



Western University
SOCIOLOGY 9375
Immigration Policy Development
& Evaluation Strategies

Winter 2017 Monday 9:30-12:30, SSC RM 5406 (seminars) & RM 1032 (Labs)

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Office hours by appointment

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Introduction

This course is a research seminar on immigration policy in advanced capitalist democracies in general, and, in Canada in particular. It is a course in professional preparation, which means that each of you will be an integral part of course content delivery. It will provide you with a familiarity of *some* of the techniques necessary for analytically rigorous policy evaluation as it pertains to immigration in Canada.

This is not a course in econometrics or statistics, but I do assume that you have the requisite background knowledge to keep up with the material in this course. My goal here is to take what you already know and demonstrate how your knowledge can be used to conduct public policy research.

In most weeks, I will send the list of readings to you via email, so please check your email regularly. You are expected to read these articles each week, as they will form the backbone of the seminar for the coming week. Please note that I focus primarily on government and NGO reports as readings for the course.

There are no prerequisites for the course, but my assumption is that you have a basic knowledge of statistics. This means that you have a familiarity with descriptive statistics and multivariate techniques like ordinary least squares regression.

Required Text

There is no text for this course. Instead, weekly readings will be assigned and will form the foundation for each topic. This course is very demanding, so please allot sufficient time to fulfill all of the requirements, and to catch up when/where necessary.

Method of Evaluation:

Test: 22%

Participation: 15%

Assignment: 15%

Presentation: 15%

Final paper: 33%

Course Content

This course will provide an overview of:

- 1) The broad suite of immigration policies in Canada, and the many changes that have occurred to these policies in recent history.
- 2) The extent to which the labour markets of cities, regions, and/or jurisdictions need and can support immigrants.
- 3) The success of recruitment and retention strategies.
- 4) The effectiveness of immigration policies at multiple levels of government.

In the early weeks of the course we will explore the basic dimensions of the immigration system in Canada. You will learn about the admission system for permanent residents, the many different types of temporary statuses that individuals use to enter Canada. We will also look at the mechanisms whereby temporary residents can transition to permanent status.

In the second half of each weekly session, we'll briefly look at the quantitative techniques to measure differences in immigrant outcomes (by source country, settlement region, etc.). When appropriate, we'll compare to other countries.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Cogently present on an immigration-relevant topic.
- Critically contribute to the discourse on immigration in Canada.
- Design an immigration-related research project
 - Identify the appropriate data and analytical techniques to conduct this research.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Students will be allowed to use calculators in class and during exams.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings (tentative, incomplete, and based on your preferences):

Part 1: Setting the Stage

Week 1: Introduction to the Class

Week 2: Justice or 'Just us'? Immigration in the Canadian Welfare State

Read: *Why Canada Needs a Flood of Immigrants*. Globe and Mail. Available: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/time-to-lead/why-canada-needs-a-flood-of-immigrants/article4105032/?page=all>

Grubel, Herbert. 2005. Immigration and the Welfare State in Canada: Growing Conflicts, Constructive Solutions." Fraser Institute. Available: <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/ImmigrationandWelfareState.pdf>

Nannestad, Peter. 2004. "Immigration as a challenge to the Danish welfare state." *European Journal of Political Economy* 20 (3): 755-767.

Lab: Stata Basics

Week 3: Immigration policies in Canada

Alboim, Naomi and Karen Cohl. 2012. Canada's Rapidly Changing Immigration System. Maytree Foundation. http://oppenheimer.mcgill.ca/IMG/pdf/Maytree_-_Shaping_the_future_-_Canada_s_rapidly_changing_immigration_policies_-_Full_report_-_October_2012.pdf

Akbari, Ather, and Martha MacDonald. 2014. Immigration Policy in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States: An Overview of Recent Trends. *International Migration Review* 48(3): 801-822.

Lab: Data merging and sampling weights.

Week 4: The Economic Outcomes of Immigrants to Canada - Ryan

Picot, Garnett and Arthur Sweetman. 2005. The Deteriorating Economic Welfare of Immigrants and Possible Causes: Update 2005 <http://www.publications.gc.ca/Collection/Statcan/11F0019MIE/11F0019MIE2005262.pdf>

Bonikowska, Aneta, Feng Hou and Garnett Picot. 2015. "Which Human Capital Characteristics Best Predict the Earnings of Economic Immigrants?" <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m2015368-eng.pdf>

Lab: Descriptive and Basic Multivariate Statistics

Week 5: The Social Outcomes of Immigrants to Canada

Lab: Multivariate statistics (basic linear and non-linear probability models)

Week 6: No Class (individual meetings instead)

Rather than hold a formal session this week, instead I will meet with each of you to discuss your research paper topic ideas.

Week 7: Minority Sub-groups within the Immigrant Population

Lab: Measuring community demographic, economic, and social need.

Week 8: Immigration and Reception by Host societies

Lab: Oaxaca-Blinder Decomposition Models and Measuring Discrimination (or at least trying to)

Week 9: Moving from Consumption to Production: The program logic model - Haan

Lab: preparing a policy brief.

Week 10: Immigrants and Health

Lab: Difference in Difference (and 'triple diff') Models

Week 11: Multiculturalism: Social and Economic Considerations

Lab: Instrumental Variable Models

Week 12: Immigration in Canada, past and present

Lab: Propensity Score Matching *or* Fixed and Random Effects

Week 13: Conclusion: Data and Their Discontents

This session will be dedicated to the Canadian datasets that can be used to study immigration.