

**SUNY Potsdam**  
**Fall 2021 Course Surveys**

**Course:** 97606\_EVAL\_WAYS103.003\_popovimj\_FALL21: Course Evaluation - IMMIGRATION IN THE U.S. - Popovic - Fall 2021  
**Instructor:** Michael Popovic \*  
**Response Rate:** 20/22 (90.91%)

1 - Reason for taking the course (complete all that apply):				
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses
Major-required	(6)	1	5.00%	
Major-elective	(5)	0	0.00%	
Minor-required	(4)	0	0.00%	
Minor-elective	(3)	0	0.00%	
General Education Requirement	(2)	18	90.00%	
Free Elective	(1)	1	5.00%	
<b>Response Rate</b>		20/22 (90.91%)		

2 - Class Year:					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Freshman	(6)	14	70.00%		5.50
Sophomore	(5)	5	25.00%		
Junior	(4)	0	0.00%		
Senior	(3)	0	0.00%		
Graduate	(2)	0	0.00%		
Other	(1)	1	5.00%		
<b>Response Rate</b>		20/22 (90.91%)		<b>Mean</b>	5.50
				<b>STD</b>	1.15
				<b>Median</b>	6.00

3 - Expected grade:					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
4.0	(13)	1	5.00%		9.90
3.7	(12)	2	10.00%		
3.3	(11)	4	20.00%		
3.0	(10)	7	35.00%		
2.7	(9)	2	10.00%		
2.3	(8)	3	15.00%		
2.0	(7)	0	0.00%		
1.7	(6)	0	0.00%		
1.3	(5)	1	5.00%		
1.0	(4)	0	0.00%		
0.0	(3)	0	0.00%		
S	(2)	0	0.00%		
U	(1)	0	0.00%		
<b>Response Rate</b>		20/22 (90.91%)		<b>Mean</b>	9.90
				<b>STD</b>	1.77
				<b>Median</b>	10.00

4 - I attended class:					
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Always	(5)	16	80.00%		4.70
Frequently	(4)	3	15.00%		
Moderately	(3)	0	0.00%		
Occasionally	(2)	1	5.00%		
Rarely	(1)	0	0.00%		
<b>Response Rate</b>		20/22 (90.91%)		<b>Mean</b>	4.70
				<b>STD</b>	0.73
				<b>Median</b>	5.00

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5 - How many hours outside of class did you devote to this course on average per week?							
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
9+	(5)	2	10.00%				
6-8	(4)	0	0.00%				
4-5	(3)	8	40.00%				
2-3	(2)	9	45.00%				
0-1	(1)	1	5.00%				
				0	25	50	100
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
20/22 (90.91%)				2.65	0.99	2.50	

6 - Rate the level of your participation in this course.							
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Very active	(5)	4	20.00%				
Active	(4)	10	50.00%				
Moderate	(3)	4	20.00%				
Minimal	(2)	2	10.00%				
Not active	(1)	0	0.00%				
				0	25	50	100
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
20/22 (90.91%)				3.80	0.89	4.00	

7 - What overall rating would you give yourself as a student in this course?							
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Excellent	(5)	2	10.00%				
Good	(4)	11	55.00%				
Adequate	(3)	5	25.00%				
Poor	(2)	2	10.00%				
Very Poor	(1)	0	0.00%				
				0	25	50	100
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
20/22 (90.91%)				3.65	0.81	4.00	

8 - Michael Popovic demonstrates competence in the subject area. -							
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Strongly Agree	(5)	16	80.00%				
Agree	(4)	4	20.00%				
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%				
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%				
Does not apply	(0)	0	0.00%				
				0	25	50	100
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
20/22 (90.91%)				4.80	0.41	5.00	

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**9 - Michael Popovic's teaching is effective. -**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	14	70.00%		4.55
Agree	(4)	3	15.00%		
Neutral	(3)	3	15.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Does not apply	(0)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
<b>Response Rate</b>			<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
20/22 (90.91%)			4.55	0.76	5.00

**10 - Michael Popovic is concerned with students' progress in the course. -**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	19	95.00%		4.95
Agree	(4)	1	5.00%		
Neutral	(3)	0	0.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Does not apply	(0)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
<b>Response Rate</b>			<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
20/22 (90.91%)			4.95	0.22	5.00

**11 - Michael Popovic is available to students outside of class -**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	15	75.00%		4.65
Agree	(4)	3	15.00%		
Neutral	(3)	2	10.00%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Does not apply	(0)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
<b>Response Rate</b>			<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
20/22 (90.91%)			4.65	0.67	5.00

