

THE POLITICS OF IMMIGRATION: RACE, RIGHTS, & ACTIVISM

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POLS 335, TTR 10:50-12:05pm, STR 239

Course Description:

This reading intensive course is designed to provide students with a *critical* introduction to the “Politics of Immigration.” The class will begin with a review of some of the mainstream and alternative explanations (from colonization to neoliberal economic restructuring) experts have proposed as some of the root-causes and initiating forces behind international migration. We will subsequently turn our attention to the dynamics of immigration policymaking and examine how race, gender, sexuality, and class impact and are impacted by immigration laws. The course will then shift focus and take a close look at some of the most contentious topics related to the issue of immigration, such as: the role of immigrant workers in the U.S. economy, cultural assimilation, undocumented immigration, border militarization, nativism, and the various forms of political participation (from voting to activism) that immigrants engage in. We will conclude the semester with an examination of the relationship between Catholic social teaching, immigration, and social justice.

Coursework Requirements and Percent of Final Grade:

- 1) Attendance & Participation - **20%**
(Includes weekly reflection questions, participation in class discussions, and presentation)
- 2) Midterm – **25%**
- 3) Final - **20%**
- 4) Research Paper - **35%**

Required Texts:

- 1) Deepa Fernandes. *Targeted: Homeland Security and the Business of Immigration*.
- 2) Kevin R. Johnson. *The “Huddled Masses” Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*.
- 3) Aviva Chomsky. *“They Take Our Jobs!” and 20 Other Myths About Immigration*.
- 4) Douglas Mass. *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration*.
- 5) Lisa Marie Cacho. *Social Death: Racialized Rightlessness and the Criminalization of the Unprotected*.

ATTENDANCE

Weekly class attendance is mandatory to pass this course. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence per semester without the loss of any points. Absences due to illness (documented by a note from the LMU Student Health Center or a private physician) or participation in a LMU Sports related game or match (with documentation from your coach), and the observation of religious holidays are excused absences. Absences over the one unexcused absences will lower your grade. Upon the fourth absence (including the one free absence), the student must speak to the professor regarding their likelihood of passing the course. If you become ill or have some other emergency and cannot turn in an assignment on time or take an exam on the scheduled day, you must notify the professor ahead of time. ***Unless needed for medical reasons, students will NOT be allowed to use laptops, cell phones, iPads, iPods, etc. in class. Students found using their cell phones/texting during class will be asked to leave and be marked absent for the day.***

RESPECT AND CLASS DISCUSSION RULES

Every student brings a different perspective to the classroom and the variety of viewpoints expressed must always be respected; we all reserve the right to respectfully disagree with one another. Discriminatory comments of any kind will not be tolerated. As an LMU Lion, by the Lion's code, you are pledged to join the discourse of the academy with honesty of voice and integrity of scholarship and to show respect for staff, professors, and other students.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Academic dishonesty will be treated as an extremely serious matter. Proven cheating or plagiarism of any kind may result in automatic failure of the course, and will be referred to the University for further disciplinary action. It is never permissible to turn in any work that has been copied from another student or copied from a source (including anything found on the Internet) without properly acknowledging the source. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the "LMU Honor Code and Process" which appears in the LMU Bulletin.

ACCOMMODATION

Americans with Disabilities Act: Students with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (physical, learning, or psychological) needing academic accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office (Daum Hall Room 224, 310-338-4535) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit <http://www.lmu.edu/dss> for additional information.

****This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion****

In-Class Presentations & Final Paper

In-Class Presentations

Presenters

Every Thursday a group of at least two students will serve as “experts” on the week’s readings by leading class discussion. Presenters will *not* simply summarize the “main points” of the articles/chapters assigned. Presenters must critically assess what evidence is used to establish the claims the authors make, the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments, whether the presenters agree or disagree with them (and why), how they relate to the other assigned readings and lectures, etc. *Every student must present at least once during the semester.*

Non-Presenters

Students *not* leading the week’s discussion **must submit 3 questions related to the readings by 8pm on the Wednesday before discussion** and be ready for the discussants and professor to call on them to ask their questions and give their opinions about the readings.

Research Paper (details to be discussed in class)

15 Page Research Paper Due on December 9th

Students are expected to write a 15-page research paper on any topic (with the professor’s approval) related to the politics of immigration. We will discuss what is expected from the research paper throughout the quarter. Students must settle on a topic by the 4th week of class.

