I. Introduction

1. What is migration and how is it measured?
   a. Internal
   b. International
   c. Various concepts of migration (e.g., gross migration, net migration)

II. Internal Migration in Developed Countries

1. The importance of migration in industrialization

   a. Changing patterns of U.S. internal migration
   b. Who migrates? -- differences by age/education in migration propensities
   c. Demographic forces underlying U.S. internal migration
   d. Future migration trends

3. International comparisons of internal migration propensities

4. The determinants of internal migration

5. The consequences of internal migration
   a. For the migrants
   b. For others in origin and destination localities
      - employment
      - public goods/services

III. U.S. Immigration

1. Historical volume and sources of U.S. immigration
   a. Legal
   b. Illegal
      - spatial/temporal patterns of illegal immigration
      - methodologies used to estimate the numbers of illegal immigrants
Economics 4999 -- Migration

c. Contemporary immigration
   • characteristics of immigrants
   • source countries
   • U.S. settlement patterns

d. Geographically indirect U.S. immigration

2. U.S. immigration policy
   a. History
   b. Recent policies
   c. Interest groups

3. Determinants of U.S. immigration and immigrant settlement patterns
   a. Differential economic opportunity
   b. Immigrant settlement patterns
   c. Costs of transferring accumulated occupational skills

4. Economic consequences of U.S. immigration
   a. A simple model of international migration
   b. The wage and employment effects of immigration
   c. Taxes, transfers, and public goods
   d. The assimilation of immigrants into the U.S. economy
   e. The policy response to the labor market effects of immigration
The main idea behind this class and other 4999 classes is that it be participatory for the student. I see participation happening in several ways:

1. **Class Discussion.** For the first several weeks, I will lecture. The main purpose of the lectures is to introduce you to the economist’s perspective on migration, both internal and international. I encourage class participation during this phase of the course.

2. **Research Paper.** I expect each student to prepare a research paper (or term paper) on a migration topic of his or her choosing. We will discuss each student’s ideas for a paper in class, if class size remains small. This will allow the students to see the development of ideas from early in their inception to fuller development. If drafts of the papers are submitted to me by November 17, I will read them and return them with comments. This will allow you time to revise the papers before final submission on December 10.

3. **Presentation.** Students will be expected to present their papers to the class. I will schedule presentations when each student feels ready. However, often it is useful to make the presentation before the final draft is prepared so as to get class feedback. Consequently, we might think in terms of November 18 as a possible starting date for presentations.

4. **A Debate.** The day before he won last year’s Nobel Prize for Economics, Gary Becker published a controversial editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* in which he proposed auctioning or selling U.S. immigration visas. I anticipate the class splitting into teams and debating the pros and cons of this proposal.

5. **Two Short Essays.** When we complete our discussion of internal migration, I expect each student to prepare an essay not to exceed five pages on some economic or social aspect of internal migration. When we complete our discussion of international migration, I expect the same type of essay, but on this topic. These essays will be in lieu of an examination on internal and international migration.

**Weighting for purposes of grading:**

1. Research Paper 50%
2. Presentation 20%
3. Essay #1 10%
4. Essay #2 10%
5. Intangibles, including debate and classroom participation 10%
Reading List
Economics 4999, Migration

The readings listed below relate to internal migration in developed countries and to international migration with special reference to U.S. immigration. Each section is divided into "required" and "optional." The required readings are drawn from papers that form the cornerstones for two books on which I am now working, one on internal migration and one on international migration. Because these papers tend to be quite lengthy, I have not made the reading list very extensive. However, I anticipate that from time to time I will distribute shorter papers for you to read. The optional readings provide guidance for those who wish to probe various subjects more deeply.

Because this is explicitly a participatory class for students, you will have speaking and writing assignments that will require further reading. As the term unfolds, I will provide guidance in your reading selections.

Internal Migration in Developed Countries

Required


Optional


U.S. Immigration

Required


Optional


