

**Course ID Number: REC7011**

**Course Title: International Migration: Theory  
Platform course**

No. of Credits: 1

Graduate School of International Relations  
International University of Japan  
Term: Fall 2011

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**Course Introduction**

The purpose of this Migration Platform is to provide an academic forum in which participants can deepen their understanding of different cultures by exchanging their views about international migration, reexamine their views about the meaning of differences in cultures, and explore its implications for institutional arrangements to protect the human rights of international migrants.

## **Syllabus: International Migration (Theory): Platform course**

2011/10/04 Watanabe Shinichi

The purpose of this Migration Platform is to provide an academic forum in which participants can deepen their understanding of different cultures by exchanging their views about international migration, reexamine their views about the meaning of differences in cultures, and explore its implications for institutional arrangements to protect the human rights of international migrants.

International migration is an area in which the mechanism of global governance is least developed in comparison with other areas such as flow of goods, services and capital. The legal status of international migrants is largely left to the discretion of each State. The attempt to establish institutional arrangements (including the international law) to protect international migrants has not been quite successful. For example, only 44 countries ratified International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families adopted by UNGA in 1990 as of 04/11/2010, 20 years later. And we witness tragic incidences of violation of human right of international migrants almost everyday.

Yet, driven by the declining costs of transportation and communication, an increasingly larger number of individuals are trying to work abroad without adequate legal protection, taking the risk of becoming the target of exploitation and violence.

This Platform course has been studying the international migration, not simply as a source of conflicts but as an essential component of the evolutionary process of humanity to create a new transnational identity as human in coming decades. International migration could contribute to strengthening the capacity of peoples in the world to manage various global risks to their lives on the basis of newly formed identity as citizens of the global society.

We will study the mechanism of international migration to find (1) who migrates, (2) from which country to which country, (3) why, and (4) what the consequences of international migration are for migrants and peoples of both destination and origin countries.

In addition we will examine the issues related to refugees. The mechanism that governs refugees is quite different from that for international migrants who have option to stay at their home countries.

The following is a tentative plan for the fall quarter. The exact plan will be formed in the first class, depending on the interest of its participants, including both regular and irregular students. The content of the class will change with the development of interest among the participants during the meetings.

In order to create a common ground among all the participants, we will discuss the following papers in the earlier weeks:

Hein de Haas (2008): "Migration and development, A theoretical perspective,"  
International Migration Institute, Oxford.

<http://www.heindehaas.com/Publications/de%20Haas%202008%20-%20IMI%20WP9%20-%20Theoretical%20Perspective%20Migration%20and%20Development.pdf>

Massey, D.S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A., Taylor, J.E. (1993):  
"Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal," Population and  
Development Review 19, No.3, pp. 431-466. Available at JSTOR.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2938462.pdf?acceptTC=true>

Week 1    Illegal presence of a baby born in Japan

Week 2    New immigration law

[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/newimmiact/newimmiact\\_english.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/newimmiact/newimmiact_english.html)

Week 3-5 Discussion of de Haas (2008) and Massey et. al. (1993)

Week 6-9 Presentation and discussion by participants

Week 10 Summary

Grade will be based on the contribution of each student to the class discussion (80%) and the quality of presentation and its summary paper (20%).