



**The Exeter College Summer Programme  
at Exeter College in the University of Oxford**

**Histories of Migration**

**Course Description**

The course examines the global histories of migration and experiences of migration in the past. Tracing these histories from early human development to the modern age, the course highlights how shifting push and pull factors have shaped patterns of migration, explores the reasons for individual and group migration, and outlines the demographic context and impact of geographical mobility across different periods.

Through 12 lectures and 6 seminars and the required reading students will gain a fuller understanding of the varied histories of migration and a deeper sense how these histories inform and connect to contemporary debates around population movement, politics, displacement, and national identity.

**Teaching Methods and Assessment**

- 12 x 1.25hr Lectures (15hrs)
- 6 x 1.25hr Seminars (7.5hrs)
- 4 x 1.25hr Tutorials (5hrs)

**Course Objectives**

The aim of the course is to develop students':

- understanding of the principal factors determining the movements of population in the past;
- understanding of the ways in which class, gender, race and age have shaped migrant experiences;
- understanding of the ways in which histories of migration and migrant experiences have contributed to national identities;
- skills of source analysis, use of statistical evidence and ego-documents, construction of a persuasive argument in writing and oral discussion.

The course is designed to be multidisciplinary and is suitable for students of all disciplines who have a strong interest in history. There are no prerequisites, and no previous knowledge of history is necessary but would be an advantage.

**Final assessment:** An essay of no more than 3,000 words (40%), a final three-hour written examination (40%), oral presentation (10%) and participation in seminar discussion (10%).

## **Suggested General Reading**

### Books:

Caroline Brettell, *Gender and Migration* (2017).

Robin Cohen ed., *The Cambridge Survey of World Migration* (1995).

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Gil Loescher, Katy Long, and Nando Sigona, *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies* (2014).

Michael Fisher, *Migration: A World History* (2014).

Steven Gold and Stephanie Nawyn eds., *The Routledge International Handbook of Migration Studies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2019).

Christiane Harzig and Dirk Hoerder with Donna Gabaccia, *What is Migration History?* (2009).

Patrick Manning, *Migration in World History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2012).

Lucy Mayblin and Joe Turner, *Migration Studies and Colonialism* (2020).

Stephen Oppenheimer, *Out of Eden: The Peopling of the World* (2003).

Harsha Walia, *Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism* (2021)

## **Lecture Schedule and Required Reading List**

### **Week 1**

[There is no required reading for the first three lectures, but I would recommend looking at relevant sections from Cohen ed., *The Cambridge Survey of World Migration* and/or Fisher, *Migration: A World History*].

**Lecture 1: Introduction to the History of Migrations: Theory, Sources, Politics**

**Lecture 2: The Long History of Migrations**

**Lecture 3: Transatlantic Migrations: "New Worlds"**

### **Week 2**

**Lecture 4: Forced Migrations: Slave Trade and Indentured Labour**

### Required Reading:

- Extracts from Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African* (London, 1789).
- “Introductory Maps.” *Slave Voyages*,  
<https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/maps#introductory->
- Richard Allen, "Slaves, Convicts, Abolitionism and the Global Origins of the Post-Emancipation Indentured Labor System," *Slavery and Abolition* 35:2 (2014), 328-48.

### **Lecture 5: Promised Lands?**

#### Required reading:

- James Belich, *Replenishing the Earth: The Settler Revolution and the Rise of the Anglo-World, 1783-1939* (2009), Ch.16, “Last Best Wests.”
- Selected photographs of European migration to Argentina from the Library of Congress.
- Jeremy Adelman, “European Migration to Argentina, 1880-1930,” in Cohen (ed.) *The Cambridge Survey of World Migrations*.
- “The Killing Times.” *The Guardian*, 3 March 2019,  
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/04/the-killing-times-the-massacres-of-aboriginal-people-australia-must-confront>

