

Syllabus
Latino Workers in the U.S.
Labor Studies and Employment Relations
School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University
Spring 2018

Course Number: 37:575:307:01
Day and Time: Monday/Thursday 10:20 am – 11:40 am
Location: Lucy Stone Hall RM B267

Professor: Carmen Martino
carmenm@smlr.rutgers.edu
Cell: 609-513-3504

Office Hours: By appointment

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine Latino Workers in the U.S. with a focus on globalization, immigration, and the proliferation of low-wage work.

The topics we will explore include:

- Immigration theories and why people come.
- The history of migration and migration policy in the U.S.
- Current immigration laws in the U.S.
- The impact of globalization.
- How undocumented Latino immigrants manage and survive in the U.S.
- The employment and labor rights of immigrant workers.
- Racialized labor markets, subcontracting and low wage industries.
- Efforts to organize through unions and worker centers to improve wages and working conditions.
- Current policy initiatives/debates and fixing a broken system.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course we will:

- Know and understand fundamental social science, historical, and legal perspectives, theories, and concepts relating to immigration.
- Know the fundamental laws/institutions governing immigration.
- Understand how the global economy impacts immigration.
- Understand how our diverse backgrounds and cultures shape our experiences and perspectives on immigration.
- Improve our critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills.

III. EXPECTATIONS

Preparation

We will be covering a lot of ground in a very short time so please read and bring the assigned material to each class and take good notes.

Texting, talking on cell phones, emailing or using your computer for anything other than class related activities are all prohibited during class.

Communication

I will communicate with you via email on a weekly basis. Most of the time I will be providing you with updates, reminders, adjustments and/or reworking of the syllabus so please check your Rutgers email account regularly. Feel free to contact me via email with questions or concerns about the course. I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours.

When emailing always include “Latino Workers in the U.S.” in the subject line of your email.

IV. EVALUATION

Final grades will be based on the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Class Prep | (12pts) |
| 2. Class attendance/participation | (28pts) |
| 3. Mid-Term | (30pts) |
| 4. Final Exam | (30pts) |

Class Preparation

It is vitally important that you come to class ready to contribute to the discussion. With this in mind, everyone will be required to complete 1-page summaries (approximately 300 words) for each weekly reading assignment—including weeks 2-13. **Each summary is worth 1 point of your final grade (for a total of 12pts).** One-page summaries must be delivered to the Sakai drop box prior to the start of each class. (**Note: I will read them and keep in touch on an as needed basis.**)

Attendance/Participation

Fourteen points (14pts) of your final grade will be based on attendance so it is vitally important that you come to every class. Failure to sign the sign-in sheet will result in a loss of attendance points. You can only be excused for an illness, death in the family or other real emergencies. It’s important to note that being excused means that you will have an opportunity to make up the class by completing the summary and answering the discussion questions that were assigned for the class you missed. And just to clarify, in order to qualify for an excused absence you need to send me an email prior to the class, or in the case of an emergency, no more than 24 hours after the class.

Students who are late to class will lose attendance points so please be punctual. *Also*, if you leave early without permission you will be marked absent for the entire class.

Another fourteen points (14pts) of your final grade will be based on your in-class participation. Class sessions will include short lectures, small group discussions,

group/team based problem-solving and large group discussions. The expectation is that everyone will have an opportunity to actively participate in each class.

When participating in discussions use your experience and the information you get from the readings. When you take a position try to back it up with facts, data and examples. And above all, we must all be respectful and listen when others are speaking. You do not have to agree but you must give full attention and consideration to other points of view.

Mid-Term and Final Exams

The mid term and final will be worth 30pts each and they will be written take-home exams that will cover all course readings, lectures, discussion questions, films, documentaries, group/team based problem solving and large group discussions. You will have one week to complete the mid-term and one week to complete the final exam.

V. DISABILITY STATEMENT

This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirement for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of disability should refer to the Rutgers Office of Disability Services and then contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible.

VI. STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. This class will introduce an array of sometimes conflicting ideas and interpretations of U.S. history, immigration policy, etc. and all who partake in the course should feel encouraged to express their views in an open, civic forum.