**12 - Examinations relate well to the stated course objectives.**

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means
Strongly Agree	(5)	6	30.00%		4.13
Agree	(4)	7	35.00%		
Neutral	(3)	2	10.00%		
Disagree	(2)	1	5.00%		
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		
Does not apply	(0)	4	20.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
<b>Response Rate</b>			<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
20/22 (90.91%)			4.13	0.89	4.00

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13 - The work required in this course relates well to the stated course objectives.									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	10	50.00%		4.45		Question		
Agree	(4)	9	45.00%						
Neutral	(3)	1	5.00%						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%						
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%						
Does not apply	(0)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100					
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>			
20/22 (90.91%)				4.45	0.60	4.50			

14 - Michael Popovic evaluates student performance fairly. -									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	13	65.00%		4.60		Question		
Agree	(4)	6	30.00%						
Neutral	(3)	1	5.00%						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%						
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%						
Does not apply	(0)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100					
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>			
20/22 (90.91%)				4.60	0.60	5.00			

15 - I learned a great deal in this course.									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Strongly Agree	(5)	12	60.00%		4.40		Question		
Agree	(4)	4	20.00%						
Neutral	(3)	4	20.00%						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%						
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%						
Does not apply	(0)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100					
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>			
20/22 (90.91%)				4.40	0.82	5.00			

16 - Overall rating of Michael Popovic: -									
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means				
Excellent	(5)	17	85.00%		4.85		Question		
Good	(4)	3	15.00%						
Adequate	(3)	0	0.00%						
Poor	(2)	0	0.00%						
Very Poor	(1)	0	0.00%						
				0 25 50 100					
<b>Response Rate</b>				<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>			
20/22 (90.91%)				4.85	0.37	5.00			

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**17 - THE COURSE: Please comment on course content, requirement or any other aspect of the course.**

Response Rate	12/22 (54.55%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The course is really amazing</li> <li>• The course was good, I wish it was a little more structured when it came to the assignments. The best part was the open dialogue discussions, those were amazing experiences. The coil program was nice but I feel we need more meeting times as getting the whole project done within that amount of time is pretty hard as meeting outside of class time is difficult with the time difference and different schedules.</li> <li>• This course is loaded with very valuable content. The amount of information can be overwhelming at times. This is primarily due to the amount of reading that is required. The readings, however, are more for developing a general understanding of a topic over knowing the exact details. Developing a general understanding by doing the readings aids the students in their participation in class discussions so I would say the readings are still valuable. Students are more so evaluated by their effort and participation in more hands on assignments rather than being evaluated on their knowledge of the content.</li> <li>• The course material was I think more than the other WAYS courses so if they were to be evened out I think that would be great for future students.</li> <li>• The course while difficult was fun, informative and interesting. I enjoyed the readings and projects and working with the german students!</li> <li>• I really enjoyed looking through the topic of immigration throughout the years, as well as the current dialogues we went through during the class.</li> <li>• The course was really great! I learned a lot, and the workload was always manageable. I was always interested in the topic of conversation as well.</li> <li>• The course content was primarily reading-based. While the readings were always super fascinating, we didn't spend a lot of time going over them in class, and very quickly fell behind on being able to discuss them. When we did discuss them, the discussions became less thorough and shortened to meet timing requirements as the semester went on. On top of this, the reading load felt really heavy for a 100 level class. This isn't to say that I didn't enjoy doing the readings or find them important to the course content, but the workload and the in-class use of the workload felt unbalanced. That being said, I felt that the other work required in the course wasn't a super heavy load. The collaborative project with the German students was a really nice addition to the coursework, and something different from what was part of my other course's workload. I thought it was a fun, different approach to the content of the course as it related to immigration and gave a cross-cultural perspective that I don't think would have been part of the course otherwise.</li> <li>• The course overall was very informative. I learned a great deal of new information regarding immigration in the United States. I was also able to extend my level of vocabulary learned regarding immigration in the United States. The course showed me how the United States treated immigrants who migrated to the United States who they viewed as different or disliked because they were different. I was also able to learn about recent struggles regarding immigration.</li> <li>• i had special circumstances, having to move to this class halfway through the semester. I already had a lot to catch up on because of an injury that hospitalized me, and it was near impossible for me personally to be able to do well in this class. I sat in this class about 2-3 weeks and knew I was going to fail, and I had to admit that to myself. Despite this, I still learned a lot, even if i couldn't do the work, I still tried to come to class and participate every class. He was always kind and understanding, and really wanted to see me succeed despite my situation and truly believed in me. He gave me all the resources he could, but it just didn't work for me. He never lost confidence in me the entire time. I know I am going to fail the class, but i still really enjoyed what I could, and it was such an amazing opportunity and program for students! Never seen anything like it. I wish I knew about the class more, I would have chosen it to begin with!</li> <li>• Part of me wishes that everyone would be required to take this course or learn the things I've learned. This class make me feel more knowledgeable on a variety of important topics that the media propagates on. In one semester of this course I gained a better understanding of U.S. history, and learned some very important things that reshaped my perception of the U.S. In some ways I feel this class taught me more about history than four years of high school did. I specifically enjoyed studying U.S. history through the lens of immigration policies, colonialism, and racism. When you learn history this way, it is easy to see how this country is quite literally built on systems of supremacy and oppression. The intersectionality of these issues so important to understanding how the U.S. functions. It's also really important to understand these concepts to make your own opinions, and be more educated on topics regarding human rights. I also gained a lot of skills that are valuable to me, that will serve me well for the rest of my life. Specifically communication and active listening skills, which when in use creates such a more complex and thoughtful conversation. I've begun to practice these things more even outside the class, and I definitely have been having richer conversations. I also gained some very important skills involving intercultural exchange through the use of the COIL program, and I feel very confident that I could be successful working with people from other cultures and countries. As a first year student, this class has also been very guiding in me shaping my own values, and determining my own beliefs as an independent adult. After taking this course I really believe topics like this need to become part of general education for all Americans.</li> <li>• Although I may not have agreed with all points mentioned in the course, I feel as though after taking the course I have grown greatly as a person and as a student.</li> </ul>	

