Immigration and Public Policy

Class Time: Mondays & Thursdays 12:35-1:55pm
Class Location: Douglas Campus – Hickman Hall 202

Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations
School of Management and Labor Relations
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Instructor: SaunJuhi Verma
Phone: 848-932-4479
Email: jverma@work.rutgers.edu
Office Location: SMLR Rm 151
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Overview

What determines who is allowed entry into the country? How does immigration policy connect to practices of inequality? In this course, we will examine such questions by understanding how the law is socially constructed and how its enforcement relates to immigration within the U.S. and more globally.

The course explores the history of U.S. immigration policy as well as its impact on the rights of citizens and non-citizens in today’s world economy. Immigration is a broad topic, this course focuses upon how immigration policy has changed overtime in who can be a citizen and why others are denied entry. We will cover a range of issues by focusing upon race, gender, class, and sexuality as organizing principles. Students are introduced to how individual choice is connected to the social structure, such as the government, economy, and family. The readings will outline how immigration laws have defined who is free and who is deviant, both across U.S. history as well as in the current time period. Students will build on their abilities of critical thinking, writing skills, and evidence based research. Through course readings, class discussion, weekly response memos, and papers, students will understand the connections between national policy, social science research, and patterns of immigration.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

There are five requirements and the grading rubric is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Raw Points</th>
<th>% Percentage of Final Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Group Presentation</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Memo Critiques</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All assignments must be completed to receive credit for this course. In accordance with the Rutgers University letter grade and grade point system, your final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RU Letter Grade</th>
<th>Raw Points</th>
<th>% Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>870-899</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-869</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>770-799</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-769</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>670-699</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 670</td>
<td>Below 67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Participation: (160pts; 24% of final grade):
This course uses a discussion-based format to improve comprehension of texts and analytic skills development throughout the semester. Students are expected to study ALL assigned texts carefully and work through the complexities of readings prior to class. Within class discussions, students are encouraged to participate actively by sharing insightful and constructive comments. In part, class discussions are venues for student’s to hone their abilities of constructing and articulating a critical analysis of texts.

Each class, students have the opportunity to earn a total of 6 points for participation. Allotment of points will be discussed during the first two classes. Since class discussions are significant component of the learning process as well as the overall grade, attendance is highly encouraged. However, if a class session has to be missed due to an emergency, please send an email prior to class and report to the Rutgers Absence Reporting System.

Class instruction will begin promptly at the time specified and will not be repeated, as such it is important to arrive ON TIME. Walking in and out of a session is highly discouraged. Of course, emergencies arise, please be respectful to other students and exercise common sense. In addition, please send an email prior to class about any late arrivals or early departures from class. Unexcused absences, late arrivals, early departures will result in no participation points for that class session.
The use of technology for purposes of note taking and viewing class readings is permitted. This does not include cell phones, which must be switched to vibrate (no audible ringtones) and not used at all during class. **Students using cellphones or other technology for anything besides note taking and viewing readings will receive no participation points for the class session.** This includes but is not limited to surfing the web, email, or disruptions to the class. Lastly, students are not permitted to record, videotape, or photograph any class session without consent and authorization of the professor and their classmates. These guidelines are in place to establish an inclusive and fruitful learning environment.

**Group Presentations:** (100pts; 24% of final grade)
Each student will have the opportunity to participate in a collaborative learning exercise. The specific prompts for the group presentation will be shared in a separate document during week three. During this session, groups and selection of respective presentation days will be determined by random assignment. The group presentation involves (1) applying that week’s readings to one of the three scenarios presented in the handout and (2) clarifying the main concepts of the texts to the class.

During the week of presentations, the group members leading class discussion are not required to submit weekly memo critiques. However, all group members are required to read the memo critiques made by classmates.

**Weekly Memo Critiques:** (240pts; 26% of final grade)
Writing is a process of thinking and an exercise in clarifying unformulated ideas. The course offers multiple opportunities for students to improve both their abilities of critical thinking and writing skills. The weekly memo critiques are designed for students to make mini-arguments and receive constructive feedback for improvement.

For each week’s memo, (1) formulate a question in relation to the readings assigned for that week, and (3) proceed to answer that question by using evidence from the text, and (3) draw conclusions that tie together Monday and Thursday readings. Use no more than **250 words** for each memo, it should be clear, concise, and convincing. The memo should not merely be a response or a summary of the reading, but a carefully reasoned critique. Please share your memo with the class using SAKAI, no later than **Wednesday at noon** (the day prior to Thurs class). Late submissions will not be accepted without prior approval.

