Migrations are one of the most relevant social phenomena in contemporary global societies and are rapidly reshaping the idea of belonging and membership typical of modern nation states. In spite of being a structural component of contemporary societies, migrants are increasingly seen with suspicion in destination countries, while migration policies have become increasingly restrictive. The outcome of this effort to limit human mobility is nonetheless highly questionable. While economic and forced migrations are still on the rise, due to persistent regional geo-economic imbalances and geo-political instability, border control policies are putting a strain on human rights and asylum law. Western countries are thus faced with the challenge of finding the right balance between a well-managed migration, and the duty to respect human rights of migrants and refugees. A challenge that has become particularly demanding along the main fault-lines of the contemporary geopolitics of migration, where, as migratory pressure increases, border control policies become more and more violent.
The course will address these topics from the perspective of different field of studies such as law, sociology and political theory, focusing on how EU and domestic policies are redefining the relationships between migration, borders and human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

### Prerequisites
None

### Learning outcomes
Students will acquire knowledge of the main social theory of migration, knowledge of the main trends in contemporary migration law and policies, and a critical understanding of the social and political dynamics driving border control practices. They will also develop a peculiar ability to understand the implications of contemporary border control practices for the protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees. Students will be constantly stimulated to debate and critical discussion. During the course they will also be invited to carry out small researches on related topics and present them orally during 'class discussion' sessions.

### Course contents
The course can ideally be divided in two main sections during which eight main topics will be addressed. The first section (topics 1 to 4) will offer a general introduction to the social theory of migration, and an overview on migration law and policies in contemporary societies. The second section (topics 5 to 8) will focus on the changing nature of borders and will describe the most recent developments in border control practices across main destination countries.

### Topics
The course will address the following eight topics:

1. Defining migration
2. Migration and social theory
3. Contemporary migrations: trends and perspectives
4. Contemporary global migration law and politics
5. Borders and social theory
6. Migrations, borders and security
7. Contemporary border control practices
8. Border control and human rights

### Required readings

#### Topic 1

#### Topic 2

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Topic 3

Topic 4

Topic 5

Topic 6

Topic 7

Topic 8
- Mitsilegas, Valsamis. 2015. "The law of the border and the borders of law: Rethinking border control

### Teaching Methods

| Class sessions are organized around eight main topics and accompanied by one or more readings that students are expected to read before the relevant session. The detailed class schedule will be delivered during the introductory session, and then published on the course web-page. Required readings will be made available to students in PDF format. A list of selected further readings will be provided in class for each topic, from which students are expected to select one paper and present it during ‘class discussion’ sessions. |

### Assessment methods

| Oral examination |

### Assessment criteria

| During the course, students’ active participation to the discussion and attitude to critically engage with the topics presented will be constantly assessed. Their ability to carry out small researches and present the relevant results in class will be also assessed during specifically dedicated ‘class discussion’ sessions. During the final examination, students should prove their familiarity with the course contents, showing in particular their knowledge of the main trends in contemporary migration law and policies and a critical understanding of the social and political dynamics driving current border control practices. |

### Assessment commission

| Giuseppe Campesi (President)  
Ivan Pupolizio |