

Ethics and the Political Philosophy of Migration
Sample Syllabus

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Course Description

In this course, we will examine core issues in ethics and the political philosophy of migration. After analyzing key concepts in ethics and political theory, we will discuss the right of immigration, the right of states to close their borders, arguments for and against open borders, what is citizenship, the status of irregular migrants and refugees, and the relation between immigration and social justice.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should have a broad knowledge of the basic philosophical literature on the ethics and politics of migration. More specifically, they should be able to analyze the main views and arguments present in that literature. Students should also be able to evaluate the merits and problems of those views and arguments, presenting these evaluations both in oral and written form. Finally, students should be able to engage in constructive, respectful debates and provide feedback to each other's work.

Course Assessment I (1st and 2nd-year undergraduate course)

Quizzes: Each quiz contains ten multiple choice questions about the reading assigned during that week. To pass a quiz, it is necessary to have seven correct answers. – 20% total

Midterm and Final Exam: In-class exams will take 90 minutes of class. Each exam consists of 2 essay questions. Versions of the questions will be provided beforehand for study purposes. – 50% total

Group Work: Students form groups at the beginning of the semester and have to accomplish specific tasks on a weekly-basis. These tasks are determined by the instructor, and they will guide students to develop a 10-min presentation on a chosen topic. Presentations occur in the last week of classes followed by Q and A. – 30% total

Course Assessment II (3rd and 4th-year undergraduate course)

11 Discussion questions: Once a week, students provide a written question about one of the readings of the week and a brief justification of why this question is relevant and open to discussion. Precise guidelines will be provided by the instructor in class. – 33%

Research Question for Paper: Students provide a 500 description of the research topic they want to conduct in the final paper. This description should motivate their research problem, which should be summarized as a single question. - 10%

Paper Outline: Students provide an outline for the final paper and discuss it with the instructor. The outline has to contain the structure of the paper, the main thesis, and basic bibliography – 27%

Paper: students write a 4000-6000 words paper on one of the topics of the course. The instructor will provide specific guidelines for the paper. Students have to submit a hard copy to the instructor on the due date. – 30%

Required Books:

Carens, J. (2013). *The Ethics of Immigration*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Cole P. (2000). *Philosophies of Exclusion: Liberal Political Theory and Immigration* (Edinburgh University Press, 2000).

Fine, S., & Ypi, L. (Eds.). (2016). *Migration in political theory: The ethics of movement and membership*. Oxford University Press.

Swain, C. M. (Ed.). (2018). *Debating immigration*. Cambridge University Press.

Wellman C and Cole P. (2011). *Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is There a Right to Exclude?* (Oxford University Press).

Topics and Readings

Topic 1 – Key theories, concepts, and introductory issues

Driver, J. "The History of Utilitarianism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2014 Edition)

Alexander, L. and Moore, M. "Deontological Ethics", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2016 Edition)

van der Vossen, B. "Libertarianism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2019 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2019/entries/libertarianism/>>.

Arneson, R. "Egalitarianism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2013 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2013/entries/egalitarianism/>>.

Zapata-Barrero, R. and Pécoud, A. "New Perspectives on the Ethics of International Migration." *American Behavioral Scientist* 56/9 (2012): 1159-1164.

Carens, J. 'Realistic and Idealistic Approaches to the Ethics of Migration', *International Migration Review* Vol. 30, No. 1

Topic 2 – Freedom of Movement

Cole, P. "Towards a right to international movement." Available online: <https://westengland.academia.edu/PhillipCole>

Fine, S. "The Ethics of Immigration: Self-Determination and the Right to Exclude." *Philosophy Compass* 8/3 (2013): 254-268.

Hosein, A. "Immigration and Freedom of Movement." *Ethics and Global Politics* 6/1 (2013): 25-37.

