

Sociology 1175: Immigration and the Transformation of American Society

Monday & Wednesday 9:00-10:15AM
William James Hall B1 (Basement)

Fall 2018

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Course Description:

More than one in four residents of the United States is an immigrant or the child of an immigrant. The arrival of these newcomers affects the cultural, economic, political and social dynamics of our country and the successful integration of these immigrants is key to our success as a society. Currently, the topic of immigration is a political lightning rod—with strong feelings and beliefs on both sides of this complex issue. Since immigration shows no signs of slowing down—in the United States or in many other countries of the world—the causes, consequences and repercussions of immigration will be one of the most important topics of the 21st century.

We begin the class by addressing the question of whether we should have borders and how much we should limit immigration. Next, we examine why people move and the policies that let some people in while keeping others out. What are the principles of immigration policy and how did we end up with the policies we have now? We pay special attention to the growth of undocumented immigrants, to their experiences in the U.S. and to the contentious politics surrounding them. We examine what determines attitudes towards immigrants among natives,

both now and in the past. We then consider the process by which foreign “outsiders” become integrated (or not) in their new home. What does it mean to become an American? How do sociologists theorize about the integration process? We will examine the experiences of the immigrants themselves, and their children, the second generation. We also look at the challenges immigrants bring to American society—post 9/11 concerns about security, questions about democracy and language use, debates about tolerance and multiculturalism, and questions of asylum and refugee admissions. The course is open to anyone with an interest in immigration and a willingness to examine issues that raise difficult moral, political and academic questions. There are no prerequisites and first year students are most welcome.

Because we deal with current immigration policy and it is a subject of much debate and change currently, this syllabus will probably change over the course of the semester.

Required Readings:

Readings include articles, book chapters and reports and they are all available through the course web page. There are no books to purchase for the course although if you want some recommendations of books, I will provide some.

Course Requirements:

Attend the lectures and use your computer to take notes, but not to surf the web.

I will not take attendance or ban computers. You are adults. But please be aware that research shows that you do not learn as much if you multitask and I find it rude when I work hard to teach and people are doing something else online. If you cannot keep yourself from shopping, checking Instagram and facebook or anything else you do online, leave your computer at home.

A midterm, and four short papers of about 4-6 pages in length: (80%)

- A midterm exam (20%) (October 22)
- A visit and observation of immigration court in downtown Boston, OR a visit to an immigrant serving institution. (15%) (due by the end of the semester, your visit to court will be scheduled)
- Memo to a member of congress or senator advising a stance on a contentious issue related to immigration, based in research evidence (15%) (due November 5)
- An interview with an immigrant and analysis of the interview 15% (due November 30)
- An analysis of a video or novel about immigrant life in terms of the theories of the class (15%) (due December 10)

Section Participation (20%)

- Active participation, showing evidence that you have completed all the readings. There may also be graded section activities.

Course Policies:

- Assignments should always be submitted **ONLINE** on the day they are due to the folder on the website. They are due on the date indicated. Late papers will receive a grade reduction for every day they are late.

Academic Integrity

Written Assignments

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work and I encourage you to discuss the assignments and the readings with one another. For assignments in this course, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

Team projects will be identified and special instructions about collaboration clearly described in the assignment guidelines.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

CLASS DATE	READING ASSIGNMENTS IMPORTANT DUE DATES
WEEK 1 Wednesday September 5	Introduction to the Course Reading: Gibbons, Ann. (2017) "Busting Myths of Origin" <i>Science Magazine</i> vol 356 Issue 6339 May 19, 2017. pp. 678-681.

