

TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT I: THE ETHICS OF IMMIGRATION

Mondays 12:10-2:00  
UC 148

Instructor: Joseph H. Carens  
Office: Sidney Smith Hall 3044  
Office Hours: Mondays 2:10-3:00; Wednesdays 2:10-3:10  
Telephone: 416-978-8521  
e-mail: [jcarens@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:jcarens@chass.utoronto.ca)

This course focuses on the normative challenges posed by contemporary immigration in liberal democratic states in Europe and North America. We will explore questions about access to citizenship, the rights of residents, guestworker programs, undocumented immigrants, family reunification, refugees, and the underlying legitimacy (or not) of restrictions on immigration.

TEXTS: The primary text is a book manuscript that I am completing on this topic. It will be available on Blackboard.

GOALS: The course has two intellectual goals. The first is to provide a substantive overview of the key normative questions raised by immigration. The second is to provide an opportunity to reflect upon the questions and challenges one faces in writing a book. These include such issues as the following: What is the audience at which one is aiming and how does that affect the book? What should one presuppose, what should one address, and what should one leave out? How do the pieces of the book fit together?

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

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

- A) Five one page comments on the readings.
- B) Five brief (one paragraph) responses to your colleagues' one page comments.
- C) Active and informed participation in class discussion.

I will divide the class randomly into two groups. Every week (except for the last one) each of the members of one group will be expected to submit one page comments on the week's readings and each of the members of the other group will be expected to provide a brief response to one or more of these comments. **You must post your comments on the class website on Blackboard by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening before class. You must post your responses on the class website on Blackboard by 10:00 a.m. on the day of class. Late comments and responses will not be accepted.** If you miss one comment or response, you may submit one for the final week instead (since neither group has been assigned for that week). If you fail to turn in a subsequent comment or response by the assigned time (or fail to turn one in during the final week if you owe one), you will be required to write a five page makeup paper for each one you have missed. These makeup papers will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

The class will be run entirely as a discussion. My thoughts on the topic are already on paper. What I want to learn is how effective the manuscript is in communicating my ideas and how it can be improved.

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 may focus either on questions about the merits of the argument or on questions about the effectiveness of the communication or both. The comments are an opportunity to reflect upon the readings in a way that will provide a stimulus and focus for class discussion. You may wish to challenge some position taken in the manuscript or indicate what you find interesting or puzzling or problematic about some part of the week's readings or talk about the kinds of audiences that might or might not find the chapter persuasive. 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)**

15-20 page paper for undergraduates, 20-25 pages for graduate students. 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 from the bibliography in the manuscript or from other places. 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.

### **Schedule**

September 14:	Introduction
September 21:	Chapter 1: Mapping the Ethics of Immigration Chapter 2: Who Should Be a Citizen? Legal Status and Belonging
September 28:	Chapter 3: Should Citizenship Be Special? The Rights of Residents
October 5:	Chapter 4: Live-In Caregivers, Seasonal Workers and Others Hard to Locate on the Map of Democracy
October 19:	Chapter 5: Can You Belong If You Don't Have Permission to Be There? Irregular Migrants, Firewalls, and Amnesty
October 26:	Chapter 6: Expectations and Adjustments: Living With One Another
November 2:	Chapter 7: Who Should Get In? Selection and Exclusion in Admissions
November 9:	Chapter 8: The Dispossessed: Responsibilities Towards Refugees
November 11:	<b>WACKY WEDNESDAY: CLASS MEETS TWICE THIS WEEK.</b> Chapter 9: The Case for Open Borders
November 16:	Chapter 10: The Claims of Community
November 23:	Chapter 11: Implications: What Is to Be Done?
November 30:	Appendix: Normative Analysis and Shifting Presuppositions: Methodological Reflections on the Study of Immigration