Introduction

International migration is a key aspect of globalization. While migrants represent about 3 percent of the world population, a relatively stable figure, immigrants now represent nearly 10 percent of the population of OECD countries, a twofold increase in just a couple of decades. Another interesting pattern of international migration is that it is increasingly of the brain drain type. The aim of the course will be to present a detailed picture of international migration today, to understand the forces behind the patterns of its evolution, and to analyze both theoretically and empirically the main channels through which international migration affects growth and development in the sending and receiving economies as well as its impact on global welfare. At a theoretical level we will aim at conveying the intuition of the mechanisms at work using simple economic models. At the empirical level we will discuss the results from selected studies. The course will focus on international and growth/development economics issues and on immigration policy.

The course is organized around a series of lectures with required readings (marked ** in the reading list below) and is complemented by students’ presentations, as detailed below. Students must prepare for the class by reading the required articles ahead of the class.

Grading scheme: 30% class participation, 70% written final exam.

Organization of the lectures

A typical day will be organized around a 3-hour morning session dedicated to a lecture by the instructor and a 1.5-hour afternoon session dedicated to students’ presentations and discussions, except for Day 1 where there will be no afternoon session.

Content

1. The size and skill composition of international migration flows

Topics


Readings


Assignment 1

Group assignment on the four “gravity” papers below. Objective: comparative and critical evaluations. Presentation the following day.


2. Immigration, diversity and economic development

Topics

The costs and benefits of diversity. Ethnic, genetic and birthplace diversity. Are countries richer because they are more diverse or more diverse because they are richer? The role of cultural proximity.

Readings


Assignment 2

Group assignment on the four “micro” papers below. Objective: comparative and critical evaluations. Presentation the following day.


3. Brain drain and human capital formation in developing countries

Topics

Readings


Assignment 3

Group assignment on the four “micro” papers below. Objective: comparative and critical evaluations. Presentation the following day.


4. International migration and globalization

Topics
Trade, migration and FDI: complements or substitutes? A model of trade/FDI-inducing migration with heterogeneous workers and firms. Migration and knowledge flows. Social and political remittances

Readings

Assignment 4
Group assignment on the four case-study papers on social remittances below. Objective: comparative and critical evaluations. Presentation the following day.


5. **Immigration and global welfare**

*Topics*


*Readings*

**Alesina, Alberto, Johann Harnoss and Hillel Rapoport (2016): Immigration, attitudes to redistribution and the future of the Welfare State in Europe, Mimeo.**
