Instructor: Dr. Geoff Kennedy  
Office: PLC 371  
Email: gkennedy@uoregon.edu  
Phone: 541-346-2874

Course Description
The purpose of the course is to understand the relationship between labor, migration and capitalism in an era of globalization. It seeks to address a wide variety of issues that affect workers the world over with a particular emphasis on the intersection of labor relations, gender, identity and the struggle for human rights and the rights of migrant workers. Section one is dedicated to theorizing and historicizing working class formation during the development of industrial capitalism and the role of labor migration in capitalist development. The second section examines the development of globalization and its various effects on the international division of labor and processes of dispossession in the Global South as well as the emergence of regimes of migration governance at the global level. The third section deals with a number of case studies pertaining to North America, the European Union, the Persian Gulf and China. The final section looks at various responses from academics, policy makers and social movements to the plight of migrant workers in the new century.

Learning Outcomes:
- Understanding of the historical relationship between capitalist development, free labor and labor migration
- Understanding of the processes of class formation in a global context
-Understanding of the dialectical processes of globalization and regionalization
-Understanding of contemporary trends facing migrant workers
-Understanding of the theory and practice of defending the rights of migrant labor

Course Requirements
Review Paper: 15%
Research Proposal: 15%
Research Paper: 35%
Seminar Presentation: 20%
Seminar Participation and Attendance: 15%

1. Introduction
Themes and requirements of the course

I. Theory and History: Relationship between Capitalism and Labor Migration

2. Capitalism, Labor and Migration
This seminar explores some of the overarching themes pertaining to the study of labor and migration in the context of global capitalism.

Essential Readings:

3. The Making of the Modern Working Class: Global Processes and Varied Histories
This seminar examines the historical process of migration and class formation in the early stages of capitalist development.

Essential Readings:
Karl Marx, Capital, v. I

4. The Making of the Modern Working Class: Labor, Class and Race
This seminar examines the theoretical literature that seeks to conceptualize the relationship between race and labor in the context of global capitalism.

Essential Readings:
Eric Wolf, ‘The New Proletarians,’ in Europe and the People Without History
5. The Making of the Modern Working Class: Labor, Class and Gender
This seminar examines the theoretical literate that seeks to conceptualize the relationship between gender and labor in the context of global capitalism.

**Essential Readings:**

---

6. Globalization: From Embedded Liberalism to Neoliberalism
This seminar discusses the macro-economic shift from embedded liberalism to neoliberalism that is coterminous with the development of globalization. Emphasis will be placed on the substantive social and economic changes associated with this transition.

**Essential Readings:**

---

7. Globalization and Class (Re)Formation
This seminar examines the processes of dispossession that have accelerated under neoliberal globalization and have acted as the driving force of increased labor migration in the contemporary period.

**Essential Readings:**
David Harvey, ‘Accumulation by Dispossession,’ *Socialist Register* 2004. 

---

8. Migration Regimes and the Rights of Migrant Workers: International and National Frameworks
This seminar explores the various forms of governance pertaining to labor and migration.

**Essential Readings:**

---

III. Case Studies

10/11. Labor Migration in North America (two classes: NAFTA and Migrant Labor)
**Essential Readings:**


**Video:** Blood, Sweat and Berries

12/13. Labor Migration in the European Union

**Essential Readings:**


**Video:** El Ejido, The Law of Profit

14/15. Labor Migration in the Persian Gulf States

**Essential Readings:**


16/17. Labor Migration in China

**Essential Readings:**

Tom Miller, *China’s Urban Billion*, chapters 1-3.

**Video:** Last Train Home

**IV. Responses and Solutions**

18. The Rights of Migrant Laborers

**Essential Readings:**


19. Trade Unions, Social Movements and NGOs

Essential Readings:


20. Globalizing Migration Regimes

Essential Readings:


Nicola Piper, ‘Governance of economic migration and transnationalization of rights,’ Christina Gabriel and Helene Pellerin, eds., Governing International Labor Migration: Current Issues, Challenges and Dilemmas