<p>WEEK 2</p> <p>Monday September 10</p> <p>Wednesday September 12</p>	<p>How does American immigration work? What are the causes of current sharp differences on immigration?</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/how-united-states-immigration-system-works</p> <p>https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/asylum-united-states</p> <p>Bergeron, Claire (2013) "Going to the Back of the Line: A Primer on Lines, Visa Categories and Wait Times" Migration Policy Institute Issue Brief No. 1 March https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/going-back-line-primer-lines-visa-categories-and-wait-times</p> <p>Zolberg, A. (2007). "Immigration Control Policy: Law and Implementation." In Waters, M. & Ueda, R. (Eds.) <i>The New Americans: A Guide to Immigration Since 1965</i>, pp. 29-42. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Jacobson, Louis. 2017. "Is Being in the United States Unlawfully a Crime?" http://www.politifact.com/florida/statements/2017/mar/15/florida-conference-catholic-bishops/being-united-states-unlawfully-crime/</p> <p>Maureen Craig and Jennifer Richeson. 2017. "Information about the U.S. racial demographic shift triggers concerns about anti-White discrimination among the prospective White "minority"" PLOS one. September 27, 2017. http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0185389</p>
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<p>WEEK 3</p> <p>Monday September 17</p> <p>Wednesday September 19</p>	<p>Is it Ethical to Have a Border that Keeps People from Moving? Refugees in Worldwide Perspective</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Carens, Joseph H. 1987. Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders. <i>The Review of Politics</i> 49(2): 251-73.</p> <p>Clemens, Michael A. 2011. "Economics and Emigration: Trillion Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk?" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 25(3) Summer: 83-106.</p> <p>Zolberg, Aristide 2012 "Why Not the Whole World? Ethical Dilemmas of Immigration Policy." <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> 56(9): 1204-1222.</p> <p>Miller, David 2014 "Immigration: The Case for Limits" in Andrew I. Cohen and Christopher Heath Wellman, eds. <i>Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics</i> Wiley Blackwell.</p> <p>Beinart, Peter 2017 "How the Democrats Lost Their Way on Immigration" <i>The Atlantic Magazine</i> July/August, https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/07/the-democrats-immigration-mistake/528678/</p>
<p>WEEK 4</p> <p>Monday September 24</p> <p>Wednesday September 26</p>	<p>Explaining International Migration: Why do People Move? Theoretical Approaches</p> <p>Guest Lecture: Professor Jocelyn Viterna Conditions in Central America</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Massey, Douglas S. 1999. "Why Does Immigration Occur? A Theoretical Synthesis." Pp. 34-52 in <i>The Handbook of International Migration: The American Experience</i>, edited by C. Hirschman, P. Kasinitz and J. DeWind. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.</p> <p>Zolberg, Aristide 1999 "Matters of State: Theorizing Immigration Policy" pp. 71-93 in Charles Hirschman, Philip Kasinitz and Josh DeWind, eds. <i>The Handbook of International Migration: The American Experience</i>. NY: Russell Sage Foundation.</p> <p>Garip, Filiz 2012. "Discovering Diverse Mechanisms of Migration: the Mexico-U.S. Stream 1970-2000" <i>Population and Development Review</i></p>

	Kennedy, Elizabeth. 2014. "No Childhood Here: Why Central American Children are Fleeing Their Homes" American Immigration Council Report July 2014.
<p>WEEK 5</p> <p>Monday October 1</p> <p>Wednesday October 3</p>	<p>Overview of U.S. Immigration History, Law and Policy 1790 to 1924</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Ngai, Mae. 2003. "The Strange Career of the Illegal Alien: Immigration Restriction and Deportation Policy in the United States", 1921-1965. 21 <i>Law & History Review</i> 69: 1-32.</p> <p>David Fitzgerald and David Cook Martin. <i>Culling the Masses: the Democratic Origins of Racist Immigration Policy in the Americas</i> Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 2014 Chapter 3.</p> <p>Boissoneault, Lorraine. 2017. "How the 19th Century Know Nothing Party Reshaped American Politics." <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i> January 26, 2017. https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/immigrants-conspiracies-and-secret-society-launched-american-nativism-180961915/</p> <p>Paul A. Kramer. 2017. "Not Who We Are." <i>Slate</i> February 3, 2017. http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/history/2017/02/trumps_muslim_ban_and_the_long_history_of_american_nativism.html</p>
<p>WEEK 6</p> <p>Monday October 1</p> <p>Wednesday October 3</p>	<p>Immigration Law Since 1996</p> <p>Douglas Massey, Jorge Durand, and Karen A. Pren. 2016. "Why Border Enforcement Backfired." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 121(5) March: 1557-1600.</p> <p>Mary C. Waters and Marisa Gerstein Pineau, eds. 2016. <i>The Integration of Immigrants into American Society</i> Washington D.C.: National Academy Press, selected pages.</p> <p>Jeffrey Sessions Remarks to the Executive Office for Immigration Review. U.S. Department of Justice. October 12, 2017. https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-jeff-sessions-delivers-remarks-executive-office-immigration-review</p>

