

American Immigration Politics
Political Science 222
Professor Rebecca Hamlin
MWF 10:00-10:50

Debates over the perceived costs and benefits of immigration have long been a familiar part of American political rhetoric, but immigration also raises bigger questions about global justice, state sovereignty, what it means to be an American, and what newcomers should have to do to become one. Immigration debates are linked to disputes over borders (both literal and figurative), the equality of opportunity for native-born minorities, the consistency of our national logics of race and ethnicity, and the status of the United States as a world power. We will explore these contemporary controversies in American immigration politics, and ask ourselves – what is the ‘problem’ and can it be fixed? In the process, we will learn lessons about how American politics works more generally.

The central goals of the course are:

- to familiarize students with the major immigration policies and debates
- to understand the relationship between immigration and American politics
- to help students strengthen oral and written analytical and argumentation skills
- to challenge and support students as they develop independent research skills

Readings

We are not using a textbook in this course. All readings will be either on electronic reserve at the library or on Pioneer Web under “documents”.

Assignments

In order to pass the class, you must complete all of the assignments listed below.

Research Proposal (due Friday, March 9)	5%
Research Paper (due Friday, May 11)	25%
Research Presentation (Week 13 or 14)	5%
5 reaction papers	15%
Midterm Exam (Friday, March 16)	15%
Final Exam (9am-12pm Wednesday May 16)	20%
Class Participation	15%

Office Hours

My Spring 2012 Office Hours will be:

Monday – 9-10 and 1-2

Wednesday - 9-10 and 11-12

Friday - 9-10

My office is in Carnegie 309. I will have a sign-up sheet on my door. Please sign-up for one 15 minute appointment. If you cannot make any of these times, or if you have to discuss a delicate matter please email me to make an appointment. My email is: hamlinr@grinnell.edu.

Reaction Papers

These short papers are designed to get you thinking deeply about the reading and prepare you for class discussion. They are due on the day we discuss the reading, and can only be turned in on that day, and in person at the *beginning* of class. In them, *very* briefly summarize the author's main argument and then present your reaction to it, including specific questions that you would like to discuss in **BOLD**. They should be at least one double-spaced page typed, 12 font, 1 inch margins. NOTE: You must do three reaction papers before Spring break, and two after.

Research Papers

You will write a 15 page paper analyzing a specific proposed change to American immigration policy. You will elaborate: the key players, the arguments for and against the proposal, the likelihood of change, the implications for American politics, and the big questions about citizenship, rights, or justice raised by this proposal. In order to write your final paper, you will need to do research using sources such as media resources, interest group material, congressional debates, census data, public opinion polls, and secondary scholarly literature. You must meet with me in person several times to discuss your project. The minimum requirement is once BEFORE the Proposal Deadline and once after Spring Break and BEFORE your Presentation.

Academic Honesty

All written work must be your own. Any plagiarism will be brought to the attention of the Committee on Academic Standing, and may result in a failing grade for the course. Please read the section in the Grinnell College handbook entitled "Academic Honesty: Scholarly Integrity, Collaboration, and the Ethical Use of Sources" and please see me soon if you have any questions about what constitutes proper citation in the context of this course.

Accommodation

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, I encourage you to let me know as early in the semester as possible so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course, and coordinate your accommodations. In addition, please bring documentation to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the 3rd floor of the Rosenfield Center (x 3702).

Participation

This class is highly interactive, and your participation is essential. Do the reading before each class, and come prepared to discuss the arguments the authors make, share your opinions, and ask thoughtful questions. I will call on people who have not spoken up in a while. If you miss class once or twice, or ask me not to call on you once or twice, I won't think that you are slacking. If it happens more often than that, you should expect your grade to be affected. If you have a lot to say about something, be aware that other people might too, and try to take breaks to be an active listener. If you are ever concerned about your level of participation, you can always ask me during the semester. I would be happy to give you feedback, and I do take improvement into account.

Finally, in order to maintain a respectful and safe environment for discussion, absolutely no insults or aggressive language will be tolerated, even if you are 100% convinced that someone else is an idiot.

Week 1: Immigration Politics and the State

Monday, January 23rd

Introduction

Wednesday, January 25th

a) John Torpey. 2000. *The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship and the State*, Chapter One: "Coming and Going: On the State Monopolization of the Legitimate 'Means of Movement'" (pgs 4-20). (e-reserve)

b) Joseph Carens. 1987. "The Case for Open Borders." *The Review of Politics*. (pgs 251-273). (pweb)

Friday, January 27th

James Hollifield. 2004. "The Emerging Migration State." *International Migration Review*. (pgs 885-912) (pweb)

Weeks 2 & 3 : The Contemporary Legislative Framework

Monday, January 30th

Daniel Tichenor. 2002. *Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America*.