**Midterm Paper:** (250pts; 25% each of final grade)
The midterm will be a 3page paper; prompts will be distributed in class for the short writing assignment. Since the weekly memos are practice to formulate smaller arguments in relation to the readings, these can be used to build a larger argument within the midterm paper.

**Final Paper:** (250pts; 25% of final grade)
For the final, you will write an analytic paper building upon one of the concepts introduced in class relating to immigration and public policy. The paper will be (3-5) pages in length. Prompts will be distributed in class, in addition, for the final assignment students will have the option of constructing own topic of inquiry. Please discuss your topic with the professor by week 13.
Extra Credit:  
Additional opportunities for learning the course objectives can be made available. These are reserved for students who demonstrate an improvement over the course yet remain at a grade level of C or below. Towards the end of the semester, these extra assignments will be made available at the professor’s discretion.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
Violations of academic integrity are not tolerated in this course, all other courses at Rutgers, or at any institution of higher learning. Academic dishonesty, whether intentional or unintentional, has serious consequences. Please review Rutgers University’s Academic Integrity website at: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/) to understand how to avoid violations of academic integrity (see links on left menu of homepage).

**ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:**
Late Papers, Make-ups and Incompletes: There are no make-ups allowed for weekly memo critiques. Papers not turned in during class on the due date will be penalized one grade per day (A to B+ to B, etc). Incompletes for the course are given only in the case of a documented medical or family emergency. In these documented cases, an incomplete is only available if you have completed at least 2/3 of the course assignments (the half of all required memos and one paper).

Paper Draft Policies: During office hours prior to paper submission, I am happy to provide feedback on outlines of paper (no drafts). However, paper inquiries sent after 5pm the night before the due date may not be responded to, so get your questions in early.

**COURSE READINGS**
Please study each work with attention to the following questions:

1. What is the main argument? What are the sub-claims?
2. How do we assess its veracity? What evidence supports the main argument?

It is highly recommended to stay on top of readings as concepts introduced in each set of weekly texts build upon the previous set. All readings are made available on SAKAI.

**WEEK 1 (Thurs Sep 3)**  
Introductions & Analytic Exercise

**WEEK 2**
(Tues Sep 8) *Legal Foundations of U.S. Citizenship*

Ian Haney Lopez – *White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race*

Ch.2 Racial Restrictions in the Law of Citizenship

Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic – *Critical Race Theory: The Cutting Edge*

Ch.40 Law as a Eurocentric Enterprise – Kenneth B. Nunn
(Wed Sep 9) Weekly Memo Critique – DEADLINE: Noon via SAKAI

(Thurs Sep 10) Legal Foundations of U.S. Citizenship
Ch.1 Integrating Race & Gender
Ch.2 Citizenship: Universalism and Exclusion

WEEK 3
(Mon Sep 14) Legal Foundations of U.S. Immigration
Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic – Critical Race Theory: The Cutting Edge
Ch.10 Documents of Barbarism: The Contemporary Legacy of European Racism and Colonialism in the Narrative Traditions of Federal Indian Law – Robert A. Williams, Jr.
Ian Haney Lopez – White by Law
Ch.4 Ozawa and Third
P.168-182 Appendix B

(Wed Sep 16) Weekly Memo Critique – DEADLINE: Noon via SAKAI

(Thurs Sep 17) Legal Foundations of U.S. Immigration
Mae Ngai – Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America
Ch.1 Illegal Aliens: A Problem of Law and History

WEEK 4
(Mon Sep 21) National Belonging: Property, Indenture, and Free Labor
Angela Davis – The Angela Davis Reader
Ch.5 “From the Prison of Slavery to the Slavery of Prison: Frederick Douglas and the Convict Lease System”

(Wed Sep 23) Weekly Memo Critique – DEADLINE: Noon via SAKAI

(Thurs Sep 24) National Belonging: Property, Indenture, and Free Labor
Moon-Ho Jung – Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation
Ch.1 Outlawing Coolies
Ch.4 Domesticating Labor

WEEK 5
(Mon Sep 28) National Belonging: Class, Immigrant Labor, and Criminality
Vivek Bald – Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America
Ch.3 From Ships’ Holds to Factory Floors
Mae Ngai – Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America
Ch.4 Braceros, ‘Wetbacks’, and the National Boundaries of Class
(Wed Sep 30) Weekly Memo Critique – DEADLINE: Noon via SAKAI