<p>WEEK 7</p> <p>Monday October 15</p> <p>Wednesday October 17</p>	<p>Undocumented Immigration, Temporary Protected Status, Dreamers</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Holmes, Seth. 2013. "Worth Risking Your Life?" Chapter 1 in <i>Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 1-29.</p> <p>Roberto Gonzalez. 2011. "Learning to be Illegal: Undocumented Youth and Shifting Legal Contexts in the Transition to Adulthood." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 76(4): 601-619.</p> <p>Carola Suarez-Orozco, Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Robert Teranishi, and Marcelo Suarez-Orozco. 2011. "Growing Up In the Shadows: The Developmental Implications of Unauthorized Status" <i>Harvard Educational Review</i> 81(3) Fall: 438-472.</p> <p>Jens Hainmueller et.al. 2017. "Protecting Unauthorized Immigrant Mothers Improves Their Children's Mental Health." <i>Science</i> 357 (September 8): 1041-1044.</p> <p>Cybelle Fox <i>Three Worlds of Relief: Race, Immigration and the American Welfare State from the Progressive Era to the New Deal</i> Princeton: Princeton University Press. 2012. Chapters 6 and 7.</p>
<p>WEEK 8</p> <p>Monday October 22</p> <p>Wednesday October 24</p>	<p>MONDAY OCTOBER 22 MIDTERM EXAM</p> <p>The Border</p> <p>Begley, Josh 2016. Video: Best of Luck With the Wall https://theintercept.com/2016/10/26/best-of-luck-with-the-wall/</p> <p>Guerrero, Jean and Leonardo Castaneda. 2017. "America's Wall: Decades Long Struggle to Secure U.S. Mexico Border" November 12, 2017. Investigative Newsource, San Diego https://border.inewsource.org/</p> <p>D.K. 2014. "Barack Obama: The Border is not the Problem" <i>The Economist</i> https://www.economist.com/blogs/democracyinamerica/2014/11/barack-obama-and-immigration</p>

	<p>Rosenblum, Marc R. and Faye Hipsman. 2016. "Border Metrics: How to Effectively Measure Border Security and Immigration Control" Migration Policy Institute. January.</p> <p>American Civil Liberties Union. "The Constitution in the 100 Mile Border Zone" https://www.aclu.org/other/constitution-100-mile-border-zone</p>
<p>WEEK 9</p> <p>Monday October 29 Wednesday October 31</p>	<p>Enforcement Policy: Detention Deportation Crimmigration</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Ewing, Walter A., Daniel E. Martinez, and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 2015. "The Criminalization of Immigration in the United States" Report of the American Immigration Council. July. https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/criminalization-immigration-united-states</p> <p>Waters, Mary C. 2016 "Crime and Immigration: New Forms of Exclusion and Discrimination" <i>Issues in Science and Technology</i>, Fall: 29-38.</p> <p>Stillman, Sarah 2018. "When Deportation is a Death Sentence" <i>The New Yorker</i> January 15.</p> <p>O'Neil, Kevin 2010. "Hazelton and Beyond: Why Communities Try to Restrict Immigration." Migration Information Source Migration Policy Institute. November 1.</p>
<p>WEEK 10</p> <p>Monday November 5 Wednesday November 7</p>	<p>MONDAY November 5 Assignment 1: POLICY MEMO DUE</p> <p>Assimilation: Classic and Segmented Theories</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 1993. "The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants," <i>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 530: 74-96</p> <p>Alba and Nee, <i>Remaking the American Mainstream</i>. Chapters 1 and 2 (pages 1-66).</p> <p>Basch, Linda, Nina Glick Schiller, and Cristina Szanton Blanc. 1995. <i>From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational</i></p>

	Migration. <i>Anthropological Quarterly</i> 68(1): 48-63.
WEEK 11	Assimilation: Outcomes for Immigrants and their Children
Monday November 12	Readings:
Wednesday November 14	Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." <i>Foreign Policy</i> March/April: 30-45.
	Citrin, Jack, Amy Lerman, Michael Murakami and Kathryn Pearson. 2007. Testing Huntington: Is Hispanic Immigration a Threat to American Identity? <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 5: 31-48.
	Kasinitz, Philip, John H. Mollenkopf, Mary C. Waters and Jennifer Holdaway. 2008. <i>Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age</i> . Harvard University Press. Ch. 1, 5 and 11.
	Waters, Mary C. and Marisa Gerstein Pineau, eds. 2016. <i>The Integration of Immigrants into American Society</i> . Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press. (read the executive summary and skim the chapters). https://www.nap.edu/catalog/21746/the-integration-of-immigrants-into-american-society
	Blau, Francine and Christopher Mackie, eds. 2017. <i>The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration</i> . Washington D.C.: National Academies Press. (read the executive summary and skim the chapters)
WEEK 12	Race and the Second Generation
Monday November 19	Readings:
	Lee, Jennifer and Frank D. Bean. 2007. Reinventing the Color Line: Immigration and America's New Racial/Ethnic Divide. <i>Social Forces</i> 86:1-26.
	Tuan, Mia. 1999. Neither Real Americans nor Real Asians? Multigeneration Asian Ethnics Navigating the Terrain of Authenticity. <i>Qualitative Sociology</i> 22:105-125.
	Kasinitz et al. 2009. <i>Inheriting the City</i> . Chapter 10 pp. 300-341.