Chapter One: "Introduction." (pgs 1-15)

Chapter Two: "Understanding the Rise and Fall of Policy Regimes." (pgs 16-45). (e-reserve)

Wednesday, February 1st

a) Kennedy, Edward. 1966. "The Immigration Act of 1965" (pgs 137-149). (pweb)

b) James G. Gimpel & James R. Edwards Jr. 1999. *The Congressional Politics of Immigration Reform*. Chapter Three. "Issues in the Contemporary Immigration Debate on Capitol Hill." (pgs 60-92) (e-reserve)

Friday, February 3rd

Mae Ngai. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*.

Chapter Seven. "The Liberal Critique and Reform of Immigration Policy." (pgs 227-264) (e-reserve)

Monday, February 6th

Lina Newton. 2008. *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant: The Politics of Immigration Reform*. Chapters Two and Six. "Cases, Contexts, and the Puzzle of Policy Change" and "Conclusion" in (pgs 42-66 and 163-170) (e-reserve)

Wednesday, February 8th

a) Jeffrey S. Passel. 2011. "Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends." *Pew Hispanic Center Report*. (pweb)

b) Julia Preston. 2008. "White House Moves to Ease Guest Worker Program" *New York Times* (pweb).

Friday, February 10th

a) George J. Borjas. 1999. *Heaven's Door: Immigration Policy and the American Economy*. Chapters One and Ten. (pgs 3-18 and 174-210). (e-reserve)

b) Canada's Point System – take the test!

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/assess/index.asp>

c) Christopher Mason and Julia Preston: "Points system for immigration causes problems of its own in Canada" *New York Times*, Wednesday, June 27, 2007 (pweb)

Week 4: Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Monday, February 13th

David W. Haines. 2010. *Safe Haven? A History of Refugees in America*. Chapter 1: "Refugees and America: Moral Commitments and Practical Challenges" (pgs 1-27) (pweb)

Wednesday, February 15th

Christopher J. Einolf. 2001. *The Mercy Factory: Refugees and the American Asylum System*. Chapter 1: "Asylum in the United States" (pgs 3-21) (pweb).

Friday, February 17th

Library Resources Day – no reading assigned

Week 5 – Comprehensive Immigration Reform?

Monday, February 20th

a) Daniel J. Tichenor. 2009. "Navigating an American Minefield: The Politics of Illegal Immigration." *The Forum*. (pgs 1-21) (e-reserve)

b) Tamar Jacoby. 2006. "Immigration Nation." *Foreign Affairs*. (pgs 50-65) (pweb)

Wednesday, February 22nd

Peter Skerry. 2009. "Why 'Comprehensive Immigration Reform' Is Not Comprehensive." *The Forum*. (pgs 1-10) (pweb)

Friday, February 24th

Pew Hispanic Center. 2006. America's Immigration Quandary, No Consensus on Immigration Problem or Proposed Fixes (pweb)

WATCH: GOP debate: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqIPP-SD0fg&feature=related>

Week 6: The Border

*****Sunday, February 26 *****

Film Screening: "Crossing Arizona" (2006) (time and location TBA)

Monday, February 27

Film Discussion: "Crossing Arizona" (2006)

Wednesday, February 29

a) Peter Andreas. 2001. *Border Games: Policing the U.S. Mexico Divide*. Chapter Five: "The Escalation of Immigration Control." (pgs. 85-112) (p-web)

b) Douglas Massey. 2007. "Borderline Madness: America's Counterproductive Immigration Policy." *Debating Immigration*. Chapter Nine. (pgs 129-138) (e-reserve)

Friday, March 2

Reed Karaim. 2008. "America's Border Fence." *CQ Researcher* (pgs 181-203) (e-reserve)

Week 7 – The Constitution and the Federal Government

Monday, March 5th

a) David Weissbrodt and Laura Danielson. 2005. *Immigration Law and Procedure. 5th Edition*. Chapter 3: "Administrative Structure of Immigration Law" (pgs 83-96). (pweb)

b) Victor Romero. 2008. "Who Should Manage Immigration: Congress or the States?" in *Immigrant Rights in the Shadows of Citizenship*. (pg 286-300) (pweb)

Wednesday, March 7th

Linda Bosniak. 2006. *The Citizen and the Alien*. Chapter 6: "Separate Spheres Citizenship and its Conundrums." (pg 122-140). (e-reserve)

Friday, March 9th

a) Office of Homeland Security. 2011. "Immigration Enforcement Actions: 2010 Annual Report" (pweb)

b) Alan Silverleib. "Obama's deportation record: inside the numbers." *CNN* October 19, 2011. (pweb)

