

Immigration Politics in the United States
Political Science 695

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The United States is in the middle of a national debate over immigration and its consequences. It is taking place in the U.S. Congress, the Presidential race, state legislatures, and communities across the country. The current debate is related to the spike in immigration that has occurred in the last three decades. However, the debate over immigration reaches back to the founding of the nation. Although there is a high level of popular dissatisfaction with current policies, the status works for many in our society. The pressures put on the nation by demands for immigrant labor and the high number of unauthorized migrants residing in the United States demonstrates the need for a thorough review of current policies. Our goal in this class is to arrive at an understanding of the past and contemporary forces that drive immigration and what it might take for the Congress to fashion a comprehensive immigration reform.

The course will consist of lectures and discussions. In my lectures, I will provide an overview of the major theoretical and empirical issues associated with the study of immigration to the United States. Discussion sessions will give students an opportunity to raise questions and critique the assigned reading. Because this is a presidential election year, week ten's meeting will be dedicated to a discussion of the role that immigration played in the campaign. I expect everyone to keep up with the way both candidates address or avoid the question of immigration. I encourage you to subscribe to a good daily newspaper like the *New York Times* (available at a substantial discount to students). I will pass on relevant, articles, web links, and reports from news sources and my colleagues as the campaign develops. Please check your email regularly for messages from the class list.

The following books are available at the Rainbow Bookstore:

Richard Alba and Victor Nee. *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*.*

Catherine Dauvergne. *Making People Illegal: What Globalization Means for Migration and Law*.

Matthew Frye Jacobson. *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*.

Daniel Kanstroom. *Aftermath: Deportation Law and the New American Diaspora*.

Robert Lee Maril. *Patrolling Chaos: The U.S. Border Patrol in Deep South Texas*.

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

Michael Olivas. *No Undocumented Child Left Behind*.

Alejandro Portes and Ruben G. Rumbaut. *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*.

Reuel R. Rogers. *Afro-Caribbean Immigrants and the Politics of Incorporation: Ethnicity, Exception, or Exit*.

*Selected chapters.

All assigned readings are on reserve.

Course Requirements

I. Class Participation

Classroom participation is required in a seminar. Everyone is expected to participate in classroom discussion. Be prepared to share your thoughts on the readings and videos. If you need help participating in class discussions, drop by to see me in my office. I will be happy to help you.

II. Five Book Critiques

Five (5) eight page critiques of the thesis, methods, evidence and conclusions of the assigned books. Guidelines will be distributed in class. Papers are due on the day the books are discussed. All students are required to critique Mae M. Ngai's book, *Impossible Subjects*. Students can then choose among the remaining books to fulfill the five critique requirement.

In order to facilitate our critique of the assigned readings, all students will be assigned to a small discussion group. On the days discussions of the assigned readings are scheduled, students in these groups will spend about fifteen minutes reading each others papers, offering constructive criticism to one another, and raising issues and questions to be brought before the whole class.

Please note, even if you have not written a book critique during a given week, it is still essential that you read the assigned books each week before coming to class. It is not possible to put off any of the readings before the exams and expect to do well in the class.

III. A Research Paper

A twenty-page research paper. Your assignment is to analyze one aspect of the immigration process that will be covered in class or one of your own choosing. I expect that most term paper topics will fall into five broad categories: History of Immigration, Public Policy, Interest Groups, Racial Identity, and Political Organizing. Please feel free to be creative in your choice of topics. All paper topics must be cleared with me by October 15th. Please make an appointment to see me in my office. Bring a one-page description of your project with you.

Guidelines will be distributed in class. The term paper is due on December 10th.

Grades will be determined using the following weighing scheme:

Book Critiques.....50% (10% each)
Term paper.....30%
Class Participation.....20%

Students must complete all required work in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. Late papers accepted without a penalty only in the case of a medical emergency.

Office Hours:

Wednesday 11:00 to 12:00, 1:15 to 2:15, and by appointment, 403 North Hall.
marquez@polisci.wisc.edu

Feel free to make an appointment or drop by during my office hours. I welcome students.

COURSE OUTLINE/TOPICS

Week One. September 3 : Labor Day

Week Two September 10: Introduction to the Course

Video: *The Other Side of Immigration.*

Week Three. September 17: Immigration and Exclusion.

Discuss: Ngai. *Impossible Subjects.*

Week Four. September 24: Immigrants and Their Racial Identity.

Discuss: Jacobson. *Whiteness of a Different Color.*

Week Five. October 1: Immigrants and Labor

Video: *Harvest of Loneliness: The Bracero Program.*

Week Six. October 8: Theories of Economic and Social Assimilation I

Discuss Alba and Nee. *Remaking the American Mainstream.* chapters 5, 6, and 7.

Week Seven. October 15: Theories of Economic and Social Assimilation II

Discuss: Portes and Rumbaut. *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*.

Week Eight. October 22: Student Research Projects: In-class Presentation of Research Plans and Ideas.

Week Nine. October 29: Black Immigrants to the United States

Discuss: Rogers, Reuel R. *Afro-Caribbean Immigrants and the Politics of Incorporation*.

Week Ten. November 5: Barak Obama and Mitt Romney on Immigration

Roundtable Discussion on Immigration Debates and the 2012 Presidential Election.

Week Eleven. November 12: Incorporating Immigrants.

Discuss: Olivas. *No Undocumented Child Left Behind*.

Week Twelve. November 19: Deporting Undocumented Immigrants

Daniel Kanstroom. *Aftermath: Deportation Law and the New American Diaspora*.

Week Thirteen. November 26: Securing the Border

Discuss: Maril. *Patrolling Chaos*

*****Thanksgiving Recess November 22nd through November 25th*****

Week Fourteen. December 3: Immigration Policy From an International Perspective

Discuss: Dauvergne. *Making People Illegal*

Week Fifteen. December 10: Student Research Presentations