Miller, D. 'Is There a Human Right to Immigrate?', in Sarah Fine and Lea Ypi

Stilz, A. 'Is There an Unqualified Right to Leave?', in Fine and Ypi, as above

Topic 3 – Open and Close Borders

Abizadeh, A. (2006). Liberal egalitarian arguments for closed borders: Some preliminary critical reflections.

Abizadeh, A. 'Democratic Theory and Border Coercion: No Right to Unilaterally Control Your Own Borders', *Political Theory*, vol. 36, no. 1 (2008), pp. 37–65.

Lea, Y. 'A Permissive Theory of Territorial Rights', *European Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 22, no. 2 (2014), pp. 288-312.

Higgins, P. (2008). Open borders and the right to immigration. *Human Rights Review*, 9(4), 525-535.

Kukathas, C. "The Case for Open Immigration." In *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics*, edited by A.I. Cohen and C.H. Wellman, 207-220. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.

Carens, J. "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders." *Review of Politics* 49 (1987): 251-273.

Oberman, K. "Immigration as a Human Right." In *Migration in Political Theory: The Ethics of Movement and Membership*, edited by S. Fine und Lea Ypi. Oxford (forthcoming 2016). (suggested)

Topic 4 – Membership, Citizenship, and Transnationalism

Carens, J. The Ethics of Immigration chapter 8

Hidalgo, J. "Selling Citizenship: A Defence." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* (2015).

Bauböck, 'Stakeholder Citizenship', <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/transatlantic/docs/Baubock-FINAL.pdf>

Owen, D. 'Transnational Citizenship and the Democratic State', *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 14, (5).

Bauböck, R. 'Towards a political theory of migrant transnationalism', *International Migration Review*, vol. 37, No. 3, 2003:700-723.

Topic 5 – Irregular Migrants and Deportation

Carens, J. H. (2008). The rights of irregular migrants. *Ethics & international affairs*, 22(2), 163-186.

Brock, G. (2016). Justice for Irregular Migrants, Refugees and Temporary Workers: Some Issues for Carens. *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 33(4), 435-442.

Miller, D. (2008). Irregular migrants: an alternative perspective. *Ethics & international affairs*, 22(2), 193-197.

Silverman, S. 'Detaining Immigrants and Asylum Seekers: A Normative Introduction', *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, vol. 17, no. 5 (2014), pp. 600-617.

Anderson, B. Gibney, M. and Paoletti, E. 'Citizenship, Deportation and The Boundaries of Belonging', *Citizenship Studies*, vol. 15, no. 5 (2011), pp. 547-563.

Topic 6 – Refugees

Carens, J. The Ethics of Immigration chapter 10

Shuck, P. 'Refugee Burden-Sharing', *Yale Journal of International Law* vol.22 1997

Ferracioli, Luara. 2014. "The Appeal and Danger of a New Refugee Convention." *Social Theory and Practice* 40 (1): 123–44.

Shacknove, A. 'Who Is a Refugee?', *Ethics*, vol. 95, no. 2, pp. 274-284.

Kukathas, C. 'Are Refugees Special?' in Fine and Ypi, as above.

Topic 7 – Migration, its effects, and Social Justice

Cavallero, Eric. "An immigration-pressure model of global distributive justice." *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* 5/1 (2006): 97-127.

Ypi, Lea. "Justice in Migration: A Closed Borders Utopia?" *Journal of Political Philosophy* 16/4 (2008): 391-418.

Fine, S. 'Immigration and Discrimination' in Fine and Ypi, as above.

Macedo, S. 'The Moral Dilemma of U.S. Immigration Policy: Open Borders Versus Social Justice?' in Carol M. Swain (ed.) *Debating Immigration* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Kapur, Devesh and McHale John. "Should a Cosmopolitan Worry about the "Brain Drain"?" *Ethics & International Affairs* 20/3 (2006): 305–320.

Eyal, Nir and Hurst, Samia A. "Physician Brain Drain: Can Nothing Be Done?" *Public Health Ethics* 1/2 (2008): 180-192.