American Immigration  
SSW 849, Fall 2002  
Sherrie A. Kossoudji

Course Description

Immigration touches upon every aspect of American society, from economic growth to neighborhood institutions to national culture. This seminar is designed to help eliminate the typically large gaps in our knowledge that exist because there are so few courses available on immigration issues. It is interdisciplinary and provides an overview of the effects of immigration on the United States and of the United States on immigrants. We will spend a considerable amount of time on immigration policy and on the development of post 9-11 immigration and border control institutions. Topics include immigration and immigrant history, immigration law and its development, attitudes toward immigration and immigrants; unauthorized migration; return migration and transnational communities; labor market issues; economic mobility and economic and social niches; political inclusion, organization and co-optation; Americanization and assimilation; generational change: immigrants, the one and a half generation, the second generation, and everybody else; language controversies and public debates.

Requirements

Each student will have one long writing assignment (40%), two short writing assignments (20% and 10%), and one oral argument (15%). All students will participate in class discussions (15%).

Each student will write a long research paper on a relevant topic of his or her choice. Students will turn in brief (one page-no more) proposals for the project during class on October 23rd. Proposals will contain a discussion of the topic and the hypothesis to be tested or the argument that is expected for the paper. It will contain an initial presentation of the kind of analysis that will be pursued and a documentation of the data source. It will contain a brief outline of the literature to be reviewed. The first draft of the research paper is due during class on November 26th. It will be read, evaluated and returned with suggestions on or before December 6th. The final draft is due December 13th. This research paper will be graded for the strengths of its arguments, the relationship between the data, the hypotheses, and the conclusions, the link between the literature and the research conducted in the paper, and the quality of the writing (40%).
Each student will write an informed opinion piece related to one of the weekly topics. The paper will be short (no more than four pages) and must argue for or against a particular policy decision (for example, you might want to argue for or against the provision of bilingual education) or a reading’s arguments. All arguments must be backed up by references. You will need to choose your topic early (Choices on September 10th) and get on the schedule. Please give me BOTH your first and second choices, and I will let you know where you are on the schedule. The assignment will be due on the week of the topic that you choose. Evaluated papers will be returned the week after they are turned in. These opinion pieces will be graded on the logic of the argument, the completeness of the argument, the handling of alternative points of view, and the relationship of the argument to the literature (20%).

Each student will conduct a web search for immigration sites on the web that will be appropriate as resources for this class. The student will turn in a short web site review for five sites (approximately 1.5 pages—no more than two pages). The review must have a theme (for example, you might choose sites that discuss English Only Initiatives, sites about immigrant history, or immigrant hate sites) but cannot be commercial in nature (so, for example, it is NOT acceptable to find five lawyers’ sites who work for hire to acquire green cards). The review will contain a short paragraph with an explanation of why this site is useful for this class, a listing of each URL along with a short description of the site’s resources and anything special about the site that the student considers important to point out (say, who has set up the site and does that tell us something about the opinions presented there). This assignment is due September 24th (10%).

Each student will prepare one oral argument on any of the weekly topics (say, 10 minutes in length, absolutely no more—5% of total score off for each additional minute). These oral arguments may be a critique of one of the required readings for the week, may establish a position on a policy, or may interpret a trend or phenomenon. The assignment is due the week of the topic’s discussion. Again, you will need to choose your topic early (by September 17th). Please give me BOTH your first and second choices, and I will let you know where you are on the schedule. (10%).

The written opinion piece and the oral argument CANNOT be about the same week’s topics.

Hopefully, then, there will be a minimum of three people prepared to get into a rousing discussion on any day’s topic (me, the oral presenter(s), and the memo writer(s))!

Tentative Reading Materials

(this area subject to change—you will NOT be forced to buy new material in the middle of the semester)

All of the loose readings will be on the web and/or available for student use at the reserve desk of the SSW library. In addition, you will need to purchase or otherwise have access to the following books:

AND ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:


Caramelo. Sandra Cisneros. This item will be published in September 2002 and may not yet be available. $16.80 at Amazon.com.

Class Schedule and Reading List

September 3: What a Long Strange Trip It’s Been: Immigration History in Three Easy Hours


The Ellis Island Museum (history section) http://www.ellisisland.com/indexHistory.html


Background Reading:
Angel Island: A hell for some who sought the Mountain of Gold. San Diego Magazine
http://www.sandiegomag.com/forums/chinese/htmls/angel.htm or Immigration Station.

September 10: Immigration Policy—derivative policy, constant crisis, and another debacle post 9-11

Required:


Background Reading:


**September 17: The Argument about the Benefits and Costs of Immigration—Public and Private Debates**

**Required:**


**Background Reading:**


**September 24th: Unauthorized Migration, the Border, and the Bush—Fox Horse and Pony Show**

*Required:*


PDF on CourseTools.


PDF on CourseTools.


PDF on CourseTools.


**Background Reading:**


October 1: Attitudes Toward Immigration and Immigrants—Who are We?

Required:


de la Garza, Rudolfo; Louis Desipio.  1998. Interests not Passions: Mexican American Attitudes toward Mexico, immigration from Mexico, and other Issues Shaping Mexican-American Relations. International Migration Review. 32(2) 401-422. PDF on CourseTools.


Background Reading:


Chin, Gabriel T. 1996. The Civil Rights Revolution Comes to Immigration Law: A New Look at the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965. *North Carolina Law Review* 75:263, Section II and Section IIIIF, IIIIG. Instead of copying, you can use web access: [http://www.lexis-nexis.com/universe/form/academic/univ_lawrev.html, then input "immigration law" and "chin" as search terms, select the "From/To" date option, and input "1996" in both the "From" and "To" date boxes. (available on disk in rtf format—read in Word).


