Immigration Public Policy and Worker Rights
Spring 2013
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Professor Janice Fine
Tuesdays 3:55 -6:55 p.m.
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-3 or by appointment

Course Overview

Drawing upon political science, history, labor economics, sociology, public policy, geography, law and anthropology literatures, this course will explore the phenomenon of immigration to the United States in the twenty-first century with a focus on low wage work and public policy.

The topics we will explore include:

- Who are today’s immigrant workers and why do they come
- The history of migration to the U.S.
- The history of immigration policy in the U.S.
- Theories about why immigration occurs
- The impact of globalization on immigration
- How U.S. immigrant admissions works
- How immigrants make their way socially, economically and politically in their new communities
- The employment and labor rights of immigrant workers
- Efforts to organize through unions and worker centers to improve wages and working conditions
- Labor Market dynamics: Subcontracting in low wage immigrant-dominated industries
- The current federal, state and local immigration policy debates

Learning objectives:

- Identifying critical assumptions, methods, and types of evidence underlying theoretical arguments advanced by various authors
• Understanding different theoretical perspectives on immigration drawn from political science, economics, sociology, history, anthropology, geography and political theory
• Analyzing issues of social justice related to work across local and global contexts
• Conducting scholarly research
• Analyzing and synthesizing information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights
• Writing a research paper

Course Requirements

Reading:

This course meets once a week for three hours. However, I assign a week’s worth of reading.

Undergrads: You should budget your time to allow you to get through about 60 pages of reading a week and to answer the written discussion questions described below. Waiting until the night before might not be the best strategy for accomplishing this!

Graduate students: You should budget your time to allow you to get through about 90 pages of reading a week and to answer the written discussion questions described below. Again, waiting until the night before may not be the best strategy for accomplishing this.

Weekly Discussion Questions/ short essays

Undergraduates:

Each week, I will post and circulate questions on the readings. In order to help prepare for discussions during class, students must answer the discussion questions on the readings due each week. Homework cannot be handwritten. You have the option to skip TWO weeks of your choice but please don’t skip the reading! I will be grading the homework. Occasionally, I will throw out extra credit questions that you can hand in the following week. You must submit the homework on sakai the day it is due. I will accept homework for one week after its due date ONLY and will mark down your grade for every day it is late.

Graduates:

In order to help prepare for discussions during class, students must hand in discussion questions or short essays on the readings due each week. In the beginning of the semester, these questions will be the same for both grads and undergrads, but they will quickly change to synthetic questions or short essays for grads as we get further into the semester. Homework cannot be handwritten. You have the option to skip TWO weeks of your choice. I will be grading the homework: one check means you must re-do it, two checks
means it is acceptable, three checks means it is good and four means it is excellent. Occasionally, I will throw out extra credit questions that you can hand in the following week. **You must hand in or submit the homework on sakai the day it is due. I will accept homework for one week after its due date but will mark down your grade for every day it is late.**

Please bring a copy of your written homework answers with you on the day of class so that you can refer to them for our discussion in class.

**Papers**

Students will write two papers. The first is an **autobiographical essay**, so the focus is on conducting primary research on your own family history or someone close to you. The second is a **research paper** and must be properly written and cited.

**Paper #1:** February 19th The immigration story of your own family or that of a friend. 8-12 double-spaced pages. **I strongly prefer that you do your own family and only do a friend if you are absolutely unable to find any information about your own history.**

Questions to cover in your paper:

- **Basic background:**
  
  When did they come to the United States? Why did they come? How did they come? What federal immigrant or non-immigrant admissions policy enabled them to come? Where did they first arrive, where did they settle? Why did they choose that destination? Did they move again, where and why?

- **Employment history:**
  
  What was their occupation and employment in their country of origin? What jobs did they take up when they arrived in the United States? How did they get their jobs? Who were their employers? How were they treated? What were their employers’ attitudes toward immigrants (and what were their employers’ countries of origin)? How long did they stay at each job?

