

SYLLABUS (revised 8/20/14)

IMMIGRATION IN THE USA

26: 050:510:01 (American Studies) 26:510:553 (History)

Fall, 2014

Time: Thursdays, 2 – 4:40 pm

Place: Conklin Hall 447

Instructor: Steven Diner

Office: Conklin Hall 420

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11 am to 12pm, and by appointment

Telephone: (973) 353-2508

E-Mail: sdiner@andromeda.rutgers.edu

INTRODUCTION

This course examines the history of 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. Class will consist of weekly discussions of assigned books. Students will be required to write an essay on the historiography 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

Eiichiro Azuma, *Between Two Empires: Race, History and Transnationalism in Japanese America*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

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

- James Barrett, The Irish Way: Becoming American in the Multi-Ethnic City. Penguin Press, 2012.
- Roger Daniels, Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life. 2 ed. Harper Collins, 2002.
- Diner, Hasia R., Hungering for America: Italian, Irish and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration. Harvard University Press, 2003.
- 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.
- Guglieomo, White on Arrival: Italians, Race, Color and Power in Chicago, 1880-1945. Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Cindy Hahamovitch, No Man's Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the Global History of Deportable Labor. Princeton University Press, 2012.
- Matthew Fry Jacobson, Special Sorrows: The Diasporic Immigration of Irish, Polish and Jewish Immigrants in the United States. Harvard University Press, 1995.
- Erika Lee, At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943. University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
- Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America. Princeton University Press, 2004.
- Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth Century America. Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Mark Wyman, Round Trip to America: Immigrants Return to Europe, 1880-1930. Cornell University Press, 1993.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Class Discussion – 30%

Historiographic Essay – 30%

Final Essay – 40%

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 4

Reading: Roger Daniels, Coming to America

September 11

Reading: Mark Wyman, Round Trip to America

Due: Proposed Topic for Historiographic Essay

September 18

Reading: James Barrett, The Irish Way

September 25

No Class

October 2

Reading: Tom Guglielmo, White on Arrival

Due: List of books for Historiographic Essay

October 9

Readings: Libby Garland, After They Closed the Gates

October 16

Reading: Matthew Fry Jacobson, Special Sorrows

October 23

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

October 30

Reading: Erika Lee, At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era

November 6

Reading: Eiichiro Azuma, Between Two Empires: Race, History and Transnationalism in Japanese America

November 13

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

November 20

Reading: Vicki Ruiz, From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth Century America

November 25 (Tuesday)

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

Due: Historiographic Essay

December 4

Reading: Leon Fink, The Maya of Morgantown

December 11

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

Due: Final Essay

HISTORIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

Your historiographic essay should compare the ways different historians have written about some particular aspect of U.S. immigration history. 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 historical works on immigration policy or on 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.**