ESOn4007 CONTEMPORARY MIGRATION RESEARCH
Spring 2025

Discussion Paper Guidelines

This class deals with complex ideas that require regular and thorough completion of reading and engagement with ideas. To ensure that you do the reading, you are required to complete discussion papers, **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, on course readings, to be posted in the homework vaults of the IS page for the class.

Language Usage:

The quality of your use of English is not part of the grade, but you must write the discussion papers at an adequate level of language use such that they are understandable. Your papers should express your own ideas (see the section on Academic Honesty in the syllabus). **You may NOT use AI tools such as Grammarly to correct your English!**

Guidelines for the reading responses are as follows:

- They should be a minimum of 350 words in length, but no more than 500 words.
- They are due by **WEDNESDAY at 11:00** before each session with compulsory reading, **but don't hesitate to send your paper even if it is late**.
- These writings can be quite informal, but thoughtless or cursory thought pieces will not receive credit. They must be **in your own words**, and must respond to the **readings**.
- The writings must include:
    - The **main argument of each text**, preferably summarized in 2-3 sentences.
    - At least one, but preferably several, **discussion questions**, which you can present in class to guide our joint exploration of the topic(s) for the session. It must be a question that allows us to enter into a discussion on the text, not just some clarification question. Often such question can contain a critique of the text.
    - **Connections** to something you have seen in the media, or your surroundings.
- Please name your file as following: Surname_Discussion paper_session X *(i.e. number of the session 02/03/04/05/06 instead of X)*

- These writings will be graded 1-5 points, according to the guidelines below. This is to provide you with some idea about how I expect you to engage with the readings.

    (4-5 points): An excellent paper. You clearly understand and engage with the readings and focus on major points/arguments from them. You are able to cohesively tie the readings together (if there is more than one). You make sophisticated connections from the readings to the real world. This is reserved for truly excellent responses that provide thoughtful discussion questions.

(2-3 points): A good paper. You make a good attempt to engage with and understand the readings, to tie them together and to address major arguments, or points of interest. You may also make good connections from the readings to the real world. But your analysis remains more of a surface reading/summary and you may have forgotten to provide discussion questions.

(1 point): A weak paper. You seem to have done some of the reading but do not demonstrate a clear understanding of the major points/arguments. There may be some factual errors/misunderstandings that could have been avoided from more focused reading. You don't really engage with the reading or provide discussion questions.

- Penalties are set as follows:
    o Late submission of discussion paper, i.e. later than 11:00 on Wednesday but still before the class: minus one point;
    o Late submission of discussion paper, submitted after class: maximum 2.5 point can be attributed;
    o Discussion paper is significantly shorter than 350 words: minus one point;
    o These penalties can be cumulated.