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 2021-2022, 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
- 5 To be able to write a group paper on topics concerning migration, using the most recent studies and insights from the social sciences.

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

Group work, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Introductory lectures. The first 6 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 6 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, moderated by a group of students, on how the two perspectives may complement each other. The students/moderators will be able to prepare beforehand based on prior readings given by the lecturers.

Group work. From week 1 students are divided into groups of 3 to 6 persons, ideally

composed of students with different disciplinary backgrounds. Every group analyzes a case study, combining insights from at least two disciplines. Every group is coached by a member of the CESSMIR consortium, who can be professor, post-doc, PhD student or teaching assistant. The lecturers and coaches provide a list with possible case studies, based on input from the wider CESSMIR network. These cases consist of migration issues that can be linked to the topics discussed in the first and second part of the course, and that are realistic to be explored by empirical visits to 'the field'. The coach helps to formulate an initial research question, suggests initial literature references and provides feedback. The groups are expected to work independently and contact the coach for feedback or support. The end product is a group essay. At the end of the term, the groups are expected to present their draft versions of the group essay.

Learning materials and price

Syllabus, articles, book chapters
Estimated cost: 60 EUR

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
Guidance: group assignments will be coached by CESSMIR-members (see supra).

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

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

Written assessment: assessing the broad knowledge acquired in both the introductory and the thematic lectures.
Group assignment: assessing the ability to critically approach a migration-related topic from different disciplinary perspectives.

Calculation of the examination mark

Written assessment 50%
Group assignment 50%

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance: Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course
 - Info about exam facilities: It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period
 - Info about feedback: Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment
- Additional useful info: Whether live streaming will happen, is yet to be decided.