VII. COURSE READINGS

All materials for this course will be available on the course Sakai website. Students can access the course Sakai site by following these directions:

- Go to <http://sakai.rutgers.edu>
- Click on Net ID Login or Email ID Login and enter your Rutgers Net ID and password or User ID and password.
- In the upper right hand corner click on "sites".
- Click on the tab: **37:575:307:01**
- Then click on "resources" on the menu on the left hand side of the page. You should see a folder for each week of class and inside each folder you will find all of the course readings.

VIII. SYLLABUS

PART I: IMMIGRATION HISTORY, THEORY AND WHY THEY COME

(WEEK 1) THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Read: **Sakai Folder:** The syllabus

In-Class: Introduction: Our expectations for the class and review of syllabus

(WEEK 2) MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND -THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH

TODAY'S LATINO IMMIGRANTS AND WHY THEY COME (THEORIES)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Douglas S. Massey, Jorge Durand, and Nolan J. Malone. Chapter 2:
“*Principles of Operation: Theories of International Migration*”; Beyond
Smoke and Mirrors, Mexican Immigration in An Era of Economic
Integration, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 2006.

In-Class: **Monday:** Why People Come and Why They Go
Thursday: Lecture/Discussion on theories of migration and why people
migrate.

(WEEK 3) MONDAY, JANUARY 29TH – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

THE HISTORY OF MIGRATION IN THE U.S. AND WHO GETS IN TODAY

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Douglas S. Massey, Jorge Durand, and Nolan J. Malone. Chapter 3:
“*System Assembly: A History of Mexico-U.S. Migration*” Beyond Smoke
and Mirrors, Mexican Immigration in An Era of Economic Integration,
Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 2006.

Leo R. Chavez, The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens and
the Nation, Chapter 1: *The Latino Threat Narrative*

Aviva Chomsky, Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal,
Chapter 1: *Where Did Illegality Come From*; Chapter 2: *Choosing to Be
Undocumented*

Mae M. Nagai, *How Grandma Got Legal*, Los Angeles Times, May 16,
2006.

In-Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on what we can learn from the history and
U.S. policy on immigration.
Thursday: *Documentary—The 800-Mile Wall*

PART II: GLOBAL CAPITALISM (NEO-LIBERALISM) AND MIGRATION

(WEEK 4) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

GLOBAL CAPITALISM AND MIGRATION

Read: **Sakai Folder:**

Jeffrey Kaye, Moving Millions: How Coyote Capitalism Fuels Global Immigration, Chapter 3, *Migrants in the Global Marketplace*, John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2010.

Ruth Gomber-Munoz, Labor and Legality, Chapter 2, *Why Is There Undocumented Migration?* Oxford University Press, 2011

David Bacon, Illegal People, Chapter 3, *Displacement and Migration*, Beacon Press, 2008.

In-Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on the mobility of capital and workers
Thursday: Documentary—The Other Side of Migration

(WEEK 5) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 1)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Carolina Bank Munoz, Transnational Tortillas, Chapter 1: *The Tortilla Behemoth and Global Production*, Chapter 2: *The Political Economy of Corn and Tortillas*, and Chapter 3: *A Tale of Two Countries: Policy and Globalization in the United States and Mexico*, ILR Press, 2008.

In-Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion of corporations, globalization and low wage work
Thursday: Lecture/Discussion of corporations, globalization and low wage work (continued).

(WEEK 6) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 2)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Carolina Bank Munoz, Transnational Tortillas, Chapter 4: *Hacienda CA*, and Chapter 5: *Hacienda BC*, ILR Press, 2008.

In-Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion—Tortillas made in the U.S.
Thursday: Lecture/Discussion—Tortillas made in the Mexico
Documentary: Maquilapolis (City of Factories)

(WEEK 7) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH – THURSDAY, MARCH 1ST
GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 3)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Richard McIntyre, Are Worker Rights Human Rights? **Chapter 3: *Not Only Nike Is Doing It***

NJ Star Ledger, The Invisible Workforce

In-Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion of New Brunswick's Low Wage Labor Market

Thursday: Review for midterm

Mid-Term Take Home Assignment

PART III: LOW WAGE WORK AND LIVING IN THE U.S.A.