### **Week 3**

### **Lecture 6: Fleeing Famine and Persecution**

#### Required Reading:

- Extracts from “Irish Views of the Famine,” *University of Virginia*,  
<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/SADLIER/IRISH/Irish.htm>
- The Aliens Act 1905  
<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/search/catalogue.asp?RecordID=77093&ResourceTypeID=2&sequence=6>
- Diana Packer, “Refugee or Alien?: The Long-Term Influence of Eastern European Jewish Immigrants on the Reception of German Jews into Great Britain in the 1930s,” *European Judaism: A Journal for the New Europe* 50 (2017).
- Dominic Meng-Hsuan Yang, “Together in the Same Boat: Exiled Nationalist State and Chinese Civil War Exiles in 1950s Taiwan,” *Journal of Chinese History* (2020, first view).

### **Week 4**

### **Lecture 7. Migrating Women, 1800-1950**

### Required Reading:

- Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, *A Letter to Young Female Emigrants Proceeding to Australia* (London, 1850), <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-500986903/view?partId=nla.obj-501374591#page/n4/mode/1up>
- Katherine Curtis White et al. "Race, Gender and Marriage: Destination Selection during the Great Migration," *Demography* 42 (2005).
- "New Beginnings: Immigrant Women and The American Experience," National Women's History Museum, 2015, <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/new-beginnings-immigrant-women-and-the-american-experience-national-women's-history-museum/5gLSyiVkJZcVkJw?hl=en>

### **Lecture 8: 'Child Saving': Child Migrants, 1800-1970**

#### Required reading:

- Stephen Constantine, "Child migration: philanthropy, the state and the empire," *History In Focus* 14 (2008): <https://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/welfare/articles/constantines.html>
- Moira Martin, "'A future not of riches but of comfort': The emigration of pauper children from Bristol to Canada, 1870–1915," *Immigrants and Minorities* 19 (2000).
- Jennifer Craig-Norton, "Contesting the Kindertransport as a 'Model' Refugee Response" *European Judaism: A Journal for the New Europe* 50 (2017).

### **Week 5**

### **Lecture 9: Refugees and Settlers, c. 1914-1950**

#### Required reading:

- Extracts from "Personal Narratives of Partition in Punjab," <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/panjab1947/>
- Nicholas Mansergh, "The Partition of India in Retrospect," *International Journal* 21:1 (1965/66).
- Deirdre McMahon, "The 1947 Partition of India: Irish Parallels," *History Ireland* 18:4 (2010), 40-43.

### **Lecture 10: Modern Migrations and International Regulation**

#### Required Reading:

- "Advisory Committee on Imperial Questions. No. 320, The colour problem in Britain and its treatment," <https://cdm21047.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/tav/id/4631>

- Wendy Webster, 'The Empire Comes Home: Commonwealth Migration to Britain' in Andrew Thompson (ed.), *Britain's Experience of Empire in the Twentieth Century* (2010), 122-160.
- Extracts from "The Cabinet Papers," *National Archives*, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/themes/immigration.htm>

## Week 6

### Lecture 11: Seeking Asylum

#### Required reading:

- 1951 Refugee Convention, UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/1951-refugee-convention.html>
- Matthew Gibney, *The Ethics and Politics of Asylum* (2004), Introduction.
- Katherine Knox and Tony Kushner, *Refugees in an Age of Genocide: Global, National and Local Perspectives During the Twentieth Century* (2012), "Ch. 12: The Kurds."

### Lecture 12: Crisis and Continuity: Migration Now

#### Required Reading:

- "Migrant Crisis: Migration to Europe Explained in Seven Charts," *BBC*, 4 March 2016, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34131911>
- UNHCR Global Trends 2019 Report, *UNHCR*, <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019>
- A Kenyan Migrant Worker, "I Came to Work in Qatar to Pursue My Dreams, But My Life is a Nightmare," *Human Rights Watch*, August 24, 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/24/i-came-work-qatar-pursue-my-dreams-my-life-nightmare?promo=feature>