Syllabus

Latino Workers in the U.S. (DRAFT)
Labor Studies and Employment Relations
School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University

Spring 2016

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@rci.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; and
- 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.

Participation
Class sessions will include short lectures, small group discussions and group exercises. The expectation is that everyone will actively participate in the 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, 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.

Texting, or talking on cell phones and emailing are all prohibited during class.

Attendance
Twenty-eight percent (28%) of your grade will be based on attendance and participation so it is vitally important to attend 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. 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.

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.

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 exercises 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, group exercises, etc. You will have one week to complete the mid-term and one week to complete the final exam.

**V. 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
- To log on, enter your Rutgers net ID and password in the upper right hand corner.
- Look for the tabs at the top of the next page.
- Click on the tab: 37:575:307:02
- Click on “resources” on the menu on the left hand side of the next page. You should see a folder for each week of class and inside each folder you will find all of the course readings.

**VI. SYLLABUS**

**PART I: IMMIGRATION HISTORY, THEORY AND WHY THEY COME**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016**

**COURSE INTRODUCTION**
Read: Sakai Folder: The syllabus

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

(WEEK 1) MONDAY, JANUARY 25TH - THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH
TODAY’S LATINO IMMIGRANTS AND WHY THEY COME (THEORIES)

Read: Sakai Folder:


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

(WEEK 2) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
THE HISTORY OF MIGRATION IN THE U.S. AND WHO GETS IN TODAY

Read: Sakai Folder:
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


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 3) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
GLOBAL CAPITALISM AND MIGRATION

Read: Sakai Folder:


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 4) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH
GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 1)

Read: Sakai Folder:

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

(WEEK 5) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH
GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 2)

Read: Sakai Folder:

In-Class: Monday: Lecture/Discussion—Tortillas made in the U.S.
Thursday: Lecture/Discussion—Tortillas made in the Mexico

(WEEK 6) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH – THURSDAY, MARCH 3RD
GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 3)

Read: Sakai Folder:

Jason Rowe, New Jersey's Supply Chain Pain: Warehouse & Logistics Work Under WalMart and Other Big Box Retailers, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2012

Martino and Bensman, American Prospect, Irregular Work in an Irregular Economy, 2008

In-Class:  Monday: Lecture/Discussion on Thursday: Vise News—Permanently Temporary: The Truth About Temp Labor

Mid-Term Take Home Assignment

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

(WEEK 7) MONDAY, MARCH 7TH – THURSDAY MARCH 10TH
WAGES AND WAGE THEFT

Read:  Sakai Folder:

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

To Be Announced: Article on Wage Theft


Mid-Term Due

(WEEK 8) MONDAY, MARCH 21ST – THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH
IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN THE U.S (PART 1)

Read:  Sakai Folder:
In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on the role of social networks among immigrant workers

**Thursday:**

(WEEK 9) **MONDAY, MARCH 28TH – THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST**

IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN THE U.S (PART II)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**


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

**Thursday:** Movie—*A Better Life*

PART IV: WORKER RIGHTS, ORGANIZNG AND THE CURRENT DEBATE

(WEEK 10) **MONDAY, APRIL 4TH – THURSDAY APRIL 7TH**

WORKER RIGHTS (PART 1)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**

Richard McIntyre, *Are Worker Rights Human Rights?* Chapter 4: *Are Worker Rights Human Rights (and does it matter if they are)?* University of Michigan Press, 2011


In Class: **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on worker rights

**Thursday:** Movie—*A Better Life*

(WEEK 11) **MONDAY, APRIL 11TH – THURSDAY APRIL 14TH**

WORKER RIGHTS (PART 2)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**


*Employment Rights Are Human Rights*, International Human Rights Law Clinic, American University, Washington College of Law, 2004

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

In Class:  **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on worker rights continued  **Thursday:** Documentary—Made in L.A.

**(WEEK 12) MONDAY, APRIL 18TH – THURSDAY APRIL 21ST**
ORGANIZING IMMIGRANTS (PART I: UNIONS)

Read:  **Sakai Folder:**

In Class:  **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on unions and organizing immigrants in the U.S.  **Thursday:** Documentary—The Hand That Feeds

**(WEEK 13) MONDAY, APRIL 25TH – THURSDAY APRIL 28TH**
ORGANIZING IMMIGRANTS (PART II: WORKER CENTERS)

Read:  **Sakai Folder:**

In Class:  **Monday:** Lecture/Discussion on worker centers, joint projects with unions and New Labor.  **Thursday:** Documentary—Food Chains

**(WEEK 14) MONDAY, MAY 2ND**
CITIZENSHIP/IMMIGRATION REFORM

Read:  **Sakai Folder:**


In Class:  Lecture/Discussion on how we define citizenship and immigration policy  **Documentary:** 9500 Liberty (*Time Permitting*)

**Final Exam**