

U.S. IMMIGRATION POLITICS & POLICY

POLS 400.002

POLS 512.002

CCS 393.005

Spring Semester, 2014

T/Th 12:30-1:45 pm

Dane Smith Hall 333

Professor Christine Sierra, Political Science, University of New Mexico

Office: Social Science Bldg. Rm. 2074

Office Hours: Tuesday, 2 – 3 pm and by appointment

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TA: Vickie Ybarra

available by appointment

vickie@ybarra.com

Course Description

In this course, we will examine American governmental institutions, political actors, and processes that have both shaped and responded to one of the most significant and complex issues of public policy facing the nation: immigration to the United States. Recognized for its international or transnational characteristics, immigration is examined in the context of U.S. domestic politics and public policy. An expansive set of topics will be covered, including the role of the President and the U.S. Congress, as well as state and local governments, in the making of immigration policy; public attitudes toward immigrants and immigration; demographic change in traditional and new settlement areas; and highly contested issues such as border enforcement, immigrant rights, and definitions of citizenship. Immigrant participation in politics through conventional (e.g. voting) and unconventional strategies (e.g. Dreamers as social movement activists) will also be examined.

Course Requirements and Expectations

This is an advanced course for upper division undergraduate students. The instructor holds high expectations for student engagement and performance. Students should expect a high level of exchange and discussion in class with the professor. Students are expected to complete the weekly required on the Tuesday for which it is assigned. Student participation in class discussion is encouraged (I will call on you), whereas class attendance is strongly encouraged for adequate performance. Class attendance is required when we have guest speakers. In the end, frequent absences from class may lower your overall course grade (see below).

Additional Considerations that pertain to this course:

- (a) Attend class on a regular basis. Avoid conflicts in your schedule, such as making other appointments when class meets.
- (b) Come to class ON TIME. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class and can be easily avoided with adequate planning and time management.
- (c) Guest speakers have taken time out from busy schedules to appear in our class. We must show them respect and attentiveness. It is imperative that you arrive to class on time especially for guest speakers.
- (d) Turn off cell phones during class. Unless you have an emergency, you should not be taking or making calls or text messaging during class time.
- (e) Class time is for lecture material to be presented, notes to be taken, and students to engage in discussion of the class material. It is not a time to check your email or randomly surf the web, so please refrain from doing so.
- (f) If you have questions concerning the assignments, please arrange to meet with me

during my scheduled office hours or by appointment. Email is useful for arranging a meeting, but email is not good for more substantive communication and conversation. You should also consult with Vickie Ybarra, the TA for this course. She will be available to assist you with questions and general guidance on assignments.

Grading Procedures

Course grades will be based on the following:

Exams

1) One in-class mid-term exam, worth 25% of the course grade, to be given on **Thursday March 13th** during our regularly scheduled class time. Exam #1 will consist of short answer and essay questions.

2) A final exam will be given on **Thursday May 15**, from 10:00 am-12:00 noon. It will be worth 25% of your course grade. This exam will emphasize all course material assigned since Exam #1. The final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. The final exam is scheduled for the date and time set by the university. Final exams will not be given prior to the scheduled date and time, so plan accordingly.

Class Presentations

Students will present a brief powerpoint on a specific topic suggested by the instructor. The class presentation will feature a policy report, policy issue, interest group, or immigrant population/locale. Specific topics will be forthcoming from the instructor. Students will be graded based on the powerpoint presentation, a 2-3 page double-spaced summary, and a bibliography submitted on the day of the presentation.. Depending on the size of the class, students may be encouraged to work in small groups. Adjustments in the length of the presentation and report will be made accordingly. This assignment will be worth 20% of the course grade. These assignments will be scheduled throughout the semester.

Research Papers

Students will submit a research paper on a subject of their choosing relevant to the study of U.S. immigration politics/policy. All research papers must be approved by the instructor. Topics will be suggested that complement the weekly course topics and the course readings. Research papers should be 8-10 double-spaced pages in length, well documented and with properly formatted citations of all sources used. Student papers will be due at the end of the semester on **Tuesday, May 6**. The research paper will count as 30% of the overall course grade. More detailed instructions will be forthcoming.

A Note on Class Participation: Class participation is an important aspect of a successful course. Regular participation in class discussion -- quality as opposed to quantity -- will be noted. Special note will be given to students who show a grasp of the course material in class discussion. In the end, class participation will be considered, especially in borderline grade decisions. The instructor reserves the right to reward exceptional class performance when assigning the overall course grade.

Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

A+	97-100
A	93-97
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82

C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

Special Needs Students

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request. If you need more information on the Americans with Disability Act, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at 277-5251.

Texts and Readings

Newton, Lina. 2008. *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant: The Politics of Immigration Reform*. New York: New York University Press. (ordered through UNM Bookstore)

Vicino, Thomas J. 2013. *Suburban Crossroads: The Fight for Local Control of Immigration Policy*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. Available as E-Book through UNM Libraries. A copy is also on 2-hour reserve at Zimmerman.

