Overview

This course provides an introduction to contemporary immigration, with an emphasis on the American experience. The course reflects the need to examine immigration as a general social and economic process, as a personal experience that is both liberating and limiting, and as an enduring feature of American society. Issues of public policy are also addressed from a combined economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian perspective. Note that this is a core introductory course for the minor in immigration studies and is explicitly inter-disciplinary, covering anthropology, sociology, economics, history, and literature—and a little psychology and political science too.

Course work will include some lecture, much discussion, and a great deal of individual reading, analysis, and class presentation. There will also be weekly tasks—as noted in the schedule.

Course requirements

1. Two examinations—non-cumulative. Exams will be a mix of short answer and essays. **Make-up tests by prior arrangement only.**

2. Weekly task assignments (must be handed in – but a legible single page is fine).

3. A final paper (about 15 pages double-spaced).

4. Class participation generally.

Grading

25% for each of the two tests
15% for the weekly tasks
25% for the final paper
10% for class participation (general and paper presentation at the end)

DRC Note

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, you should see me and also contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.
Texts

Adler, *Yucatecans in Dallas* (any edition is okay)
Foner, *From Ellis Island to JFK*
Garcia, *Dreaming in Cuban*
Cornelius et al., *Controlling Immigration* (must be 2nd edition of 2004)
Long & Oxfeld, *Coming Home*

Reminders:  Tuesday, January 31 is the last day to drop a class with no penalty
February 27 – March 30 is selective withdrawal period

Schedule  Note: Reading and tasks are due by Monday of the indicated week

Week 1 (Jan 23 & 25)  Course introduction; the nature of migration

**Read:**  Cornelius, chapter 1

Week 2 (Jan 30 & Feb 1)  Kinds of migration; economic perspectives

**Read:**  Cornelius, chapters 2, 3, & 4

**Task 1:** Find something in the media on current immigration to the United States; describe and analyze.

Week 3 (Feb 6 & 8)  Transnational economic systems and migration policy

**Read:**  Cornelius, chapters 5, 8, and 10

**Task 2:** Find something comparative in the media on immigration in another country; describe and analyze.

Week 4 (Feb 13 & 15)  Transnational social fields: a more internal perspective

**Read:**  Garcia, first half

**Task 3:** Find basic data on who is coming to the United States. Why are they coming and why are they being let in?

Week 5 (Feb 20 & 22)  Comparing external and internal views of migration

**Read:**  Garcia, remainder

**Task 4:** Find some comments in the media on refugees. Assess them in terms of the experiences portrayed by Garcia.

Week 6 (Feb 27 & 29)  Ethnography and the lived experience of migration

**Read:**  Adler, first half

**Task 5:** Proposal for your paper is due.

Week 7 (Mar 5 & 7)  Immigrants as minorities; immigrants and minorities
Read: Adler, remainder

March 7
First examination

Week 8 (Mar 12 & 14) SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (Mar 19 & 21) Immigration in historical perspective

Read: Foner, first third
Task 6: Find some comments on migration by early American public figures (up to about 1820).

Week 10 (Mar 26 & 28) Home, work, and school

Read: Foner, second third
Task 7: Find some comments on migration from the late 19th or early 20th centuries.

Week 11 (Apr 2 & 4) Durability and change

Read: Foner, remainder
Task 8: Look for uses of the word “assimilation” (or other key “A” words) and analyze what is meant by the term.

Week 12 (Apr 9 & 11) Going home

Read: Long & Oxfeld, introduction, chapters 1, 2, & 4

Week 13 (Apr 16 & 18) Going home (continued)

Read: Long & Oxfeld, chapters 7, 9, & 10

Week 14 (Apr 23 & 25) Back to policy

Read: Cornelius, chapters 6, 9, & 11
Task 9: Browse the Immigration and Nationality Act. Identify two or three crucial (or just plain odd) features.

April 25 Second examination

Week 15 (Apr 30 & May 2) Paper presentations and final review

May 2 Final paper due

Note: Bring self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want the paper returned.