- **Associational History:**
  
  Did any organizations provide support when they arrived? Did they participate in any organizations after they arrived? Religious institutions, cultural, social, service, unions or political organizations?

- **Analysis:**
  
  Please discuss what you learned from this assignment and how it has affected the way you think about your own family history and about contemporary immigrants and immigration
issues. How would you compare your family’s immigration story to the experiences of contemporary immigrant families?

****Going from good to great: Is when you relate your family’s story to the larger story of the immigrant group they were a part of—in other words, finding some books or scholarly articles to paint the larger picture.

These papers will be presented (3-5 minute versions) in class on October 3rd and 10th. These presentations must be brief! Think about the most compelling nuggets of the story that you want to share. While it is absolutely fine for you to get up and read your paper to the class, you are also welcome to take creative approaches to the presentations. Please feel free to utilize any type of artistic media or other multimedia forms (plays, poetry, power-points, photographs, recordings, etc).

Paper #2:

- Proposal Due: March 5th
  - Draft Due: April 9th
  - Final Draft Due: May 7th, 5 pm

Research paper: 12-14 pages or longer, double-spaced (including footnotes and bibliography). Take some aspect of your immigration story or some other topic of interest to explore in greater depth.

I have posted some excellent student papers as well as my grading rubric to give you a sense of what I am looking for. I know that some of you have not written a research paper before and will have some nervousness about it but researching and writing a paper are extremely important skills to develop and I will provide a lot of guidance.

Here are some examples of papers students have written. Some students have looked at issues of language acquisition—are today’s immigrants taking longer to learn English, how do they compare to previous generations? I had one student who wanted to understand how the Chinese and Japanese went from being viewed as “coolies” and reviled to being seen as “model minorities.” Another looked into his family’s Irish roots and researched the causes and conditions surrounding Irish immigration to America and the strategies for building economic and political power the Irish developed once they arrived. Another student took the theories of immigration we had researched and tried to place her own family’s decision to emigrate in that context. Other students have read the literature and evaluated the different sides of the current immigration debate regarding one or two topics related to employment including: temporary worker programs, employer sanctions and workplace inspections, employment verification/national ID cards and the H-1B program.

You will do this assignment in three phases. First, on March 5th you will submit a written proposal about what you intend to explore in your paper. It need not be longer than a few paragraphs but should address the following question: If you are writing an
analytical\(^1\) or expository\(^2\) paper: What is your question or puzzle? If you are writing an argumentative\(^3\) paper: What is the claim you intend to make and how will you justify this claim? I very much welcome you to talk to me before or after class or to come and see me during my office hours to discuss the paper. Very often I can recommend readings and will pull articles right out of my files and books right off my shelves to help you. Second, you will submit a draft on April 9\(^{th}\). This deadline is firm. You must submit a draft paper. Third, you will submit a final draft on May 7\(^{th}\).

PLEASE NOTE: If you plagiarize, you will receive a failing grade for the paper and I will have to notify your dean.

Readings

All of the required articles as well as recommended articles are available on the web through Sakai. Go to the Rutgers sakai site. Click on your degree program. Click on course name. Logon: smlrStudent. Password: smlrStudent.

A small number of the readings are available online and the website is listed for those readings so you can retrieve them.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions/short essays</th>
<th>40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay One</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Two</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I fully understand that sometimes students experience serious problems over the course of the semester which can interfere with their ability to do the work. If you find yourself falling behind, please come and talk to me! It is much harder to be understanding if you simply disappear without an explanation and show up mid-semester or later on looking for help!

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory: we only meet once a week and if you miss class, you miss a lot of material. You should have no unexcused absences. After the first unexcused absence, you will be marked down one letter grade per unexcused absence. This means that if you were at a B+ you would receive a B. I am completely serious about this.

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\(^1\) An analytical paper breaks down the issue or an idea into its component parts, evaluates the issue or idea and presents this breakdown and evaluation to the audience.

\(^2\) An expository paper explains something to the audience.

\(^3\) An argumentative paper makes a claim about a topic and then justifies this claim with specific evidence.
If you have to miss class, please ask a classmate to bring you up to date on what you missed.

