

Meetings: TR 1:40 pm – 2:55 pm in CHAM 2068
Office Hours: MW: 11:00 am – 12:00 noon, TR: 9:00 am – 10:30 am, and by appointment.
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Course Description

This course examines economic theories related to the causes and consequences of migration, focusing on its impact on migrant-sending and receiving regions, as well as on migrants themselves. The first third of the course covers key economic models, exploring individual and family migration decisions, labor market consequences of migration, and other economic effects that extend beyond direct labor market impacts. While studying these effects, we will explore topics such as remittances, brain drain, brain gain, and the transfer of ideas, culture, and technology. The remainder of the course applies these theories to the South Asian context, with a special emphasis on India. We will explore historical, recent, and projected migration patterns, analyzing migration into, out of, and within South Asia. By examining diverse migration flows, students will develop a solid foundation in the economics of migration as well as gain insights into its applications in the context of South Asia.

Prerequisite: Eco 101.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Explain, apply, and analyze major economic theories related to migration.
- Describe patterns of migration and their impact on labor markets in the context of South Asia, particularly India.
- Analyze challenges and opportunities presented by internal migration within South Asian countries
- Evaluate the economic impact of South Asian diaspora communities on both sending and receiving countries.

Textbooks

Required:

- Tumbe, C. 2018. *India Moving: A History of Migration*. Penguin Viking. **This book is available on reserve at the library**. Feel free to purchase a hard copy if that is more convenient for you.
- I will assign several important **required** readings that will form the core of the course. These will be uploaded on Moodle and will include journal articles as well as excerpts from other books.

Optional:

- Kapur, D. 2010. *Diaspora, Development, and Democracy: The Domestic Impact of International Migration from India*. Princeton University Press. **This book is available as an e-book from Davidson College library**. Feel free to purchase a hard copy if that is more convenient for you.
- Sahoo, A.K. (ed). 2023. *Routledge Handbook of South Asian Migrations*. Taylor and Francis. **This book is available as an e-book from Davidson College library**. Feel free to purchase a hard copy if that is more convenient for you.

Films (tentative)

- "Last King of Scotland" (2006) - International migration, brain drain, and political implications
- "Mississippi Masala" (1991) - South Asian diaspora, cultural identity, and economic adaptation
- "Swades" (2004) - Return migration, brain gain, and development*
- "Garam Hava" (1973) - Historical context of Partition-related migration in South Asia*
- "The White Tiger" (2021) - Rural to urban migration, economic inequality, and social mobility*

*Indicate films that are mostly in Hindi – unless you know the language you will need subtitles.

Structure and Grading

Reading and Review Quizzes (16% of the course grade)

There will be several reading quizzes (a brief 5-minute quiz on the assigned reading for the day) and review quizzes (a brief 5-minute quiz on recently taught material) over the semester. These are not pop quizzes. I will announce each quiz at least 2 days in advance (i.e., on at least the prior class day). Reading quizzes will be closed book and closed notes. For review quizzes, you may refer to your printed-out or handwritten notes if you wish, but you may not refer to any electronic devices (so be sure to take any printouts if you feel you will need them). If you have an excused absence on a day with a quiz, please let me know so we can make an alternate arrangement. An unexcused absence on a day with a quiz will earn an automatic zero.

In-class Reviews and Final Review (43% of the course grade)

There will be two in-class reviews (each worth 14% of course grade). If you miss an in-class review due to illness or an emergency I will re-weight your other reviews. The structure of these reviews will be similar to that of homework problem sets. There will also be a self-scheduled final review (worth 15% of the course grade).

In-class Review 1: **October 3**

In-class Review 2: **November 7**

Final Review: **Self Scheduled through the Exam Center during Exam Week**

Film Screenings and Reflections (21% of the course grade)

Four of the five films listed above will be screened during the semester (outside of class time). Students must watch at least three of those films (independently or during the screening) and write reflections on those films. I have listed one additional film above and might list more later, and students could choose to watch those instead. While organized screenings will be provided for four films, students may choose to watch those or any of the other films suggested, independently. If students choose to turn in more than three reflections, I will select the highest three scores for the overall grade.

Each reflection essay should be no more than 1000 words, divided as follows: a) Overall reflections about the film (max 500 words) b) Connection between the film and economic theories of migration discussed in class (max 500 words). While making economic connections, a good reflection essay will also include appropriate sketches of graphs based on relevant economic theories of migration.

You may use AI for this, but please attach the entire prompt history related to the reflection essay.

Research Paper (20% of the course grade)

You will be required to write a case-study/research paper. This will be a group assignment with three or four semi-randomly assigned students per group.

- Case Study Option: A case study of some migration-related phenomenon in South Asia.
- Research Paper Option: An analysis of a topic related to the economics of migration with at least some relevance to South Asia. The option to do the research paper instead of the case study will only be available to students who have taken introductory statistics and econometrics.

The grade for your project will be based on a 15-minute oral presentation of your work (5% of the course grade) and the paper itself (15% of the course grade). Further details regarding the presentation and paper will be provided later. In addition to the presentation and the paper, students will also write a log to document all the tasks that went into making the project with attributions of who did what in the group that all members of the group need to sign-off on and pledge prior to submission. An example of what a log file should look like will be posted to Moodle.

You may use AI for this, but please attach the entire prompt history related to the paper and/or presentation.

Due Date for Paper and Detailed Log: **December 4**

Dates for Presentations: **December 5 and December 10** (each group will be randomly assigned one of the listed dates).

Statement on Inclusion

Your success in this class is important to me. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you better understand the materials in this course, and I will try to do it if I can. Having trouble with the readings? Come talk to me! Have questions on any of the material? Come talk to me!

The college welcomes requests for accommodations related to disability and will grant those that are determined to be reasonable and maintain the integrity of a program or curriculum. To make such a request or to begin a conversation about a possible request, please contact the Office of Academic Access and Disability Resources by emailing AADR@davidson.edu. It is best to submit accommodation requests within the drop/add period; however, requests can be made at any time in the semester. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive.

Religious Observances and Course Flexibility

Please look carefully at the syllabus during the first week of class. If any of the assignments conflict with a major religious holiday for your tradition or you need some flexibility for some other important reason, please let me know. I will make every effort to make the necessary accommodations.

The Honor Code is a critical component of life at Davidson. Let's keep it that way!