Required articles and book chapters will also be posted in a shared course Dropbox set up the first week of class. Please contact the course TA, Vickie Ybarra (vickie@ybarra.com), if you need assistance using Dropbox or have trouble accessing the required readings.

In addition to scholarly articles, students will be required to read news articles and policy reports issued by various think tanks and interest groups/advocacy organizations. These materials will be accessible either on-line or posted in the Dropbox.

Books on Reserve at Zimmerman Library: a number of books to be used in this course, either through select chapters or for student research, will be available at the Reserve Desk at Zimmerman Library. The intention is to provide access to students who seek to engage in additional reading and to consult with a broad array of scholarly literature for their research projects. Please do not abuse the reserve reading check-out; that is, do not check books out multiple times in a row. Allow for other students to have access to the material.

Course Schedule

This timeline is intended as a guide for this course. In general, Tuesday class meetings will be devoted to lecture and discussion of course readings. Thursdays will be reserved (mostly) for guest speakers, films and videos, and student presentations.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1 JANUARY 21/23

Introduction

Course Overview

Key Concepts and Understandings in the Study of Immigration and Immigrants

WEEK 2 JANUARY 28/30

Immigration Politics & Policy: Historical Background and Theoretical Approaches

Tichenor, Daniel J. 2002. *Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Table 1.1 Overview of Major U.S. Immigration Legislation and Chapter 2.

WEEK 3 FEBRUARY 4/6
Immigration Politics & Policy: Historical Background II
The Racialization of Immigrants and Immigration Policy
The Specific Case of Mexicans

Ngai, Mae M. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, Chapters 1 and 2.
Recommended: Ngai, Chapter 3.

WEEK 4 FEBRUARY 11/13
Transnational Migration: Roots of Immigration to the U.S.
Colonization and Contract Labor: India, Algeria, and the U.S.
The Specific Case of Mexicans: The Bracero Program

Golash-Boza, Tanya Maria. 2012. *Immigration Nation: Raids, Detentions, and Deportations in Post-9/11 America*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, Chapter 1.
Gonzalez, Gilbert. 2013. *Guest Workers or Colonized Labor? Mexican Labor Migration to the United States*. 2nd edition. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, Chapter 2.

WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 18/20
Contemporary Immigration: Demographic Patterns
Overview of Contemporary Politics

Current Reports on the Foreign Born Population in the U.S.
Newton, Lina. 2008. *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant: The Politics of Immigration Reform*. New York: New York University Press, Introduction and Chapter 1.

WEEK 6 FEBRUARY 25/27
Political Institutions and Policymaking: the U.S. Congress

Newton, Lina. 2008. *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant: The Politics of Immigration Reform*. New York: New York University Press, Chapters 2 and 3.

WEEK 7 MARCH 4/6
Congressional Politics, cont'd.

Newton, Lina. 2008. *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant: The Politics of Immigration Reform*. New York: New York University Press, Chapters 4, 5, and Conclusion.

WEEK 8 MARCH 11

Debates, Stalemate, Standoff: the 113th Congress
Reports on Senate and House bills.
Gonzales, Alfonso. 2014. *Reform Without Justice: Latino Migrant Politics and the Homeland Security State*. New York: Oxford University Press, selected chapters.

MARCH 13
IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM

WEEK 9 MARCH 18/20
NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10 MARCH 25/27
Presidential Power and the Executive Branch: Refugees, Asylees, and Others (DACA)

WEEK 11 APRIL 1/3
Public Opinion

Research reports and current surveys of various publics
Swain, Carol M., ed. 2007. *Debating Immigration*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 7. Recommended: Chapter 2.

WEEK 12 APRIL 8/10
Immigrants in the U.S.: Exclusion, Marginalization, or Integration?
Policymaking Actors: Parties, Interest Groups, Community Organizations

Wong, Janelle S. 2006. *Democracy's Promise: Immigrants & American Civic Institutions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, Chapters 1-4.

The Contemporary Interest Group Universe – selected groups

WEEK 13 APRIL 15/17
Immigrant Political Participation: Conventional and Oppositional Strategies

Gonzales, Alfonso. 2014. *Reform Without Justice: Latino Migrant Politics and the Homeland Security State*. New York: Oxford University Press, selected chapters.

WEEK 14 APRIL 22/24
The Context of Reception: Exclusion, Marginalization, or Integration?

Fraga, Luis, et al. 2010. *Latino Lives in America: Making It Home*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, Chapters 5 & 6.
Vicino, Thomas J. 2013. *Suburban Crossroads: The Fight for Local Control of Immigration Policy*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, Chapters 1-3.

WEEK 15 APRIL 29/MAY 1
State and Local Policymaking

Vicino, Thomas J. 2013. *Suburban Crossroads: The Fight for Local Control of Immigration Policy*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, Chapters 4-6.

WEEK 16 MAY 6
Conclusion: Future Scenarios
Vicino, Ch. 7 *****Research Papers Due Today**

MAY 8
Review for Final Exam
FINAL EXAMINATION: THURSDAY, MAY 15, 10AM TO 12 NOON.