

SPAN 6401 Syllabus

Globalization and Migration, Section A, 3 credits
Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor

Dr. Mirla A. González

Email

mgonzalez96@gatech.edu

General Course Information

Description

This course explores migration as lived experience, cultural production, ethical dilemma, and contested identity across the Spanish-speaking world. Print and filmic texts serve as entry points to historical and contemporary issues of migration policy, politics, and demographics from both sender- and receiver-country perspectives. Taught in Spanish.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define concepts such as “refugee”, “border”, “assimilation”, “ethnocentrism”, “racism” and “human rights”
- Describe the historical and contemporary events and conditions that have triggered migration in various regions of the Spanish-speaking world, and explain their impact on both sending and receiving societies
- Compare U.S. and target-culture perspectives on migration and reflect on their own cultural assumptions
- Analyze and interpret authentic filmic and literary texts that represent migration experiences
- Evaluate migration policies and engage critically with ethical debates surrounding borders, belonging, human rights, and global responsibility

Required Course Materials

Course readings will be provided on Canvas

Grading Policy:

- Critical Analysis 20%
- Participation 20%
- Presentation 10%
- Debate 10%
- Visual Data Analysis 10%
- Final Project 30%

Description of Graded Components

Critical Analysis: Throughout the semester students will complete a series of discussion prompts based on the filmic or literary texts assigned for class. These responses should demonstrate critical engagement with course themes and will serve as preparation for seminar discussions. Responses will be submitted on Canvas.

Participation: Active participation is a key component of this course. Each week students will complete a self-evaluation of their participation. The instructor will review these evaluations and may accept, raise or lower the participation grade based on classroom observations.

Presentation: Each student will deliver a short presentation on one of the topics listed in the course calendar. Presentations should situate the topic in its broader historical, cultural, or political context and help guide class discussion.

Debate: Students will participate in a structured debate on ethical issues related to migration. This assignment is designed to develop students' ability to articulate, support, and critically engage multiple perspectives.

Visual Data Analysis: Students will identify a research question and work with relevant data sets to represent their findings visually. In addition to presenting their findings, students will explain the methodological limitations of their data and reflect on the relationship between quantitative evidence and lived experience.

Final Project: In consultation with the instructor, graduate students will choose a final project aligned with their interests and professional goals. Graduate students will be expected to incorporate relevant theoretical or methodological frameworks where appropriate. Options include:

- A Public Scholarship Project (podcast and blog)
- A one-week undergraduate teaching module (lesson plans, assessment...)
- A Literature and Law Interdisciplinary Analysis

No late assignments or extensions will be granted. Please plan accordingly. Contact your instructor in case of extenuating circumstances.

At Georgia Tech, final course grades are awarded on a scale of A-F with no +/- grades permitted. Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance and active participation are required. Students will complete weekly self-evaluations, which will then be reviewed by the instructor. Students with approved institute absences should contact the instructor so alternate arrangements can be made to complete the work.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

Language learning occurs in a community of people. However, the following forms of assistance are not allowed for doing any of the work in this course: copying (from someone else's assignments or from another source [a reading in a textbook, the Internet, etc.]) without clear attribution of the source; having another student, a tutor, or a friend suggest changes or correct the work you are to turn in; completing assignments in consultation with other students ("working together") unless specified by your instructor; translating directly from another source; and especially **using electronic translation programs or generative AI unless instructed by the professor**. These restrictions apply to any work turned in for this course, even daily homework assignments.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

No late assignments or extensions will be granted. Please plan accordingly. Contact your instructor in case of extenuating circumstances.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

In the event of a weather-related event on campus or other emergency situation where the Institute switches to modified operations, I will contact all students via Canvas about cancelling class or our plans for a digital learning day.

Campus Resources for Students

Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources: A list of resources for graduate students is given on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website. Specific information for [current graduate students](#) includes

- [Academic Resources](#) such as the Communications Center, Language Institute, Library, Catalog, Registrar, resources for conducting research, Advocacy and Conflict Resolution resources, and how to manage unexpected situations that may impact your academic performance;

- [Student Resources](#) such as Campus Services, Child Care/Family programs, Health & Wellness, Career Services, and the Student Resource Guide; and
- [Professional Development](#) such as the programming from the Career Center and other professional development resources and events”]

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))

More resources on supporting student well-being on the syllabus and beyond are available through the [Learning Well Initiative](#).