General (Im)Migration Data Sources

Department of Homeland Security- www.dhs.gov

Migration Policy Institute (MPI)- www.migrationpolicy.org

Pew Hispanic Center- <http://pewhispanic.org/>

National Anti-Immigration/Immigrant Organizations

Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)- <http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer>

Center for Immigration Studies- <http://www.cis.org/>

American Patrol- <http://www.americanpatrol.com/>

Zero Population Growth (ZPG)- <http://www.populationconnection.org/site/PageServer>

Americans for Legal Immigration (ALIPAC)- <http://www.alipac.us/>

Minuteman Civil Defense Corps- <http://www.minutemanhq.com/>

Minuteman Project- <http://www.minutemanproject.com/>

National Pro-Immigration/Immigrant Organizations

National Day Laborer Organizing Network- <http://www.ndlon.org/en/>

National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (NNIRR)- <http://www.nnirr.org/>

National Immigration Forum- <http://www.immigrationforum.org/>

Essential Workers Immigration Coalition- <http://www.ewic.org/>

Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)- <http://standing-firm.com/>

Immigration Policy Center- <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/>

America's Voice- <http://americasvoiceonline.org/>

Immigration Works USA- <http://www.immigrationworksusa.org/index.php?p=40>

Detention Watch Network- www.detentionwatchnetwork.org

INTRODUCTION

Week 1/Aug. 27 -- Introduction to the Course

Documentary: "Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America"

Week 2/Sept. 3 – **Lecture: Pushed, Pulled, or Hooked? The Root-Causes of International Migration**

Readings:

- Massey- Chapters 3- "System Assembly: A History of Mexico-U.S. Migration." *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration.*
- Massey- Chapters 4- "System Specifications: Empirical Parameters and Constants in the U.S.-Mexican Immigration System, 1965 to 1985." *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration.*
- Massey- Chapters 5- "A Wrench in the Works: U.S. Immigration Policies After 1986." *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration.*
- Massey- Chapters 6- "Breakdown: Failure in the Post-1986 U.S. Immigration System." *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration.*

Week 3/Sept 10 – **Lecture: A Nation By Design: Immigration Policy as Social Engineering**

Readings:

- Johnson- Chapter 1- "Immigration and Civil Rights in the United States." *The "Huddled Masses" Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*
- Johnson- Chapter 2- "Exclusion and Deportation of Racial Minorities." *The "Huddled Masses" Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*
- Johnson- Chapter 3- "Exclusion and Deportation of Political Undesirables." *The "Huddled Masses" Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*
- Johnson- Chapter 6- "The Marginalization of Women Under the Immigration and Nationality Laws" *The "Huddled Masses" Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*

- Johnson-Chapter 7- “Exclusion and Deportation of Lesbians and Gay Men.” *The “Huddled Masses” Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*

MAJOR ISSUES & POLICY DEBATES- Part I

Week 4/Sept 17 – Lecture: From Deportation Nation to Border Militarization: Immigration Enforcement Measures

Readings:

- Kanstroom- “The Goals of Deportation: Border Control, Social Control, or ‘Out of Sight Out of Mind.’”
- Nevins- Chapter 7- “The Effects and Significance of the Bounding of the United States.” *Operation Gatekeeper and Beyond: The War on “Illegals” and the Remaking of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary.*
- Fernandes- Chapter 1- “The Border Crackdown.” *Targeted: Homeland Security and the Business of Immigration.*
- Fernandes- Chapter 5- “The Immigration-Industrial Complex: Booming Business at the Expense of Immigrant Rights?” *Targeted: Homeland Security and the Business of Immigration.*
- Brotherton- “Exiling New Yorkers.” *Keeping Out the Other: A Critical Introduction to Immigration Enforcement Today.*

Week 5/Sept. 24 – Lecture: Denaturalizing “Illegality”: How White Illegals Got Multiple Amnesties and Brown People Without Papers Became Criminal Aliens

Paper Proposals Due

Readings:

- Guskin and Wilson- Chapter 4- “Why Can’t They Just ‘Get Legal?’” *The Politics of Immigration: Questions and Answers.*
- Bibler Coutin. “Chapter 2: Illegality and the Spaces of Nonexistence.” *Legalizing Moves: Salvadoran Immigrants’ Struggle for U.S. Residency.*

- Nevins- “Chapter 5: The Ideological Roots of the Illegal as Threat and the Boundary as Protector.” *Operation Gatekeeper and Beyond: The War on “Illegals” and the Remaking of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary*.
- Spener- “Global Apartheid, *Coyotaje*, and the Discourse of Clandestine Migration: Distinctions Between Personal, Structural, and Cultural Violence.” *Migration and Development*. Vol. 10, 2008.
- Sharma- “White Nationalism, Illegality and Imperialism: Border Controls as Ideology.” *(En)Gendering the War on Terror*.