	<p>Marrow, Helen B. 2009. "New Destinations and the American Colour Line." <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 32(6): 1037-57.</p> <p>Jimenez, Tomas R. 2008. "Mexican Immigrant Replenishment and the Continuing Significance of Ethnicity and Race." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 113(6): 1527-67</p>
<p>WEEK 13</p> <p>Monday November 26</p> <p>Wednesday November 28</p>	<p>Political Assimilation and Citizenship</p> <p>FRIDAY November 30 Assignment 3: INTERVIEW PAPER DUE</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Schuck, Peter H. 2007. "Citizenship and Nationality Policy" pp. 43-55 in Mary C. Waters, Reed Ueda and Helen Marrow, eds. <i>The New Americans: A Guide to Immigration Since 1965</i>. Cambridge: Harvard University Press</p> <p>Bloemraad, Irene. 2011. "The Debate Over Multiculturalism: Philosophy, Politics, and Policy." Washington, DC: Migration Information Source. http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=854</p> <p>Bloemraad, Irene. 2012. <i>Being American / Becoming American: Birthright Citizenship, Inequality and Immigrants' Sense of Belonging. Studies in Law, Politics and Society.</i></p> <p>Gelbaum, Emily 2017. "Building a Second Wall: USCIS Backlogs Preventing Immigrants from Becoming Citizens" Report from the National Partnership for New Americans. http://partnershipfornewamericans.org/portfolio/npna-report-building-a-second-wall-uscis-backlogs-preventing-immigrants-from-becoming-citizens/</p> <p>Birthright Citizenship: https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/08/24/should-birthright-citizenship-be-abolished</p>
<p>WEEK 14</p>	<p>Immigration, Nativism, Public Opinion and the Rise of Trump</p>

<p>Monday December 3 Wednesday December 5</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Alba, Richard and Nancy Foner. 2017 “Immigration and the Geography of Polarization” <i>City and Community</i>.</p> <p>Lee, Tiane L. and Susan Fiske. 2006. “Not an outgroup, not yet an ingroup: Immigrants in the stereotype content model.” <i>International Journal of Intercultural Relations</i> 30: 751-768.</p> <p>Zoltan Hajnal and Michael U. Rivera “Immigration, Latinos and White Partisan Politics: The New Democratic Defection.” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 58(4) October: 773-789.</p>
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FINAL PAPER and Paper Number Two DUE: Monday December 10

**Assignment One
Due November 5**

Prepare a memo for a policy maker (President, Senator, Congress member) with your analysis of how American immigration policy can be improved. Pick one aspect of immigration policy that you think is broken and discuss how it works now, how it might be improved and what the intended and unintended consequences of your new policy might be. Be sure to discuss the reasons the current law or policy came into existence, how you might change it, and what the prospects for passing such a change are. Who is likely to support your new proposal and who is likely to oppose it? Why?

**Assignment Two
Due by the end of the semester.**

Observation of Immigration Court
OR
Observation of a Community Based Immigrant Institution

Detailed instructions will be handed out in class.

Assignment Three

Due Friday November 30

You will conduct an interview with an immigrant or second-generation person. Your interview should take between 45 and 90 minutes and should be recorded. You cannot interview another student in this class but you can interview family members if you would like. You will analyze your respondent's experiences given the theories and knowledge you have gained from the class. Detailed instructions will be handed out in class.

Assignment Four

Due Monday December 10

In this assignment, your primary charge is to answer the following question drawing on your newly-acquired sociological expertise: "Are Post-1965 Immigrants and their Descendants Assimilating?" In your response, you should identify, explain, and debate the major theories of immigrant assimilation and incorporation that we have covered in Part II of the course (e.g., classic assimilation theory, segmented assimilation theory, revised assimilation theory, and transnationalism). You should also draw on the quantitative and qualitative data presented in the assigned readings in order to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each of the theories when applied to the available empirical evidence. Finally, you should bring the information you see in these two videos into your analysis. That is, you should utilize the stories of the U.S.-born children of immigrants that you meet in these two videos as additional empirical "data" with which to craft and support the argument that you will make in this essay, and with which to refute any potential counterarguments to your claims. As you bring in these video "data", you might do well to ask yourself, "What would [classic assimilation theory, segmented assimilation theory, revised assimilation theory, and/or transnationalism] have to say about these children of immigrants, and about how and why they are becoming incorporated into U.S. labor market, society, culture, political life, and other institutions, etc.? Which theoretical perspective(s) do I see being most influential, and why?"

FILMS and NOVELS to be provided.