Syllabus

Latinos Workers in the U.S.
Labor Studies and Employment Relations
School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University
Fall 2016

Course Number: 37:575:307:02
Day and Time: Wednesdays 9:50 am – 12:50 pm
Location: Murray Hall RM 211

Professor: Carmen Martino
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Phone: 609-567-9380
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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 immigrant Latinos 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.
- Current policy initiatives/debates and fixing a broken system.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Core Curriculum: 21C
- Analyze issues of social justice across local and global contexts.

Labor Studies and Employment Relations Department:
- Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person’s experience of work.

School of Management and Labor Relations:
- Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions.

Additional Course Objectives:
- 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 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. And 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. As noted above, you can only be excused for an illness, death in the family or other real emergencies.

And again, students who are late to class will lose attendance points so please be punctual and 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 fine all of the course readings.
VI. SYLLABUS

PART I: IMMIGRATION HISTORY, THEORY AND WHY THEY COME

(WEEK 1) WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016
COURSE INTRODUCTION

Read:

Sakai Folder:
The syllabus

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

(WEEK 2) WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016
TODAY’S LATINO IMMIGRANTS AND WHY THEY COME (THEORIES)

Read:

Sakai Folder:


In-Class: Lecture/Discussion on theories of migration and why people migrate.

(WEEK 3) WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016
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

*How the US. Immigration System Works*  
(See Link in Sakai Folder)

*US Citizenship and Immigration Services (Temporary Non-immigrant Workers)*  
(See Link in Sakai Folder)

*U.S. Historical Immigration Trends*  
(See Link in Sakai Folder)

*U.S. Immigration Timeline*  
(See Link in Sakai Folder)

**In-Class:** Lecture/Discussion on what we can learn from the history and U.S. policy on immigration.

**Documentary:** The 800-Mile Wall

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

**(Week 4) Wednesday, September 28, 2016**

**GLOBAL CAPITALISM AND MIGRATION**

Read: **Sakai Folder:**  


In-Class: Lecture/Discussion on the mobility of capital and workers

**Documentary:** The Other Side of Migration

**(Week 5) Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

**GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 1)**

Read: **Sakai Folder:**

In-Class: Lecture/Discussion of corporations, globalization and low wage labor markets.

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

*(WEEK 6)* **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016**

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, AND RACIALIZED LABOR MARKETS (PART 2)

Read: **Sakai Folder:**

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

*(WEEK 7)* **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016**

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

Read: **Sakai Folder:**


In-Class: Lecture/Discussion of New Brunswick’s Low Wage Labor Market

**Vise News:** Permanently Temporary: The Truth About Temp Labor

*(WEEK 8)* **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016**

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

In-Class: Lecture/Discussion on how Latino immigrants manage and survive in the U.S. Economy

Wage Theft: The Crime Wave No One Talks About and on YouTube.com, Wage Theft Faces of a Hidden Crime

PART IV: WORKER RIGHTS, ORGANIZING AND THE CURRENT DEBATE

(WEEK 9) WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016
IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN THE U.S (PART 1)

Read: Sakai Folder:

In Class: Lecture/Discussion on the role of social networks among immigrant workers

(WEEK 10) WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016
IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN THE U.S (PART 2)

Read: Sakai Folder:

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

Movie: A Better Life

(WEEK 11) WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016
WORKER RIGHTS

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: Lecture/Discussion on worker rights

Documentary: Made in L.A.

(WEEK 12) WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016
ORGANIZING IMMIGRANTS


In Class: Lecture/Discussion on unions, worker centers and organizing immigrants in the U.S.

Documentary: The Hand That Feeds

(WEEK 13) WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016
CITIZENSHIP/IMMIGRATION REFORM


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

**Documentary:** 9500 Liberty

**In-Class:** Lecture/Discussion on how we define citizenship and immigration policy

**(WEEK 14) WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016**

Review For FINAL EXAM