**October 8: Immigrants Confront the New Country**

**Required:**

Any two of the fiction books listed on the first page of the syllabus.

**Background Reading:**


The Short Stories of Bernard Malamud: In Search of Jewish Post-Immigrant Identity by Begona Sio-Castineira, Begona Sio-Casteneira


October 15: No class, study break. Have fun!

October 22: Immigrants' Work Lives—Is there an immigrant job?

Required:


Background Reading:

Shoeni, Robert, Kevin McCarthy and Georges Vernez. 1996. Native-Born and Immigrant Workers: 20 Years of Change (Chapter 3) and Earnings of Immigrants Over Their Lifetimes (Chapter 4) in The Mixed Economic Progress of Immigrants. RAND Corporation.


October 29: Immigrant Women as Workers—Is Mammy Alive and Well?

Required:


Recommended:


November 5: Economic, Political, and Social Assimilation

Required:


PDF on CourseTools.


PDF on CourseTools.


**Background Reading:**


**November 12: Ethnic Niches—Is there an insider—outsider dynamic?**

**Required:**


PDF on CourseTools.


**Background Reading:**


**November 19: Citizenship, Nationality, and Transnationalism**

**Required:**

PDF on CourseTools.

PDF on CourseTools.

PDF on CourseTools.

PDF on CourseTools.

Background Reading:


Spiro, Peter. 1997. "Dual Nationality and the Meaning of Citizenship." Emory Law Journal. 46:1411, Sec. II. (Focus on Sec. IIB and following). Instead of copying, can use web access: [http://www.lexis-nexis.com/universe/form/academic/univ_lawrev.html, then input "naturalization" and "author(spiro)" as search terms, select the "From/To" date option, and input "1997" in both the "From" and "To" date boxes.

November 26: The Political Community and Political Activity

Required:

PDF on CourseTools.


Background Reading:


**Part 2—Immigrants and Public Services**

**Required:**


Hing, Bill Ong. 1998. "Don't Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor: Conflicted Immigrant Stories and Welfare Reform." *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.* 33:159. Instead of copying, can use web access: [http://www.lexis-nexis.com/universe/form/academic/univ_lawrev.html, then input "immigration law" and "hing" as search terms, select the "From/To" date option, and input "1998" in both the "From" and "To" date boxes.]

**Background Reading:**


**Plyler v. Doe 457 US 202 (June 15, 1982).** Instead of copying, can use web access: [http://www.lexis-nexis.com/universe/form/academic/univ_fedcase.html, then input "plyler and doe" as search terms, select the "From/To" date option, and input "6/15/82" in both the "From" and "To" date boxes.]

**December 3: Generational and Identity Change—the First, One and a Halfs, and the Second Generations**

**Required:**


**Background Reading:**


**December 10th: The Language Debate**
Required:


The Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students (OELA) http://www.ed.gov/offices/OBEMLA/

Language Policy Website and Emporium http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JWCRAWFORD/


Porter, Rosalie. 1990. Confronting the Political Power of the Bilingual Bureaucracy (Chapter 2), Learning from other Multilingual Societies (Chapter 4), and Beyond Bilingual Education: Language Policy, Cultural Pluralism, and Nationhood (Chapter 6), and Epilogue p. 259-287. In Forked Tongue: The Politics of Bilingual Education. New York: Basic Books.

Background Reading:


**Interesting Articles that Currently Aren’t in the Syllabus.**

Waters, Mary. 1990. Class, Neighborhood, and Ethnicity (Chapter 4), Cultural Practices (Chapter 5), and Social Psychological and Character Traits (Chapter 6) in *Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.


Cose, Ellis. A Nation of Strangers: Prejudice, Politics, and the Populating of America. New York:
Doheny Stacks E184.A1C654

Doheny Stacks E184.A1D26

Doheny Stacks HD1527.C2G84 1994

Leavey F870.W54H6

Doheny Stacks; Leavey JV6450.J6

Government Documents; Leavey; VKC F870.M5C35

Leavey; Social Work; VKC HD8081.M6M85 1985

Doheny; Leavey; VKC JV6471.M85 1993

Reimers, David. Still the Golden Door: The Third World Comes to America VKC JV6455.R45

Doheny Stacks JV6450.U35

Doheny Stacks JV6450.I57

Strangers at the Gates: New Immigrants in Urban America by Roger Waldinger (Editor)
From Ellis Island to JFK: New York's Two Great Waves of Immigration by Nancy Foner

Changes and Conflicts: Korean Immigrant Families in New York by Pyong Gap Min, Nancy Foner

The Transnational Villagers by Peggy Levitt

Latinos, Inc.: The Marketing and Making of a People by Arlene M. Davila

Shopping for Identity : The Marketing of Ethnicity by Marilyn Halter

Latino Metropolis (Globalization and Community, V. 7) by Victor M. Valle, Rodolfo D. Torres, Saskia Sassen

Changing Race: Latinos, the Census and the History of Ethnicity in the United States (Critical America Series) by Clara E. Rodriguez

Challenging Fronteras : Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S. : An Anthology of Readings by Mary Romero (Editor), Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (Editor), Vilma Ortiz (Editor)

Borderless Borders : U.S. Latinos, Latin Americans, and the Paradox of Interdependence by Frank Bonilla (Editor), Edwin Melendez (Editor), Maria de Los Angeles Torres (Editor), Rebecca Morales (Editor)

Culture Across Borders : Mexican Immigration & Popular Culture by David R. Maciel (Editor), Maria Herrera-Sobek (Editor)

Growing Up Latino : Memoirs and Stories by Harold Augenbraum, Ilan Stavans (Editor), Alan Stavans

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo A. Anaya


