

**Economics 4999-006**  
**The Economics of Migration**  
**Spring Semester, 2010**

**Professor Michael J. Greenwood**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00–3:00pm; Wednesday, 2:30-4:00pm; and by appointment.

**Office Location:** Economics 106

ECON 4999 satisfies a “critical thinking” requirement. Consequently, the basic idea behind the ECON 4999 courses is **participation** on the part of the student. This participation may take a number of forms, but writing and speaking are the two that are stressed here, along with the development of research skills.

This section of ECON 4999 is concerned with the economics of migration, and especially with the economics of U.S. immigration. Presently, U.S. immigration is a highly visible public policy issue. It promises to be a major issue for years to come. Rarely does a day pass without one of the area newspapers carrying an article about migration. These articles range broadly from immigrant sweat shops in Los Angeles to refugees in various regions of the world to more general issues such as the labor market consequences of U.S. immigration. Illegal immigration, especially from Mexico but from elsewhere as well, is a topic that gets much attention. Recently, the issue of amnesty for illegal aliens has drawn considerable interest in the press. In 2006, the Colorado legislature, in a special session called by the Governor specifically to deal with the issue of illegal U.S. immigrants, passed legislation to limit the use of various public services by such immigrants in Colorado.

My goal is to encourage you to think critically like an economist about various migration issues. To this end, I see the course unfolding in two major parts. First, I will lecture for approximately the first two months. My intention is to acquaint you with various concepts and issues relating to U.S. internal migration and to U.S. immigration, including U.S. immigration policy. During this period, I expect you to develop a migration topic for intense study, to begin to prepare a draft of your research paper, and to work with me to prepare a list of background readings relevant to your specific topic. I also expect you to prepare and present a short critique during the period. Moreover, during this period we will hold a debate in which each member of the class is required to participate.

The second part of the class unfolds during April when you will present your research to the class. These oral presentations will require considerable preparation. I expect each member of the class to speak for about 20 minutes.

My own book (with John M. McDowell) *Legal U.S. Immigration*, is required reading. Several additional suggested readings are listed on the “Suggested Readings” sheet. I would like you to access “Migration News” on the World Wide Web. This is a lengthy monthly publication that contains great detail concerning recent developments regarding migration and especially international migration. You should be able to get numerous ideas from this source. It also will help keep you current about policy developments concerning U.S. immigration. The last two months (issues) are available on the web, and you should examine these back issues. The web site is: <http://migration.ucdavis.edu/>. A second web site that may prove helpful is [www.migrationinformation.org](http://www.migrationinformation.org). This site provides migration data for many countries around the world.

My intention is to work closely with each of you to help you design a program of study of your own. This program of study will be strongly oriented toward your research topic. However, from time to time I will suggest articles for you to read in connection with my lectures.

To participate you must be in attendance. In this class **I have an “attendance clause”** (see below). Whether students make their presentations early in the term or late, I want them to have an audience. Moreover, I want this class to be a pleasant and exciting learning experience for each of



Less 10 points for three (3) absences, less four (-4) points for each additional absence.

Grade Requirements:

93+	A
90 – 92	A!
87 – 89	B+
83 – 86	B
80 - 82	B!
76 – 79	C+
65 – 75	C
60 – 64	C!

**Students with disabilities** who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with their professors during the first two weeks of class.

### **Suggested Readings**

#### Internal Migration

Greenwood, M.J., "Research on Internal Migration in the United States: A Survey," *Journal of Economic Literature*, June 1975, 397-433.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Human Migration: Theory, Models, and Empirical Studies," *Journal of Regional Science*, November 1985, 521-544.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Changing Patterns of Migration and Regional Economic Growth in the U.S.: A Demographic Perspective," *Growth and Change*, Fall 1988, 68-87.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Contemporary Internal Migration and Urbanization in Historical Perspective," prepared for the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, *Quaderni Universitari*, forthcoming, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Population: Migration," in Bjorn Lomborg (ed.), *Solutions for the World's Biggest Problems: Costs and Benefits*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007, 425-439.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Some Potential New Directions in Empirical Migration Research," *Italian Journal of Regional Science*, forthcoming, v. 9, n. 1, 2010.

#### International Migration

Taylor, J. Edward, Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Douglas S. Massey, and Adela Pellegrino, "International Migration and National Development," *Population Index* 62(2), Summer 1996, 181-212.

\_\_\_\_\_, "International Migration and Community Development," *Population Index* 62(3), Fall 1996, 397-418.

Douglas S. Massey, "Economic Development and International Migration in Comparative Perspective," *Population and Development Review* 14(3), September 1988, 383-413.

Douglas S. Massey, Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Adela Pellegrino, and J. Edward Taylor, "Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal," *Population and Development Review* 19(3), September 1993, 431-466.

Rothman, Eric S. and Thomas J. Espenshade, "Fiscal Impacts of Immigration to the United States," *Population Index* 58(3), Fall 1992, 381-415.

Greenwood, M.J., "Potential Channels of Immigrant Influence on the Economy of the Receiving Country," *Papers in Regional Science*, 73(3), July 1994, 211-240.