General information

RSOS4958 International Migration: Sovereigns, Borders, Control - autumn 2025

4 hours digital school exam.

Language of examination
The examination text is given in English.
You may write your response in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

Examination support material
You may bring up to two copies of a general (non-legal) spelling dictionary, regardless of language. These should not have annotations/notes in them.

No other examination support material is allowed.

Your exam answer
After the exam, you will find your submitted answer under Previous exams.

Best of luck with your exam!

Exam instructions

The lecture plan, which lists the lecture topics and the readings assigned for each lecture, is enclosed. You are not expected to include a separate bibliography; it is sufficient to refer to readings within your text (surname and year is enough, for example: Dauvergne 2014).

All questions carry equal weight. Your overall performance on the exam determines your grade, and it is not necessary to “pass” each of the four questions in order to pass the exam overall. There is no lower or upper word limit, but please use your discretion considering that all questions weigh equally and you have four hours to complete the exam. Use the time available to you.

Exam assignment

Please answer only **FOUR** of the following questions, drawing on the relevant literature.

1. Migration is an area full of contested terms and binary categories – refugee versus (economic) migrant is just one example – and the choice of terminology can have very real consequences. Comment on this.

2. In 2015, German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke the famous words “Wir schaffen das!” (“We can do it!”) as Germany opened its borders to asylum seekers. Comment on what drives states’ decisions and motivations regarding contributions to the international refugee regime. In other words, why do states act the way they do in international refugee governance? You may, if you wish, refer to the 2015 German example.

3. How is the “crimmigrant other” constructed and governed? What are some of the symbolic and legal mechanisms involved in constructing and governing this figure? You may find it helpful to illustrate your answer with recent examples from Europe and/or the United States.

4. You are at a family dinner. When your aunt hears that you are taking this course, she asks: “Is there some kind of global convention that covers all migration? How is international migration regulated?” Answer with an overview as you would in that kind of setting; you do not need to refer to readings from syllabus for this question or to technical details.

5. What is legal consciousness? How may migrants’ legal consciousness be shaped by their legal status or by the categories through which they are classified?

6. In recent decades, there has been an increase in “cash-for-passport” programmes. What does this tell us about the changing nature of citizenship? What is your own view on the “sale” of citizenship – are you in favour, against, or somewhere in between, and why?

Good luck!

1 Exam response (choose only four questions)

Fill in your answer here

Format

Words: 0

Maximum marks: 0