

## Immigration and Ethnicity

**Description:** Widely considered a wellspring for U.S. greatness, immigration has also been an abiding site of our deepest conflicts. The republican foundations of the United States with its promises of democracy and equality for all seem to strain against ever increasing numbers of immigrants from parts of the world barely conceived of by the Founding Fathers, much less as sources of new citizens. What is the breaking point for the assimilating powers of U.S. democracy and how much does national vitality rely upon continued influxes of a diversity of immigrants with their strenuous ambitions and resourcefulness? Today we remain embattled by such competing beliefs about how immigration shapes our nation's well-being and to what ends we should constrain whom we admit and in what numbers.

This course emphasizes the following themes: the changing population of the United States from colonial times; ethnic cultures, communities, and cuisines; ideologies concerning eligibility for citizenship and for restricting immigration; the development of immigration law as an aspect of sovereign authority; the entwining of immigration policy with international relations; and the evolution of institutions for immigration enforcement.

This course may be used to fulfill three hours of the U.S. history component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

This course also carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of American cultural experiences. A substantial portion of your grade stems from assignments concerning the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

**Texts/Readings:** \*main texts are on 2-hour reserve at PCL

\*Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life* (Harper Perennial, 2002 edition)

\*Ilan Stavans, ed. *Becoming Americans: Immigrants Tell Their Stories from Jamestown to Today* (Penguin 2009)

Supplemental readings are available on Canvas or through links to UT libraries

**Grade Distribution:** Final grades will be allocated as follows: A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 88-89; B 83-87; B- 80-82; C+ 78-79; C 73-77; C- 70-72 and so forth

Family Immigration Narrative: 8%; 2-page essay [You may choose to write about a friend's family]

Cerego map assignments: 7%

Midterm: 18% bluebook exam; short essay IDs

Final: 28% bluebook exam; short essay IDs

Attendance and class participation: 15%

Timeline report and presentation: 24%

### **Lecture and Reading Assignment Schedule (Subject to Change)**

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Revolutionary Origins

Week 3: Racial Irreconcilability

Week 4: The Civil War and Citizenship

Week 5: Foundations of Immigration Restriction

Week 6: Imperial America

Daniels Chapter 10; Stavans 188-253, Stavans 264-289; Excerpts from Ignacio et al ed., *The Forbidden Book* (T'boli

Week 7: Midterm

Week 8: The Closed Gate: National Origins Quotas

**SPRING BREAK March 16-24**

Week 9: Isolationist America

Week 10: World War II

Week 11: The Cold War and Racial Liberalism

Week 12: 1965 Immigration Act

Week 13: Crisis of Hemispheric Migration

Week 14: Immigration in the Age of IRCA

Week 15: After 9-11: The American War on Terror

May 7: Tiki-toki group 8; final review

Final exam: Tuesday, May 21, 9:00 am-12:00 noon. You will need two bluebooks.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic honesty is integral to UT's honor code. You are expected to complete your own work. If you have any questions about academic guidelines you may call my office, 5-9303, or email me. You should follow University guidelines regarding plagiarism and student conduct. For further information see:  
<http://uwc.fac.utexas.edu/~virgil/essay/research/plagiarism.html>