

**POL 484H/2026H: TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT I**  
**RECENT POLITICAL THEORY: THE ETHICS OF IMMIGRATION**

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This course focuses on the normative challenges posed by contemporary immigration into liberal democratic states in Europe and North America. Among other things, we will explore questions about access to citizenship, the rights of residents, guestworker programs, undocumented immigrants, family reunification, refugees, and the underlying legitimacy of restrictions on immigration.

**TEXTS:** There are two main texts for the course. The first is a book that I published in 2013, the second a forthcoming book by David Miller. Most of the course will be constructed as a dialogue between these two books. The last 3 weeks will be devoted to related debates. You have to purchase my book or get it from a library. It is on reserve at Robarts, Trinity and Bratt (Victoria). Miller's manuscript will be available on Blackboard as will the materials for the last 3 weeks.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

**I. Participation** (25% of final grade). This includes the following:

- A) Three one page comments on the readings.
- B) Active and informed participation in class discussion, which includes evidence of familiarity both with the posted comments and with the assigned texts.

You must post one comment from the first four weeks of readings (9/24 – 10/15), one comment from the middle four weeks of readings (10/22 – 11/12, though undergrads wanting their 10% evaluation before the drop date should submit this comment by 11/5), and one comment from the last 3 weeks of readings (11/19 – 12/3). **You must post your comments on the class website on Blackboard by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening before class. Each student will have a grace period of 2 hours in total for all of the comments and responses. Late comments that exceed that grace period will not be accepted.**

Your comments should NOT summarize the readings. You should presuppose that the people reading the comment have also read the text being discussed. The comments are an opportunity to reflect upon the readings in a way that will provide a stimulus and focus for class discussion. The comments need not cover every topic. You need not try to work out a detailed argument and indeed will probably not have the space to do so.

**II. Final Paper** (75% of the final grade) Due December 8.

Approximately 4,000 words for undergraduates, 5,000 words for grad students. To be submitted electronically to the instructor in .doc or .rtf format. The paper can discuss any topic related to the ethics of immigration. It can focus entirely on the reading assigned for class or it can draw on additional sources. You must discuss the topic with me in advance and get written approval via e-mail. If we agree on a topic in conversation, it is your responsibility to send me an e-mail confirming this agreement. There will be a late penalty of one point per day including weekends after January 8.

## **Schedule**

- September 17: Introduction
- September 24: Carens Chapter 1 and Appendix; Miller Chapters 1-2.
- October 1: Carens Chapters 2-3.
- October 8: Carens Chapter 4; Miller Chapter 8.
- October 15: Carens Chapters 5-6; Miller Chapter 6.
- October 22: Carens Chapter 7; Miller Chapter 7.
- October 29: Carens Chapters 9-10; Miller Chapter 5.
- November 5: Carens Chapter 11; Miller Chapter 3.
- November 12: Carens Chapters 12-13; Miller Chapter 4 and 9.
- November 19: Exchange between Abizadeh and Miller on Borders
- November 26: Brain Drain Readings
- December 3: Baubock, Democratic Inclusion