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**18 - THE INSTRUCTOR: Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of Michael Popovic. Would you take another course from this instructor? -**

<b>Response Rate</b>	14/22 (63.64%)
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- He is amazing and very understanding one of the best teachers i have had and yes
- The strengths are him being more of a facilitator than an influencer which helped openly promote a very informative class discussion. His in real life experience also helped get an understanding of certain world aspects when it came to immigration and how it plays a role in life coming from an immigrant perspective. Weaknesses I would say structure for assignments. I feel like when assignments are not structured it leaves a lot more room for error. So more guidelines would be great.
- Yes. Michael is a fantastic teacher and knows a lot. He makes class fun and enjoyable.
- Professor Popovic has an expert level understanding of the course material and many topics beyond the course material. He researches valuable information to a great extent for the content of the course. Since there are seemingly no holes to his knowledge on the subject matter, no question was left unanswered throughout the entire semester. He strives for a greater understanding and to relay his findings to the students because he is genuinely passionate about the topic. He wishes to progress the knowledge of the students to the fullest extent possible to bring awareness to immigration issues. In addition, Professor Popovic creates and develops very ambitious projects for the class. Through his COIL program for example, the students had the opportunity to work with German students to research solutions to current immigration problems. He stresses intercultural relations to promote a greater understanding when considering immigration. It was truly a unique experience and I am glad to have been a part of it. The only downside to the experimental nature of this course is that sometimes the assignments seem underdeveloped and unclear. However, he is in the midst of perfecting all aspects of this class and that is what is so exciting. I have no doubt that the student experience in this class will increase dramatically by next year because he is already asking his current students for their recommendations. This class is very valuable thanks to professor Popovic's effort and passion. I would take another class from professor Popovic.
- I have absolutely nothing bad or even remotely negative to say about Professor Popovic. I would absolutely take another course from him.
- The professor was extremely helpful, understanding and kind as well as funny and informative. I would love to take a class of his again.
- I really enjoyed the dialogue groups and the open discussions, I just wished the readings we had for homework felt more significant.
- Michael is a wonderful professor, you can tell he is really passionate about what he is teaching. I reached out to him when having a mental health situation that was affecting my work and he was overall very understanding and kind to me, but was not a pushover professor which I really admired. He is very good at organizing his class so that everyone is participating and has a chance to talk about their opinions even if they might be shy or scared to. He also does not belittle students if they are not as educated on the topic, which is very nice for the content of the class. He will politely redirect the dialogue if it is incorrect or possibly offensive without making a big deal and possibly embarrassing someone. I thought that he was a great professor and would take another course with him.
- His evident care for students is absolutely a strength. He is constantly offering himself as a resource for students, both in the course he's teaching and even beyond that. It's clear that he cares for his students and the work they're providing. He is accommodating for extenuating circumstances and ensures that his students are doing well by consistently checking in and encouraging questions. I wouldn't classify it as a weakness but I do feel it's important to note that he expects a lot from his students. As someone who feels confident in the work I'm doing, and confident that I can manage heavy loads of work, it doesn't really bother me. In fact, I think those high expectations challenged me to do better than I expected myself to. However, for students who might not feel confident in their capabilities to manage and balance all of their coursework, these expectations can feel like an added pressure to what is likely an already stressful load. Overall, Professor Popovic is a strong professor, and I would absolutely take another course from him. I know he plans to offer multiple semesters of a WAYS 301 class on global migration and climate change, and I would love to take it. I'm hoping it's offered more than just the listing for next semester.
