

TEACHING IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION IN THE DISCIPLINES

Discipline	Approach to Teaching Immigration	Key Themes	Topics	Teaching Methods
Sociology	<p>Social process shaped by institutions, norms, and inequalities.</p> <p>Examines migration as a social phenomenon, exploring the causes, processes, and consequences of immigration. Investigates theories of migration, transnationalism, and integration, with a focus on race, ethnicity, class, gender, and policy frameworks. Analyzes the immigrant experiences in various national contexts and assess the role of institutions in shaping integration outcomes.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain key sociological theories of migration and integration. • Analyze how race, ethnicity, gender, and class shape immigrant experiences. • Evaluate policies and practices that facilitate or hinder immigrant integration. • Understand transnational ties and the role of diasporas. • Conduct sociological research on immigrant communities. 	<p>Integration, identity, transnationalism, race, class, gender, networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology of Migration • Theories of International Migration • Immigration in Historical Perspective • Immigration Policy and Nation-State Formation • Race, Ethnicity, and Legal Status • Gender, Family, and Migration • Labor Market Integration • Education and Second-Generation Integration • Urban Spaces and Ethnic Enclaves • Religion and Civic Participation • Transnationalism and Diaspora • Comparative Perspectives on Integration (e.g., US vs. Europe) • Refugees and Forced Migration 	<p>Case studies, ethnographies, theory application, comparative analysis</p>
Political Science / Policy	<p>Focus on state control, lawmaking, and policy implementation</p> <p>Explores immigration and immigrant integration as central political issues in domestic and global governance. Examines political theories of membership and citizenship, the policymaking process around migration, the role of political parties,</p>	<p>Citizenship, border control, security, public opinion, political mobilization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration as a Political Issue • Political Theories of Borders and Membership • The State, Sovereignty, and Migration Control • Citizenship and Political Belonging • Immigration Policymaking in Liberal Democracies • Political Parties and Electoral Politics 	<p>Policy debates, simulations, policy memo writing, analysis of legal/policy texts</p>

	<p>public opinion, international organizations, and comparative models of integration.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand political theories of borders, membership, and citizenship. • Analyze the politics of immigration policy formation and reform. • Compare integration models across democracies. • Evaluate the role of political actors, public opinion, and interest groups. • Assess how immigration shapes and is shaped by political institutions 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populism, Nationalism, and the Far Right • Integration Policies: Assimilation, Multiculturalism, Interculturalism • Public Opinion and Immigration Attitudes • International and Regional Institutions (EU, UN, IOM) • Migration, Development, and Foreign Policy • Refugees, Asylum, and International Protection • Comparative Case Studies (e.g., US, Germany, Canada) • The Future of Migration Governance 	
History	<p>Historical patterns and contexts of migration</p> <p>Examines the historical dimensions of immigration and integration in global and national contexts. It traces major migratory waves, the evolution of immigration policy, and immigrant experiences across time. Analyzes how race, ethnicity, gender, and class shaped integration, and how immigrant communities influenced and were shaped by the societies they entered.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and compare major historical waves of immigration. • Analyze the social, economic, and political contexts of immigration laws and attitudes. • Understand the lived experiences of immigrants through historical sources. 	<p>Migration waves, legislation, war and displacement, diaspora, historical discrimination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Study Immigration History? • Early Migration and Colonial Encounters • 19th Century Migration: Industrialization and Expansion • Immigration and Nation-Building • Chinese Exclusion and Racialized Immigration • Ellis Island, Ethnicity, and the Melting Pot • Immigration Restriction and the Interwar Period • Refugees and Displacement after WWII • The 1965 Immigration Act and Changing Demographics • Latin American and Asian Immigration, 1970–2000 • Muslim Immigration and Post-9/11 Policies • Integration and Urban Change 	<p>Primary source analysis, timelines, archival research</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate integration as a historical and contested process. Use historical methods to interpret migration narratives, archives, and oral histories. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration, Memory, and Identity Histories of Migration and the Contemporary Moment 	
Cultural / Ethnic Studies	<p>Cultural identity and resistance, power and representation</p> <p>Explores immigration and immigrant integration through the lens of cultural and ethnic studies. It examines how race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, and colonial legacies shape migration experiences. Through literature, film, oral histories, art, and critical theory, analyzes how immigrant communities construct identities, resist marginalization, and reimagine belonging in contested cultural landscapes.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze immigration as a cultural and racialized process. Understand how immigrants navigate identity, language, and belonging. Critically engage with representations of immigrants in media, literature, and policy. Examine how systems of power affect immigrant communities. Produce reflective, creative, or research-based work centered on immigrant experiences. 	Hybridity, media representation, language, foodways, racialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration, Culture, and Power Race, Nation, and the Immigrant Body Colonialism, Empire, and Migration Borderlands and Transnationalism Immigration, Whiteness, and Assimilation Language, Culture, and the Politics of Translation Cultural Citizenship and Belonging Resistance, Organizing, and Everyday Activism Migration and Queer/Trans Identities Migration and Indigeneity Art, Music, and Cultural Expression Media, Surveillance, and Representation Futures, Memory, and Generational Stories 	Media analysis, student reflection, cultural critique, narrative-based assignments
Economics	<p>Cost-benefit lens and labor market impacts</p> <p>Explores the economic forces driving migration, and the impact of immigration on labor markets, public finance, innovation, and long-term growth. It also examines how immigrants integrate economically</p>	Wages, employment, fiscal impact, human capital,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facts about Immigration Economic Theories of Migration (Push-Pull, Roy Model) Migration and Labor Markets Wage Effects and Labor Substitution Fiscal Impacts of Immigration Education, Skills, and Human Capital 	Data analysis, econometrics, modeling, cost-benefit case studies

