

Philosophy ____: Immigration Ethics

Term: Fall 2023

Credits: 3

Instructor: Michael Ball-Blakely

Email: mbblake1@stanford.edu

Class Meeting: Tu/Th 11:30-1:50

Office Hours: Tu/Th 3:00-4:00

Cross Listings:

Course Description:

Immigration ethics challenges us to rethink many of our deep commitments and disciplinary boundaries. It forces us to carefully consider the nature of the state and its obligations to individuals. Does the state only have duties of justice to current citizens? If not, what grounds its duties to noncitizens and would-be immigrants? And if the state does have duties to noncitizens, can the duties of the state to its own citizen—duties of distributive justice and democratic control over political decisions—override the rights of noncitizens?

Immigration ethics also requires that we think historically and empirically. How does a history of colonialism and imperialism shape the duties of high-income countries to open their borders? Why do immigrants move across national borders, and often through such predictable pathways? How will questions of race and class—including whether immigration decisions wrongfully discriminate on these bases—affect the justice of immigration policies? And will open borders, or policies that select based on skill, harm poor and developing countries, causing them to lose many of their trained and educated professionals, including doctors and nurses?

These are a few of the questions that we will consider. And while no prior knowledge or experience in philosophical ethics or political philosophy will be required, you will leave this course with an understanding of the causes of immigration, the rights and claims of would-be immigrants, the nature and obligations of the state, and how these all fit together to shape the debate(s) on immigration.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Participation: You are expected to regularly attend & respectfully engage with the material. Participation can take the form of in-class discussion, emails, visits to office hours, & discussions before or after class. See the canvas handout for more details. **15%**.

Discussion Posts: you will submit 5 discussion posts on the readings at some point during the term. These should be 50-100 words and must engage with a substantive argument from one of the assigned or optional readings. You cannot do more than one post per class meeting. **20%**

Paper 1: 3-4 double-spaced pages on whether border control is ever justified and, if so, under what conditions. This paper should engage with at least two of the readings from 8/29 through 10/03. **Due 10/19 15%**

Final Paper Draft: a draft of up to 6-8 double-spaced pages for your final paper. Feel free to submit less if you do not have a full draft prepared, but the more you give me the more feedback I can provide. **Due 11/14 15%**

Final Paper: 6-8 double-spaced pages comparing and contrasting the issues of immigration and gentrification (see handout for resources and a description of gentrification). The goal is to apply the discussions from the course—on freedom of association, compatriot partiality, economic justice, race, and our right to space—to the problem of gentrification. This is your attempt to apply the resources of the course to a distinct problem of justice, developing a novel philosophical argument of your own in the process. **Due 11/30 35%**

Required Texts:

- José Jorge Mendoza: *The Moral and Political Philosophy of Immigration*
- Gillian Brock and Michael Blake: *Debating Brain Drain*

The rest of the readings will be available on Canvas as PDFs. See the next two pages for a reading list, including both required and optional texts. Readings from the two required books will be marked with an asterisk (*).

Reading List

Date	Topic	Reading 1	Reading 2	Optional Reading
8/22	Immigration in Context	Brettell & Hollifield – Migration Theory	Adrian Favell – Rebooting Migration Theory	
8/24	Immigration in Context	Douglas Massey – Theories of International Migration		Todd Miller – Empire of Borders Ch 2
8/29	Closure and Coercion	Michael Blake – Distributive Justice, State Coercion, & Autonomy		Blake – Justice, Jurisdiction, & Migration
8/31	Closure and Coercion	Arash Abizadeh – Democratic Theory & Border Coercion	David Miller – Why Immigration Controls are not Coercive	
9/5	Closure and Coercion	*José Jorge Mendoza – The Security Concern & the Security Dilemma		
9/7	Closure and Association	Christopher Wellman – Immigration & Freedom of Association	Sarah Fine – Freedom of Association is not the Answer	
9/12	Closure and Association	*José Jorge Mendoza – A Legitimate State’s Freedom of Association...		
9/14	Closure and Compatriots	David Miller – Cosmopolitanism, Compatriot Responsibility, and...	David Miller – Closed Borders	
9/19	Republicanism and Borders	Sarah Fine – Non-Domination & the Ethics of Immigration		Philip Pettit – Freedom as Antipower
9/21	Republicanism and Borders	Iseult Honohan – Domination & Migration		
9/26	Liberalism and Borders	Joseph Carens – The Case for Open Borders		
9/28	Liberalism and Borders	John Rawls – Selections	Seyla Benhabib – The Law of Peoples, Distributive Justice, Migrations	
10/3	Liberalism and Borders	*José Jorge Mendoza – The Liberty Concern & the Liberty Dilemma		
10/5	Immigration and Enforcement	*José Jorge Mendoza – The Ethics of Immigration Enforcement		Mendoza – Decolonizing Immigration Justice
10/10	Immigration and Enforcement	Amy Reed-Sandoval – Deportations as Theaters of Inequality		
10/12	Immigration and Enforcement	Joseph Carens – The Case for Amnesty		Patti Lenard – The Ethics of Deportation in Liberal...
10/17	Borders and Colonialism	A. Sivanandan – Race, Class, & The State		Amighetti & Nuti – A Nation’s Right to Exclude & the Colonies
10/19	Borders and Race	Harsha Walia – Historic Entanglements of US Border Formation		
10/24	Borders and Race	José Jorge Mendoza – Illegal: White Supremacy & Immigration Status		Grant Silva – Embodying a “New” Color Line
10/26	Borders and Race	Désirée Lim – Selecting Immigrants by Skill: A case of Wrongful Discrimination		
10/31	Borders and Class	Ayelet Shachar – Selecting by Merit		Ball-Blakely – Skill-Selection & Socioeconomic Status
11/2	Borders and Class	Harsha Walia – Dispossession, Deprivation, Displacement	Lea Ypi – Borders of Class	
11/7	The Brain Drain	*Gillian Brock & Blake: Debating Brain Drain – Intro, Ch 1, & Ch 2		
11/9	The Brain Drain	*Brock & Blake – Debating Brain Drain Chs 3 & 4		

Date	Topic	Reading 1	Reading 2	Optional Reading
11/14	The Brain Drain	*Brock & Blake – Debating Brain Drain Chs 7 & 8		
11/16	The Brain Drain	*Brock & Blake – Debating Brain Drain Chs 8 & 9		
11/21	The Brain Drain	*Brock & Blake – Debating Brain Drain Chs 10 & 11		
11/23	Thanksgiving: No Class			
11/28	The Brain Drain	Ferracioli & De Lora – The Medical Brain Drain		
11/30	The Brain Drain	Lucas Stanczyk – Productive Justice		