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Modern Migrations: The Literature and Sociology of Migration

The learning community “Modern Migrations” was first offered in Spring, 2017 and again in Fall, 2019, with paired courses LIT 211D and SOC 227 comprising the paired classes and disciplines. The pairing of literature of and about migration is a natural combination with sociological examinations of the topic, which focus on the factors sparking migration, on settlement and resettlement of migrants, and on the trajectory and possibility of economic and social incorporation of migrants once they arrive in a new home. Literary treatments of the same subjects provide a holistic overview of how migration is experienced in addition to the sociological examinations of why it happens.

Anticipated benefits of the pairing are numerous, and many of those benefits have already been attained since the class has been taught twice previously. Students enrolled in the Fall, 2019 version of the LC were invited guests at the UN on International Migrants Day. In this capacity students traveled to the UN and met diplomats, officials from the UN IOM (International Organization for Migration) and James Purcell, Jr., the original architect of the US refugee program. In Spring, 2017 students attended a “know-your-rights” panel featuring speakers from the New York Immigration Coalition, UnLocal and Pace Law’s Immigration Justice Clinic.