

TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY:
COMPARATIVE U.S. MIGRATIONS
History 21:512:226 – SPRING 2015, Mon: 5:30-8:20

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Office Hrs: Monday, 4:30-5:30pm and Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm

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This course traces the history of immigration to the United States, with a particular emphasis on the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Proceeding chronologically, the course will center on several key themes. Firstly, we'll examine the changing immigration patterns and the historical causes and contexts that brought different groups of immigrants to the United States at different times. Secondly, we'll look specifically at how ethnic, racial, class, and gender differences shaped Americans' debates about "fitness" for citizenship, freedom, and independence, and how these considerations and debates, in turn, shaped different immigrants' experiences. This will involve analyzing the processes of national incorporation from the multiple perspectives of European, African, Asian, and Latino/a immigrants. The third and final focus will be on the impact of immigration on the economic, social, cultural, and political life of the United States.

Course Objectives

- Develop an understanding of the centrality of immigration and migration to United States history
- Understand the varied origins of (im)migrants to the U.S. and of the diverse experiences immigrants encountered
- Evaluate primary documents and secondary literature that illuminate immigration from a variety of experiences.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes (Best 3 out of 4 grades)	15%
Book Review	15%
Mid-Term	20%
Oral History Paper	20%
Final Response Paper	20%

***Late assignments will not be accepted (except in the case of excused absences).
Surprise Quizzes will be administered during the beginning of class (No make-up
quizzes for lateness or absence)***

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Two unexcused absences lower your final grade by one letter grade. Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Class absence may be excused in case of illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions. All other absences including those due to a job or an interview will NOT be excused. For further detail on university regulations on class attendance see http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/index.html

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy

All written work submitted by students should be their own. Students need to be careful about distinguishing their own ideas and writings from other sources. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from another source without properly citing it. Plagiarism is grounds for automatically failing the course. Further details can be found here <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity>.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every major assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1

January 26 **Introduction**

Week 2

February 2 **From Englishmen to White Americans**

- Barbara Fields, "Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America," New Left Review 181 (May/June 1990): 95-118. **(READ TWO TIMES)**
- Philip J. Deloria, Playing Indian (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998), 10-37.

In-Class Film: *Race: Power of an Illusion* (Part II)

Week 3

February 9 **Middle Passage and the Forced Peopling of the Americas**

- Stephanie Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007), 123-152.
- "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa."

In-Class Film: *The Language You Cry In*

Week 4

February 16

European Migration

- Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, Chapters 1-15, pgs. 1-131.

Film: *Triangle Fire* (PBS American Experience)

Week 5

February 23

Asian Migration and the Origins of Gatekeeping

- Madeline Hsu, *Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home*, 16-54
- *Samuel Gompers Racializes Chinese American Labor* (1902)
- Paul Kramer, “The Case of the 22 Lewd Chinese Women.”

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2012/04/arizona_s_immigration_law_at_the_supreme_court_lessons_for_s_b_1070_via_the_case_of_the_22_lewd_chinese_women.html

Film: Part Two of *BECOMING AMERICAN: The Chinese Experience*

Week 6

March 2

Industrialization and Urban Migration

- Sinclair, “The Jungle,” 132-241.

Book Review Due: Sinclair, “The Jungle.”

Week 7

March 9

Mid-Term

Week 8

March 16

No Class: Spring Break

Week 9

March 23

Closing the Gates

- Madison Grant, *Passing of the Great Race*, Chapters 2 & 4.

Film: Sacco and Vanzetti

Oral History Paper Due in Class

Week 11

World War II and Internment

April 6

- “How to Tell Japs from the Chinese” (1941)
- Earl Warren, “The Question of Loyalty” (1941)
- Mitsuye Yamada, “The Question of Loyalty” (1942)
- Justice Robert A. Jackson, dissent in *Korematsu vs United States* (1944)

Film: *Rabbit in the Moon*

Week 12 War and Migration during the Cold War

April 13

- Arissa Oh, “A New Kind of Missionary Work: Christians: Christian Americanists, and the Adoption of Korean GI Babies,” *Women’s Studies Quarterly*.
- Monique Truong, “American Like Me” (2006)
- *This American Life* (NPR), “Taking Names.”

Listen to entire episode here:

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/499/taking-names>

Film: *The Betrayal* (“*Nerakhoon*”)

Week 13 Undocumented Immigrants and Guestworkers

April 20

- Cindy Hahamovitch, “Creating Perfect Immigrants: Guestworkers of the World in Historical Perspective,” *Labor Studies* 44:1 (2003).

Film: *H-2 Worker*

Week 14 The Rise of “New” Nativism

April 27

- Joseph Nevins, Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the “Illegal Alien” and the Remaking of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary, 50-77.
- *This American Life* (NPR) segments: “Prologue/El Gato Y El Ratoncito” (2006); “Prologue/Alien Experiment” (2012); “Prologue/Breaking the Ice” (2013)

Final Response Paper Due in Class

Film: A Dream in Doubt

Week 15
May 5

Wrap-Up