	<p>over time and across generations. Examines theoretical models, evaluate empirical research, and assess immigration policies from a cost-benefit and efficiency-equity standpoint.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain economic theories of migration and integration. • Analyze empirical findings on immigration's impact on native labor markets, wages, and fiscal systems. • Evaluate immigration and integration policies using cost-benefit and equity frameworks. • Interpret and conduct empirical research using immigration datasets. • Understand long-run effects of immigration on human capital, innovation, and economic growth. 	economic assimilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Innovation • Integration: Labor Market Assimilation • Second Generation Outcomes • Immigration and Trade/Capital Flows • Immigration Policy and Labor Market Regulation • Global Migration and Development • Climate, Conflict, and Forced Migration • Immigration Reform & The Future of Labor Mobility 	
Law / Legal Studies	<p>Legal structures, rights, and enforcement mechanisms</p> <p>Explores the legal structures and doctrines that shape immigration and immigrant integration. Examines national immigration laws, constitutional principles, international human rights instruments, and case law. Admission and removal, asylum and refugee law, legal status, family reunification, labor migration, integration rights, and legal advocacy. Emphasizes the intersection of immigration law with race, gender, and civil rights.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the core principles of immigration and refugee law. • Analyze key statutes, constitutional doctrines, and legal cases. 	Immigration law, asylum, due process, detention, human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Immigration Law • Constitutional Foundations and Federal Power • Admission and Exclusion • Deportation and Removal Proceedings • Refugee and Asylum Law • Family-Based and Employment-Based Migration • Legal Status, the state of being undocumented, and DACA • Immigration Enforcement and Border Law • Detention and Due Process • Citizenship and Naturalization • International Human Rights and Migration • Integration Rights: Education, Labor, and Health 	Case law reading, legal argumentation, moot court, legal brief writing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the legal frameworks for immigrant rights and integration. Critique enforcement and exclusion practices from a legal and ethical perspective. Apply legal reasoning to contemporary immigration policy issues. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Advocacy and Immigration Reform Future Directions in Immigration Law 	
Geography / Environmental	<p>Spatial and environmental dimensions of migration</p> <p>Explores immigration through the lens of geography and environmental studies. It examines the spatial dimensions of migration, the environmental causes and consequences of movement, the role of borders and place-making, and the integration of immigrants into urban and rural spaces. Engage with cartography, environmental justice, climate migration, and geospatial methods to analyze immigrant experiences and policies.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain spatial patterns and environmental drivers of migration. Analyze the roles of borders, place, and territory in immigration processes. Evaluate immigrant integration in urban and rural geographies. Assess climate change and environmental displacement as migration forces. Use geographic tools (e.g., maps, GIS) to visualize and interpret migration patterns. 	Climate migration, spatial distribution, borders, urban segregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration Geographies Spatial Theories of Migration and Mobility Political Geography of Borders and Sovereignty Environmental Drivers of Migration Urban Geographies of Immigrant Integration Suburban and Rural Migration Patterns Housing, Segregation, and Place-Making Immigrant Labor and Environmental Risk Environmental Justice and Immigrant Communities Migration, Agriculture, and Land Climate Change, Displacement, and Adaptation Migration Infrastructure and Surveillance GIS, Mapping, and Storytelling Future Geographies of Belonging and Mobility 	GIS mapping, spatial ethnography, place-based analysis
Education	<p>Impact of migration on learners and institutions</p> <p>Explores the educational experiences of immigrant and refugee students and the role of schools in promoting or hindering immigrant integration.</p>	Language learning, equity, culturally responsive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigration and Education: Setting the Stage Who Are Immigrant Students? Demographics and Diversity 	Classroom observation, reflective teaching, interviews, storytelling