(Thurs Oct 1) National Belonging: Class, Immigrant Labor, and Criminality
Gloria Anzaldúa - Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza
Ch.1 The Homeland, Aztlan
Ch.7 Towards a New Consciousness

WEEK 6
(Mon Oct 5) National Belonging: Borders and Surveillance
John Torpey – The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship, and the State
Ch.1 Coming and Going: On the State Monopolization of the Legitimate Means of Movement


(Thurs Oct 8) National Belonging: Borders and Surveillance
John Torpey – The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship, and the State
Ch.5 From National to Postnational? Passports and Constraints on Movement from the Interwar to the Postwar Era

GLOBAL CONTEXT: CONCEPTS AND FRAMEWORKS

WEEK 7
(Mon Oct 12) Citizenship and Rights
** MIDTERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS **
Saskia Sassen – Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages
Ch.6 Foundational Subjects for Political Membership: Today’s Changed Relation to the National State


(Thurs Oct 15) Citizenship and Rights
Chandra Talpade Mohanty - Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity
Ch.6 Women Workers and the Politics of Solidarity

WEEK 8
(Mon Oct 19) Borders and Migrant Subjects
Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo – Gender and U.S. Immigration: Contemporary Trends
Ch.2 Engendering Migration Studies: The Case of New Immigrants in the United States – Patricia R. Pessar

**GROUP PRESENTATION**

Nicolas G. Rosenthal – *Reimagining Indian Country: Native American Migration and Identity in Twentieth Century Los Angeles*

- Introduction: Reimagining Indian Country
- Ch.3 From Americanization to Self-Determination: The Federal Urban Relocation Program

---

**WEEK 9**

**Migration Economies**

Rubén Hernández-León – *Metropolitan Migrants: The Migration of Urban Mexicans to the United States*

- Ch.1 The Migration of Urban Mexicans to the United States
- Ch.5 The Migration Industry in the Monterrey-Houston Connection

---

**WEEK 10**

**Guest Workers and Migrant Status**

Kitty Calavita – *Inside the State: The Bracero Program, Immigration, and the INS*

- Ch.3 Formalization and Informal Control: The Bracero Program Comes of Age


---

**GROUP PRESENTATION**

Andrew M. Gardner – *City of Strangers: Gulf Migration and the Indian Community in Bahrain*

- Ch.1 Introduction: Structural Violence and Transnational Migration in the Gulf States
- Ch.7 The Invigorated State: Transnationalism, Citizen, and State
WEEK 11
(Mon Nov 9) Domestic Work and Migrant Circuits
Rhacel S. Parreñas: *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration and Domestic Work*
Ch.1 The Dislocations of Migrant Filipina Domestic Workers
Ch.3 The International Division of Reproductive Labor


(Thurs Nov 12) Domestic Work and Migrant Circuits
** GROUP PRESENTATION **
Pei-Chia Lan - *Global Cinderellas: Migrant Domestic and Newly Rich Employers in Taiwan*
Introduction
Ch.2 Disdained Aliens, Stratified Others

WEEK 12
(Mon Nov 16) Border Policing and Refugee Status
Lionel Cantu – *The Sexuality of Migration: Border Crossings and Mexican Immigrant Men*
Ch.2 Border Patrol: Sexuality, Citizenship, and U.S. Immigration Policy

(Wed Nov 18) Weekly Memo Critique – DEADLINE: Noon via SAKAI

(Thurs Nov 19) Border Policing and Refugee Status
** GROUP PRESENTATION **
Eithne Luibheid – *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*
Ch.4 Looking like a Lesbian: Sexual Monitoring at the U.S.-Mexico Border

FALL BREAK

WEEK 13
(Mon Nov 30) Deportation and Criminality
Michael Welch - *Detained: Immigration Laws and the Expanding INS Jail Complex*
Ch.2 Moral Panic over Immigrants

(Wed Dec 2) Weekly Memo Critique – DEADLINE: Noon via SAKAI

(Thurs Dec 3) Deportation and Criminality
Michael Welch - *Detained: Immigration Laws and the Expanding INS Jail Complex*
Ch.8 The INS Detention Industry

WEEK 14
(Mon Dec 7) Paper Drafts
Review of Concepts & Peer-Editing of Rough Drafts

(Thurs Dec 10) Paper Drafts
Peer-Editing of Rough Drafts

**FINAL PAPER DUE: **