IMMIGRANT WORKERS & THEIR RIGHTS (Spring 2011)

Instructor: James M. Cooney
Rutgers University, Labor Studies & Employment Relations Department
Course #37:575:320:01 (3 Credits)
Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. – 10:05 p.m.
Class Location: Hickman Hall, Room 205
Tel: 732-377-2034; E-mail: jacooney@rci.rutgers.edu or jmcnewjersey@hotmail.com
Office Hours: Before & after class or by appointment

Course Description: The course will examine the history of immigrant workers in the United States and the various legal protections available to those workers. Subjects will include overview of immigration, employment, and labor laws; debate over U.S. immigration policy; and review of selected court decisions affecting immigrant workers.

Grading Criteria:*
(1) Mid-term Exam (50%)
(2) Final Exam (50%)
(*While Attendance and Class Participation are not part of the grading criteria *per se*, the Instructor may adjust student grades based on attendance and in-class contributions)

Course Materials: Course reading materials will be made available on Sakai. The Instructor reserves the right to supplement, substitute, and/or modify the reading selections by way of handouts or otherwise.

Class Schedule:

JAN 19: -Course Overview

NO READINGS

JAN 26: -History & Overview of U.S. Immigration System
-U.S. Citizenship

READINGS:
-*A Brief Timeline of U.S. Policy on Immigration and Naturalization*
-*Nguyen v. INS*, 533 U.S. 53 (2001)

FEB 2: -Lawful Permanent Residency
-Work Authorization, Employment Verification

READINGS:
-*Legal Immigration to the U.S.* (American Immigration Lawyers Assoc)

FEB 9: -Non-Immigrant Visas

READINGS:
-*Nonimmigrant Admissions* (U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security 2009)
-*H-1B Worker Rights* (U.S. Visa Services 2009)
-*Tech Recruiting Clashes with Immigration Rules* (NY Times 04/12/2009)

FEB 16: -MOVIE: "Wetbacks"

NO READINGS

FEB 23: -Immigrant Agricultural Workers; United Farm Workers Movement

READINGS:
-*The Rise of the UFW* (United Farm Workers website)

MARCH 2: MID-TERM EXAM

MARCH 9: -Economic Impact of Immigration, Policymaking, Calls for Reform

READINGS:
-*Raising the Floor for American Workers: The Economic Benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform* (Hinojosa-Ojeda, Jan. 2010)
-*Myths & Facts in Immigration Debate* (AILA)

MARCH 16: NO CLASS (University Closed - Spring Break)

MARCH 23: -Anti-Discrimination Laws & Immigrant Workers

READINGS:
-*EEOC Compliance Manual Regarding National Origin Discrimination*

MARCH 30: -Labor Laws & Immigrant Workers

READINGS:
-*Hoffman Plastic Compounds v. NLRB*, 535 U.S. 137 (2002)
-*Serrano v. Underground Utilities Corp*. (N.J. App. Div. #A-0676-08)

APRIL 6: -MOVIE: "Bread & Roses"

NO READINGS

APRIL 13: -Labor Unions & Immigrant Workers

READINGS:
-*Labor Groups Reach Accord on Immigration* (NY Times 04/14/2009)
-*Immigration Enforcement & Raids* (National Immigration Law Center & National Immigration Project)

APRIL 20: -Day Laborers & Violence Against Immigrant Workers

READINGS:
-*Town Divides Over Law Aimed at Day Laborers* (NY Times 12/27/2009)
-*Drafting Day Labor Legislation: A Guide for Organizers and Advocates* (National Employment Law Project, February 2004)

APRIL 27: FINAL EXAM (not cumulative)

Date prepared: 11/04/2010