	<p>Analyzes education policy, culturally responsive pedagogy, language and identity, access to services, and community-school partnerships. Drawing from critical and sociocultural perspectives, emphasizes advocacy, inclusion, and justice in education systems.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how immigration status, race, culture, and language impact educational access and equity. • Analyze educational policies affecting immigrant and multilingual learners. • Apply culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogies in diverse classrooms. • Design strategies to support immigrant family engagement and integration. • Advocate for inclusive and equitable school practices and policies. 	<p>pedagogy, immigrant student rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and Policy Contexts: Rights of Immigrant Students • Language, Identity, and Multilingual Learners • English Learner Policy and Bilingual Education • Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy • Social-Emotional Needs and Trauma-Informed Practice • Parent and Community Engagement • Immigrant Youth Activism and Voice • School Climate, Belonging, and Anti-Racism • Higher Education and Undocumented Students • Teacher Advocacy and Educational Leadership 	
Social Work	<p>Strengths-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive approaches to supporting immigrants and refugees, with attention to social justice, ethics, and policy advocacy.</p> <p>Through a combination of theoretical grounding, policy analysis, and practice skills, explores the structural challenges immigrants face and learn how to advocate for integration, access, and inclusion. Integrates culturally competent practice, trauma-informed care, legal and policy frameworks, and community-based approaches.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the sociopolitical and legal contexts of immigration and resettlement. 	<p>Cultural humility and strengths-based practice; Intersectionality (race, gender, legal status, class); Anti-oppressive and anti-racist frameworks; Legal literacy and collaboration with immigration attorneys; Community capacity-building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration, Identity, and Social Work • Historical and Legal Contexts of Immigration • Immigration Policy and Social Welfare Systems • Social Work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers • Trauma, Displacement, and Healing-Centered Engagement • Mental Health and Immigrant Communities • Language, Culture, and Access • Ethical Practice and Case Discussion • Family Dynamics, Generational Issues, and Integration • Undocumented Status and Fear of Deportation • Community Organizing and Empowerment • Immigrant Youth, Schools, and Child Welfare 	<p>Reflections, Timeline: U.S. immigration policy and social work, policy memos, Case studies assessment plan, Interviews or observations, role play, agency language access audits</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply culturally responsive and trauma-informed interventions in immigrant-serving settings. • Identify ethical dilemmas and power dynamics in cross-cultural practice. • Analyze immigration policy impacts on access to services, rights, and wellbeing. • Design advocacy strategies to promote immigrant integration and equity. 	and coalition work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilevel Advocacy and Policy Change • Future of Social Work with Immigrants 	
Public Health	<p>Examines how immigration and integration affect population health, healthcare access, health equity, and social determinants of health. Focuses on structural barriers, health disparities, trauma, environmental exposures, and culturally responsive systems of care for immigrant and refugee populations.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze how immigration status, race, and class shape health outcomes. • Identify structural and systemic barriers to healthcare access for immigrants. • Apply public health frameworks to assess immigrant health disparities. • Evaluate culturally competent and linguistically appropriate care strategies. • Understand mental health impacts of migration, trauma, and resettlement. • Advocate for policies that promote immigrant health equity and integration. 	Health Equity & Social Determinants; Access & Barriers to Care; Mental Health & Trauma; Epidemiology & Health Disparities; Environmental Health; Public Health Systems; Advocacy & Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, employment, legal status, food security, environment, education • Language services, health insurance, immigration status, discrimination • Forced migration, PTSD, cultural stigma, healing-centered engagement • Data collection gaps, chronic disease prevalence, maternal and child health • Climate displacement, occupational health (e.g., farmworkers), urban living conditions • Safety nets, community health centers, culturally competent care • Sanctuary health policies, immigrant inclusion in public health programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Studies: DACA and healthcare access; migrant farmworker health; mental health programs for refugees. • Guest Speakers: Public health professionals, community health workers, immigrant health advocates. • GIS / Mapping: Spatial analysis of health disparities in immigrant neighborhoods. • Policy Memo: Write a memo on expanding health coverage to undocumented immigrants. • Oral History Project: Interview an immigrant

				<p>about their health experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Equity Audit: Analyze local clinic or health system for equity practices.
Multidisciplinary	<p>Explores immigration through multiple disciplinary lenses, including sociology, political science, history, law, economics, cultural studies, and education. Examines immigration as a complex and contested phenomenon, shaped by historical legacies, legal systems, economic forces, cultural identities, and social inequalities. Emphasizes critical thinking, interdisciplinary analysis, and real-world applications</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze immigration through multiple disciplinary frameworks. • Understand the historical and contemporary drivers of migration. • Critically evaluate immigration policies and their impacts. • Explore immigrant experiences and identity formation. • Apply interdisciplinary tools to develop equitable policy or community responses. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why People Move: Theories of Migration - Sociology / Geography • Migration Through History - History • Immigration Law and Border Regimes - Law / Political Science • Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration - Ethnic Studies / CRT • Gender, Migration, and the Body - Gender Studies / Feminist Theory • Economic Impacts of Immigration - Economics • Immigrant Experiences & Cultural Identity - Cultural Studies / Constructivism • Immigration and Education - Education • Immigration, Climate, and Environment - Geography / Environmental Studies. • Immigration Policy and Advocacy - Public Policy / Political Science • Local Contexts: Immigrant Integration - Urban Studies / Sociology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative policy briefs (e.g., U.S. vs. Canada integration models) • StoryMap or GIS-based project on immigrant neighborhoods • Legal analysis of landmark immigration cases • Economic impact assessment using migration data • Design of a culturally sustaining teaching unit • Oral history or digital storytelling of immigrant experiences

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community partner engagement project
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