***** Research Proposal Due *****

Week 8 – State and Local Enforcement

Monday, March 12th

a) Julia Preston. December 31, 2010. “Political Battle on Illegal Immigration Shifts to States” *New York Times*. (pweb).

b) Kevin R. Johnson. 2010. “A Case Study of Color-Blindness: The Racially Disparate Impacts of Arizona’s SB 1070 and the Failure of Comprehensive Immigration Reform” UC Davis Legal Studies Research Paper Series. (pweb)

Wednesday, March 14th

a) Peter H. Schuck. 2009. "Taking Immigration Federalism Seriously," *The Forum*. (pweb)

b) David G. Savage and Carol J. Williams. “Immigration laws pose a test of states' rights in Supreme Court.” *Los Angeles Times*, December 28, 2011 (pweb)

Friday, March 16th

In-class MIDTERM EXAM

**** SPRING BREAK ****

Week 9 – Assimilation and Incorporation

Monday, April 2nd

a) United State Census 2010 (pweb)

b) Ian Haney Lopez. 2005. “Race on the 2010 Census: Hispanics & the Shrinking White Majority,” in *Daedalus* Winter (pgs 42-52). (e-reserve)

Wednesday, April 4th

Rubén Rumbaut. 1997. “Assimilation and Its Discontents: Between Rhetoric and Reality” *International Migration Review*. (pgs 923-954). (pweb).

Friday, April 6th

Rebeca Rajzman and Marta Tienda. 1999. “Immigrants’ Socioeconomic Progress Post-1965: Forging Mobility or Survival?” *The Handbook of International Migration*. (pgs 239-256) (e-reserve)

Week 10 – Immigration and American Political Culture

Monday, April 9th

a) Sarah Song. 2009. “What does it mean to be an American?” *Daedalus*. Spring (31-40). (pweb)

b) Aristide Zolberg and Long Litt Woon. 1999. “Why Islam is like Spanish: Cultural

Incorporation in Europe and the United States.” *Politics & Society*. (pgs 5-31). (pweb)

Wednesday, April 11th

Bloemraad, Irene. 2006. *Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada*. Chapter Three: “Structured Mobilization: the Role of Government.” (pgs 102-137). (e-reserve)

Friday, April 13th

No class – Professor at a conference

Week 11 - Citizenship

Monday, April 16th

a) United States Citizenship and Immigration Services: Naturalization Test
<http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/100q.pdf>

b) Jeffery Passel. 2007. Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization.
<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/74.pdf>

Wednesday, April 18th

a) Cara Wong and Grace Cho. 2006. “Jus Meritum: Citizenship for Service.” (pgs 71-88). (e-reserve - NOTE: listed under Bedolla)

b) Julia Preston. December 8, 2010. “House Backs Legal Status for Many Young Immigrants” *New York Times*. (pweb).

Friday, April 20th

a) Lisa Garcia Bedolla. 2006. “Rethinking Citizenship: Non-Citizen Voting and Immigrant Political Engagement in the United States.” (pgs 51-70). (e-reserve)

b) Sarah Song. 2009. “Democracy and Noncitizen Voting Rights,” *Citizenship Studies*. (pweb)

Week 12 – Immigrant Political Participation

Monday, April 23rd

Wendy Tam Cho. 1999. “Naturalization, Socialization, Participation: Immigrants and (Non-) Voting”. *The Journal of Politics*. (pgs 1140-1155). (pweb)

Wednesday, April 25th

a) Louis DeSipio, Natalie Masuoka, and Christopher Stout. 2008. “Asian American Immigrants as the New Electorate: Exploring Turnout and Registration of a Growing Community” *Asian American Policy Review*. (pgs 51-68). (pweb)

b) Mark Hugo Lopez. 2011. “As Deportations Rise to Record Levels, Most Latinos Oppose Obama’s Policy” *Pew Hispanic Center*. (pweb)

Friday, April 27th

Irene Bloemraad, Kim Voss, and Taeku Lee. 2011. *Rallying for Immigrant Rights*. Chapter 1: "The Immigration Rallies of 2006: What Were They, How Do We Understand Them, Where Do We Go?" (pweb)

Weeks 13 & 14 – Student Presentations

Monday, April 30th

Student Presentations – no reading assigned

Wednesday, May 2nd

Student Presentations – no reading assigned

Friday, May 4th

Student Presentations – no reading assigned

Monday, May 7th

Student Presentations – no reading assigned

Wednesday, May 9th

Student Presentations – no reading assigned

Friday May 11th

Conclusions and End-of-Course Evaluations

***** Final Research paper due - Friday, May 11th @ 5pm *****

***** FINAL EXAM 9am-Noon, Wednesday May 16th *****