***Week 6/Oct. 1 – In-Class Review on Tuesday, *MIDTERM* Exam on Thursday**

Week 7/Oct. 8 -- How the Politics of Immigration is Lived:

Documentary: “Farmingville: Welcome to the Suburbs, Home of the New Border Wars”

MAJOR ISSUES & POLICY DEBATES- Part II

Week 8/Oct. 15 – Lecture: Immigrant Labor for U.S. Consumption: Formal and Informal Immigrant Workers in the U.S. Economy

Readings:

- Chomsky-Part One- “Immigrants and the Economy.” “*The Take Our Jobs” and 20 Other Myths About Immigration*.
- Milkman- Chapter 3- “Turning the Clock Back: Anti-Union Reaction, the Return of the Sweatshop, and the New Immigration.” *L.A. Story: Immigrant Workers and the Future of the U.S. Labor Movement*. [Garment, Construction, Trucking, and Service Workers]
- Hondagneu-Sotelo- Chapter 1- “New World Domestic Order.” *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence*. [Nannies and Maids]
- Gordon- Chapter 1- “The New Sweatshops.” *Suburban Sweatshops: The Fight for Immigrant Rights*. [Day Laborers]

- Mathew- Chapters 3- “The Age of Greed, or What’s Neoliberalism Got to Do with It?” *Taxi! Cabs and Capitalism in New York City*. [Taxi Drivers]

Week 9/Oct. 22 – Lecture: American = White? Assimilation and its Discontents

Readings:

- Chomsky- “Myth 10. The United States is a melting pot that has always welcomed immigrants from all over the world.” *“The Take Our Jobs” and 20 Other Myths About Immigration*.
- Chomsky- “Myth 11. Since we are all the descendents of immigrants here, we all start on equal footing.” *“The Take Our Jobs” and 20 Other Myths About Immigration*.
- Blauner- Chapter 4- “Colonized and Immigrant Minorities.” *Still the Big News: Racial Oppression in America*.
- Huntington- “The Hispanic Challenge.” *Foreign Policy*. No. 141. Mar-Apr. 2004.

Week 10/Oct. 29 – Lecture: Racialized Nativism & the Modern Anti-Immigrant Movement

Readings:

- Fernandes – Chapter 6 “How White Supremacists Are Writing Immigration Policy and Democrats Are Asleep at the Wheel.” *Targeted*.
- Cacho – Chapter 1 “White Entitlement and Other People’s Crimes.” *Social Death*.
- Cacho – Chapter 2 “Beyond Ethical Obligation.” *Social Death*.
- Cacho – Chapter 3 “Grafting Terror onto Illegality.” *Social Death*.
- Cacho – Chapter 4 “Immigrant Rights versus Civil Rights.” *Social Death*.

Week 11/Nov. 5 – Lecture: *Ilegal y Que?! Immigrant Activism and Political Participation*

Readings:

- Gonzales. “The 2006 Mega Marchas in Greater Los Angeles: Counterhegemonic moment and the future of El Migrante Struggle.” *Latino Studies*.

- Poo and Tang. “Center Stage: Domestic Workers Organizing in a Global City.” *The New Urban Immigrant Workforce*.
- Das Gupta. “Subverting Seduction: Queer Organizations.” *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics*.
- Nicholls. “Making Undocumented Immigrants into a Legitimate Political Subject: Theoretical Observations from the United States and France.”

Week 12/Nov. 12 – Border Battles in Action

Documentary: “Walking The Line”

Week 13/Nov. 19 – Lecture: What Would Jesus Do? Catholic Social Teaching & Im/Migration

- Hondagneu-Sotelo. "Religion and a Standpoint Theory of Immigrant Social Justice."
- Justice for Immigrants Campaign. “Catholic Social Teaching and Migration.”
- Yuengert. “Catholic Social Teaching on the Economics of Immigration.”
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and *Conferencia de Episcopado Mexicano*. “Strangers No Longer On The Journey of Hope.” <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/strangers-no-longer-together-on-the-journey-of-hope.cfm>

Week 14/ Nov. 26 – Paper Presentations Part I

Week 15/ Dec. 5 – Paper Presentations Part II

FINALS Week/ Dec. 10 – In-Class Exam on Tuesday at 11am.