I expect all students to arrive promptly at the start of class. Students consistently arriving more than 10 minutes late will be penalized and possibly strangled.

**Breaks**

We will take a 10 minute break every class at 5:15 pm. I strongly encourage you to eat or drink something during this time! I do! Please don’t fall asleep—it is very distracting to me and the other students—if you feel yourself starting to nod off, go get some caffeine or take a walk and come back.

**Electronics**

I know that some of you take notes on your laptops, so I have never wanted to ban computers in my classroom, but I want your full attention. **No surfing the web. No checking Facebook. No looking at your cell phone.** It is distracting for you, for your neighbors, and the height of rudeness for me and for the outside speakers! If it turns out that too many of you are going online during class, I will institute a policy of no laptops in class.

**Week 1 – January 22, 2013**


**Introduction: Review of syllabus**

**Film: Farmingville**

**On-Line Resources:**


Week 2 – January 29, 2013

Gente y Cuentos:

Farmingville Discussion…

Review of Paper 1 Assignment

Immigrants in NJ

Dynamics of immigration: role of the state, market and civil society in migration, push and pull factors, state’s two sets of boundaries, typical components of immigration policy. Who are they? Why do they come?

Immigrant Admissions

Visa Exercise in groups of two

Handouts:

Reading for the Argument

State

Market Economy

Civil Society

Push and Pull Factors

Global Dynamics of Immigration

Typical Components of Immigration Policy

Required Readings:


**Week 3 – February 5, 2013**

**History of Immigration and Immigration Policy**

*Gente y Cuentos:*
Postville videos and discussion

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Masters Students**

In addition to the above:


**Week 4 – February 12, 2013**

updated as of 1/22/13
Discoverying Angel Island: The story behind the poems
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_EQY-0ThOM&feature=related

History of Immigration and Immigration Policy continued

Immigrant Admissions Exercise

Required Readings:


Week 5 – February 19, 2013

Immigration Theory and Globalization

Film: Uprooted: Refugees of the Global Economy
Small Groups: Why did they come?

Small Groups: Why does theory matter?

Handouts and posted on-line:

What is an Academic Paper?
Coming up with Your Topic
Writing: Considering Structure and Organization
Creating a Thesis Statement
Logic and Argument
A Few Tips When Writing Your Research Paper
Plagiarism Prevention and Avoidance
MLA Citation Style
Tichenor immigration timeline
**Required Readings:**


Bacon, David “Migration: A Product of Free Market Reforms” *Americas Program* Website, Posted on 12/1/2012  

**Week 6 – February 26, 2013**

**Role of the State and states and federal preemption**


**Class Debate: Immigrant Voting Rights**

**CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**Required Readings:**


2012 Supreme Court decision on Arizona law:  
Masters Students:

In addition to the above:


Week 7 – March 5, 2013

Structure of the Low wage Economy: Subcontracting in the low wage labor market

*SECOND PAPER PROPOSAL DUE (uploaded to sakai)*

*Gente y Cuentos:*

“Day Job” [http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org/watch/10/day_job](http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org/watch/10/day_job)

Guest Speakers: Kevin Brown, President, SEIU 32BJ New Jersey, janitors, security guards, Marien Casillas Pabillon Temp Towns in New Jersey and Warehouse Workers, Speaker from US Students Against Sweatshops, garment workers

Required Readings:


Week 8 – March 12, 2013

Employment Rights and Enforcement

Wage Theft Guest Speakers: Marien Casillas Pabillon, New Labor, Annette Bernhardt, National Employment Law Project

Required Readings:

Bobo, Kim *Wage Theft in America*, Chapters One, Two and Four

Development, National Employment Law Project, and UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment) 2009
http://nelp.3cdn.net/1797b93dd1ccdf9e7d_sdm6bc50n.pdf

Seton Hall University School of Law
http://www.scribd.com/full/34941666?access_key=key-1l5daigb05c2p3b4ri73


Handout in Class:


Week 9: March 26, 2013

Immigration and the US Labor Market

How has immigrant employment affected US-born workers?

