

SYLLABUS

AMERICAL IMMIGRATION: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

26: 050:510:01 (American Studies); 26: 510:586:01 (History); 26:790:570:01 (Political Science) 26:977: 624: 01 (Urban Systems).

Spring 2018

Time: Tuesday 2:30 – 5:20 pm

Place: Conklin Hall, room 448

Instructor: Steven Diner

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INTRODUCTION

This course examines immigration to cities and urban areas of the United States since the nineteenth century. It will consider the causes of immigration, the social, cultural and economic adaptation of various groups, return migration, the significance of race, the varied experience of different immigrant groups, the development of ethnic group identities, changing American policy and attitudes towards immigrants and ethnic groups, and the impact of immigration and ethnicity on American society and culture. The class will consist of weekly discussions of assigned books. Students will be required to write a bibliographic essay on the scholarly literature of a particular immigrant group, a specific time period, some aspect of the immigrant experience, the impact of immigration on a particular city or how immigration has shaped America's economy, political system, social institutions or culture.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Tyler Anbinder, *City of Dreams: The Four Hundred-Year epic History of Immigrant New York*. Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2016.

Vivek Bald, *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian Americans*. Harvard University Press, 2013.

Roger Daniels, *Guarding the Golden Door: American Immigration Policy and Immigrants Since 1982*. Hill and Wang, 2004.

Diner, Hasia R., *Hungering for America: Italian, Irish and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration*. Harvard University Press, 2003.

Lilia Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City: Mexicans and Puerto Ricans in Postwar Chicago*. University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Leon Fink, *The Maya of Morgantown: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South*. University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Libby Garland, *After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965*. University of Chicago Press, 2014.

Cindy Hahamovitch, *No Man's Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the Global History of Deportable Labor*. Princeton University Press, 2012.

Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*. University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Alan M. Kraut, *Silent Travellers: Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace."* Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton University Press, 2004.

Peter G. Vellon, *A Great Conspiracy Against Our Race: Italian Immigrant Newspapers and the Construction of Whiteness in the Early Twentieth Century*. NYU Press, 2014.

Mark Wyman, *Round Trip to America: Immigrants Return to Europe, 1880-1930*. Cornell University Press, 1993.

Shirley Yee, *An Immigrant Neighborhood: Interethnic and Interracial Encounters in New York Before 1930*. Temple University Press, 2012.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Class Discussion – 30%

Bibliographic Essay – 30%

Final Essay – 40%

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 16

Reading: Tyler Anbinder, *City of Dreams: The Four Hundred-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*.

January 23

Reading: Mark Wyman, *Round Trip to America: Immigrants Return to Europe, 1880-1930*.

Due: Proposed Topic for Bibliographic Essay

January 30

Reading: Shirley Yee, *An Immigrant Neighborhood: Interethnic and Interracial Encounters in New York Before 1930*.

February 6

Reading: Peter Vellon, *A Great Conspiracy Against Our Race: Italian Immigrant Newspapers and the Construction of Whiteness in the Early Twentieth Century*.

Due: List of books for Bibliographic Essay

February 13

Reading: Alan Kraut, *Silent Travellers: Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace."*

February 20

Readings: Hasia Diner, *Hungering for America: Irish, Italian and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration*.

February 27

Reading: Roger Daniel, *Guarding the Golden Door: American Immigration Policy and Immigrants Since 1982*.

March 6

Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*.

March 13

Spring Break: Class does not meet.

March 20

Reading: Libby Garland, *After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965*.

March 27

Reading: Lilia Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City: Mexicans and Puerto Ricans in Postwar Chicago*.

April 3

Reading: Leon Fink, *The Maya of Morgantown: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South*.

April 10

Reading: Cindy Hahamovitch, *No Man's Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the Global History of Deportable Labor*.

April 17

Reading: Vivek Bald, *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian Americans*.

April 24

Reading: Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*.

May 1

No assigned readings.

Due: Final Essay

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

Your bibliographic essay should compare the ways historians and other scholars have written about some particular aspect of U.S. immigration. Your essay could consider the literature on a specific immigrant group or on immigration to a particular city. Or you might select a thematic topic, looking at gender differences in the immigrant experience, the economic, educational, religious or communal experiences of various groups, immigrant engagement with American politics, or the transnational ties of different immigrant groups. You could also examine

scholarship on immigration policy or the comparative experience of different groups, among other possibilities. You will need to discuss at least ten books in addition to any books assigned for the course that address your topic.

FINAL ESSAY

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive a broad question to address in your final essay. You will be asked to draw upon your extensive readings and discussions of U.S. immigration history in an integrated essay. There will be no in-class examinations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf.

When submitting your research paper and final essay, please attach the following statement with your signature: **On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.**