- While I cannot blame his way of teaching, it was different from all of my other courses. I felt a sense of 'self-teaching' that I didn't feel in any other course. I felt as if I was expected to do the majority of work on my own, and teach myself, while other professors keep us up to date in class about what is going on more frequently. I felt obligated to check moodle to keep up to date with the course, where engaging in other classes kept me up to date on what was happening.
- Overall Professor Popovic was exceptional with teaching the course. He was able to give our class personal content since he migrated to the United States himself. He was able to show us the difficulties immigrants faced when traveling and migrating to the United States. He was also always there for anyone who was looking for help or who was struggling during the semester. He constantly informed our class that he was free for anyone who wanted help or to just sit down and talk about problems that may be affecting their overall performance in the class.
- As stated above, an absolutely wonderful professor who is extremely passionate and involved with his area of expertise for the class. He is very involved with us and gets excited about what we accomplish. He is always coming up with cool ideas and opportunities. When will someone get the chance to work with students from a college in Germany?! It was amazing! As i previously stated, he helped me through trying to transition into this class. My failure was absolutely no fault of his, and he was able to show me it wasn't all mine either. I wish I could do an evaluation on the professor that caused this. It feels like I was moved because that would be one less person to negatively evaluate or stand up to her. I continue to hear bad things about her... the only people i am disappointed in this year is the school administration who let this happen, and CONTINUE to. It will be a deciding factor on if I stay or not, and I cannot express how absolutely LIVID I am at this place for this. You put so much stress on a student AND a new professor making this horrible decision with little post- involvement... You set people up to fail and I am EXTREMELY disappointed in that. All that being said, Michael Popovic is a WONDERFUL person and amazing professor. I hope to take more classes with him because of how much passion he brings to us! He has done so much above and beyond for his students. Absolutely adore and look up to him!
- Michael Popovic is a phenomenal instructor, and is without any doubt among the best educators I've encountered. His teaching method just really worked with the ways I prefer to learn. For example, I think learning through discussion is a very insightful way of learning, in the sense that the entire class is exchanging their ideas based off of the same information. While usually the class agrees with each other mostly, it is interesting to see how other students apply the information differently than I do, and when there are disagreements it is very insightful to see how they got to that conclusion from the given information. I really enjoyed the lectures Professor Popovic gave, and how it would be often broken up by commentary from students including myself. It brought discussion to what we were learning which just made our education that much more in-depth. I also really admire how Professor Popovic expected maturity and accountability from his students, however made a point that mental health is very important and understood and accommodated for anyone struggling as long as they were honest and dedicated students. His actions also always matched his words in this regard. I feel as though he genuinely cares about the health and success of his students. I would encourage there to be more opportunities for in-class discussion in future versions of this class, as when we had them they were very educational and insightful. Professor Popovic also gave many opportunities for feedback on his instructions in all aspects of his teaching, and gave real attempt to make changes accordingly if there was an issue. I also saw a lot of value in his method of talking about such controversial topics, this country is perceived to be quite divided, and Professor Popovic made a point that he is not here to indoctrinate anyone to his own beliefs, and he just gave us the facts. Through teaching just the facts I believe most of my classmates and I were able to make our own educated beliefs around the topic of U.S. immigration.
- Professor Popovic is a strong teacher who is able to effectively teach his students not only the material taught in the course but also how to learn from the Material. He did however teach with more of a bias on certain subjects than seemed fair. Even with this I feel as though the strengths far outweighed the weaknesses and If I was presented with another course taught by Professor Popovic that would help me with my major I would not hesitate to enroll.