Short videos:

The Case for Immigration with Giovanni Peri - UCTV Prime Vote
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWhnIy4obv8

Immigration and the European Union:

Ed Milliband: Immigration and an Economy which works for working people
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_T38I9TC61s

Unemployment soars in Paris banlieues
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnVUf3pKgaY

Greek Immigration Crisis Spreads to Universities
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxd551IEoXM

Required Readings:

updated as of 1/22/13


Recommended:

http://epi.3cdn.net/81ac21ed8143664879_wvm6bakyu.pdf


“Still An Hourglass? Immigrant Workers in Middle-Skilled Jobs” Randy Capps, Micahel Fix and Serena Yi-Ying Lin, Migration Policy Institute 2010.


Week 10: April 2, 2013

Worker Centers

** Class will meet at New Labor, 103 Bayard Street, 2nd floor New Brunswick

Film: Made In LA or Coalition of Immokalee Workers on NOW PBS

Required Reading:


Recommended:

Maulik, Monami “Our Movement is for the Long Haul: Ten Year’s of DRUM’s Community Organizing by Working-Class South Asian Migrants” Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts, Volume 4, Number 3, Summer 2011, pp. 455-467.

Week 11 – April 9, 2013

Unions and Immigration

SECOND PAPER DRAFTS DUE (SUBMIT ON SAKAI)

Required Readings:

Contemporary Organizing:


For more on this topic:

In addition to the above: choose 1:


Understanding the US Supreme Court’s Decision in Hoffman Plastic Compounds v. NLRB” Fact Sheet for Immigrant Worker Advocates, National Employment Law Project, 1-2.

Week 12 – April 16, 2013

Dilemmas of Policymaking: Overview
NOTE: The following weeks of readings could change. Please see sakai.

Required Readings: Choose 4


Pritchett, Lant, Let Their People Come: Breaking the Gridlock on Global Labor Mobility, Center for Global Development 1-12, 63-104.

Helpful Background information


Week 13 – April 23, 2013

Dilemmas of Policymaking: Immigration and Employment

Class Debate: Temporary Worker Programs
General:


Hazan, Miryam “Sustainable Jobs and Emigration from Mexico: the Meaning of Shared Responsibilities in Immigration Reform” paper prepared for the Service Employees International Union,


Temporary Workers choose 4


Additional Reading:


updated as of 1/22/13

*The H-1B debate*


Kaushal, Neeraj and Fix, Michael “The Contributions of High-Skilled Immigrants” Migration Policy Institute, *Insight*, July 2006, No. 16
http://www.migrationpolicy.org/ITFIAF/TF16_Kaushal.pdf

Hira, Ron “The Offshoring of Innovation”, *EPI Briefing Paper*, December 2008

**Week 14 – April 30, 2013**

**Dilemmas of Employment: Immigration and Employment, continued**

**Class Exercise: E-Verify**

*General reading* choose 1:


**Workplace Enforcement and Employer Sanctions** choose 4:


*Iced Out: How Workplace Enforcement has interfered with Workers’ Rights*, National Employment Law Project and the AFL-CIO
http://www.nelp.org/page/-/Justice/ICED_OUT.pdf?nocdn=1

Nguyen, Diem, [Matt Mayer and James Carafano, Ph.D.](https://www.heritage.org/immigration/), “Next Steps for Immigration Reform and Workplace Enforcement” published on *February 13, 2009* by *Heritage*

updated as of 1/22/13
Foundation, Backgrounder #2241

Constitution on ICE: A Report on Immigration Home Raid Operations


Employment Verification Choose two

SHRM-Backed Bill Launches Employment Verification Debate
http://www.workforce.com/section/00/article/26/37/71.php


Recommended Reading:


updated as of 1/22/13

Toolkit for Organizers: Social Security Administration’s (SSA) “No Match” Letters
National Immigration Law Center Basic Information Brief: SSA “No Match” Letters, April 2004

