Labor Internationalization and Economic Development in Asia

Professor Min Ye

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Office Hour: Tue 11:00-12:30 & 2:00-3:00; Thu 11:00-12:30
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Course Description:

Globalization has strongly influenced economic development in Asia. Most studies on globalization have focused on global trade, investment, and technology transfers but have ignored the transnational movement of people. In Asia, such transnational immigration is an inseparable part of globalization and has helped to generate extraordinary development successes in the region: South Korea’s technology renaissance since 2001, China’s manufacturing prowess, and India’s remarkable software services industry.

This course systematically compares the roles of transnational immigrants in Asia. It begins with a general reading of diasporas and homeland development in the world. This part looks at empirical and conceptual questions that are being asked on this topic and examines some cases in other parts of the world. The second part consists of the bulk of this course. It examines and compares transnational immigrants in China, South Korea, and India. The third part of the course engages other types of transnational migration in Asia, including domestic help from Philippines and indentured labor from India. The course concludes with a synthesis of lessons and trends in transnational immigration and development in general.

Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, the students are expected to understand the challenges and dynamics of transnational immigration in the contemporary world. They are also expected to conduct independent research on a related subject and understand different methods and materials. Lastly, the students are expected to foster cross-cultural understanding, networking, and teamwork.
**Textbooks & Readings:**

The course relies on three main books and selected journal articles. All readings are either available through the BU library system: [www.bu.edu/library](http://www.bu.edu/library) or will be provided electronically.

Min Ye. *Diasporas and Foreign Direct Investment in China and India*. Cambridge University Press.

**Assignments:**

There are three main assignments:

1. Participation: this course takes active learning as a central goal and expects the student to participate physically and intellectually for each class. If the student needs to miss classes, he/she needs to get a pre-approval with the instructor. If a student misses substantial classes (3 sessions), the instructor has the discretion to fail the student, or seriously downgrade the performance of the student, depending on the specific circumstances. Participation also includes the designated presentation and discussion of the readings. 35% of the final grade.

2. Research & writing & presentation: the students are asked to team up to conduct collaborative research on a subject given. As a group, the students need to present their findings in class. Then, each student is asked to write an analysis of his or her findings, independently. The report is around 10 pages. The grade components for this assignment are: research & presentation (as a group), 25%, writing (as individual), 25%.

3. An open-book final exam will be administered in the last class. 15% of the final grade.

In summary:

- Participation: 35%
- (including the presentation and discussion of the readings)
- Research & presentation: 25%
- Written Report: 25%
- Final exam: 15%
Sessions’ Schedule
(Subject to change)

Introduction: syllabus
Discussion: The Fortunate Ones. Reading on learn.bu.edu.

Week 2 readings:


Collect: student research groups and topics

Week 2 readings:


Week 3 readings:


Week 4 reading:
Min Ye, Diasporas and Foreign Direct Investment in China and India, Chapter 3, “Diaspora Entrepreneurs and Diffusion of FDI Liberalization in China.”

Ye, Ch 5, “Deepening Diffusion: Zone Fever and SOE Reform in China.”

Collect: overview of research

Week 5 reading:
Devesh Kapur, chapter 2, “Analytical Framework and Research Methodology.”

Kapur, chapter 3, “Selection Characteristics of Emigration from India.”
**Week 6 reading:**
Kapur, chapter 4, “Economic Effect.”


**Collect: preliminary findings from collaborative group research**

**Week 7 reading:**


**Week 8 reading**

**Week 9 reading:**

Other chapters in Eckstein 2013.

**Week 10:**
**Oral presentation & report due**

**Last class: FINAL EXAM IN CLASS, open book.**