(WEEK 8) MONDAY, MARCH 5TH – THURSDAY MARCH 8TH

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 3...CONTINUED)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Chain of Greed, How Walmart's Domestic Outsourcing Produces Everyday Low Wages and Poor Working Conditions for Warehouse Workers, National Employment Law Project, June 2012.

"Immigration and Wages: Methodological Advancements Confirm Modest Gains for Native Workers" Heidi Shierholz,
Economic Policy Institute (EPI) Issue Brief #255, February 4, 2010

"Immigration: The Effects on Low-Skilled and High-Skilled Native-Born Workers" Linda Levine, Congressional Research Service, 2009

In-Class: **Monday:** Vise News—Permanently Temporary: The Truth About Temp Labor
Thursday: Movie—A Better Life

Mid-Term Due

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 10TH – FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH

(WEEK 9) MONDAY, MARCH 19TH – THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND

IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN THE U.S (PART 1)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Ruth Gomber-Munoz, Labor and Legality, Chapter 3: *Jumping and Adjusting to Life Under the Radar*, and Chapter 4: *Friends, Networks and Households*, Oxford University Press, 2011.

In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on the role of social networks among immigrant workers
Thursday: Lecture/Discussion on the role of social networks among immigrant workers (continued).

(WEEK 10) MONDAY, MARCH 26TH – THURSDAY, MARCH 29TH

IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN THE U.S (PART 2)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**

Ruth Gomber-Munoz, Labor and Legality, Chapter 5: *Working Hard*, and Chapter 6: *Identity, Dignity and Esteem*, Oxford University Press, 2011

In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on the tradeoffs and compromises that undocumented workers make at work and in their communities

PART IV: WORKER RIGHTS, ORGANIZING AND THE CURRENT DEBATE

(WEEK 11) MONDAY, APRIL 2ND – THURSDAY APRIL 5TH

WORKER RIGHTS (PART 1)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Gross and Compa, Human Rights in Labor and Employment Relations: International and Domestic Perspectives, Chapter 1: *Takin' it to the Man: Human Rights at the American Workplace*, Labor and Employment Association, 2009.

Iced Out: How Workplace Enforcement has interfered with Workers' Rights, National Employment Law Project and the AFL-CIO

In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on worker rights
Thursday: Lecture/Discussion on worker rights (continued)

(WEEK 12) MONDAY, APRIL 9TH – THURSDAY APRIL 12TH

WORKER RIGHTS (PART 2)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Immanuel Ness, Immigrants, Unions, and the New U.S. Labor Movement, Chapters 2 and 3: *Unions and Immigrant Worker Organizing: New Models for New Workers*, Temple University Press, 2005

In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on unions and organizing immigrants in the U.S.
Thursday: Documentary—Made in L.A.

(WEEK 13) MONDAY, APRIL 16TH – THURSDAY APRIL 19TH

ORGANIZING IMMIGRANTS (UNIONS AND WORKER CENTERS)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Fine, Janice “Worker Centers: Entering a New Stage of Growth and Development” *New Labor Forum* Fall 2011.

In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on worker centers, joint projects with unions and New Labor.
Thursday: Documentary—The Hand That Feeds

(WEEK 14) MONDAY, APRIL 23RD – THURSDAY APRIL 26TH
CITIZENSHIP/IMMIGRATION REFORM (PART 1)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**
Judith Gans, Citizenship in the Context of Globalization, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, The University of Arizona, Immigration Policy Working Papers, 2005

Noah Pickus and Peter Skerry, *Good Neighbors and Good Citizens: Beyond the Legal-Illegal Immigration Debate*, Debating Immigration, Ed, Carol M. Swain, 2009

In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on how we define citizenship and immigration policy
Thursday: Documentary—9500 Liberty

(WEEK 15) MONDAY, APRIL 30TH
CITIZENSHIP/IMMIGRATION REFORM (PART 2)

Final Exam