



Immigration

W.E.B DuBois Scholars Academy: Talented Tenth
Instructor: Dahlia El Zein

Course Description:

It may appear that immigration is a contemporary issue. The topic of immigration has certainly taken center stage in the current political climate with much contested debate around who should and should not be allowed to immigrate. In the United States, a country that is often known as a “country of immigrants,” after the 2016 presidential election in particular, immigrants are facing difficult and precarious times with more outspoken anti-immigrant sentiment towards Muslim, Latino, South Asian, and African immigrants amongst others. However, human migrations, immigration, and the movement of peoples, has a long, even ancient history worthy of exploration and much of which we can learn from.

This course seeks to de-mystify and de-bunk assumptions and perceptions around what immigration is and is not by offering historical context, understanding why people immigrate, parsing out immigration policy debates and exploring the role immigrants play in society. Immigrants have often been accused of stealing jobs from “locals,” taking advantage of resources, dragging down the economy, instigating crime, and changing cultures. In this course, we will explore each one of these assumptions. We will investigate the relationship and ties between immigrants, labor, economy, crime, violence, and culture. At the end of the course, each student will be expected to devise her/his own immigration policy. This course is mainly anchored in the US case but we will explore other nations and what lessons they offer.

Student participation is a fundamental part of this class. This is a seminar class and students are expected to complete all the readings prior to each class and come to class prepared for discussion.

Assignments and Grading:

30% Homework: Readings and Written Assignments

-Reflection paper

20% Class Participation

15% Debate

35% Final paper

Week 1: Introduction to Immigration

Class 1- Tuesday June 27, 2017

Oops!

Class 2- Thursday June 29, 2017

Introductions, Perceptions, Stereotypes on Immigration

Assignment:

Read:

David Gerber, [*American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction*](#) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) [PDF]

Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century* (2nd ed., Princeton University Press, 2017) [Read the [Introduction](#) until page 11] [PDF]

Christiane Harzig and Dirk Hoerder, with Donna Gabaccia, "[Migration in Human History—the Long View](#)," in *What is Migration History?* (Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2009) [PDF]

Week 2: Roots of Immigration

Class 3- Thursday July 6, 2017

What is Immigration?

The History of Human Migration & the "Creation Myth" of America

Assignment:

Read:

Massey, Douglas S, Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Adela Pellegrino, and J Edward Taylor. 1993. "Theories of international migration: A review and appraisal." *Population and development review*: 431-66. [PDF]

Stone, Lyman. "Who Is the Most Generous of Them All? – In a State of Migration – Medium." *Medium*. 07 Oct. 2015.

<https://medium.com/migration-issues/who-is-the-most-generous-of-them-all-738f535434eb>

Class 4- Friday July 7, 2017
(Make-up class for missing Tuesday)

Why do people immigrate?

Immigrant, Refugee, Migrant, Legal vs. Illegal Alien, Asylum Seeker
What these categories mean and their importance.

Assignment: Reflection paper due Tuesday July 11.

Read:

North Carolina needed 6,500 farm workers. Only 7 Americans stuck it out. Dylan Matthews. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/05/15/north-carolina-needed-6500-farm-workers-only-7-americans-stuck-it-out/?utm_term=.b9b4b1abc2cf

Perspective | Illegal immigrants help fuel U.S. farms. Does affordable produce depend on them? Tamar Haspel.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/food/in-an-immigration-crackdown-who-will-pick-our-produce/2017/03/17/cc1c6df4-0a5d-11e7-93dc-00f9bdd74ed1_story.html?utm_term=.967f00373d88

What the Mass Deportations of Immigrants might look like

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/history/2016/11/donald_trump_mass_deportation_and_the_tragic_history_of_operation_wetback.html

<http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-fi-farms-immigration/>

Week 3: Immigration, Labor, and the Economy

Class 5- Tuesday July 11, 2017

Reflection papers DUE

Are immigrants taking “our jobs?”

Assignment:

Read:

Immigration Today

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2017/04/20/430736/facts-immigration-today-2017-edition/>

MPI. 2011. “Economic Malaise Makes Immigrants a Target for Restrictive Legislation, Public Backlash.” Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=863>

Class 4- Thursday July 13, 2017

Successful economies and its relationship to immigration

Assignment

Read:

Donald Trump's ban on Muslims echoes earliest days of Nazi propaganda: expert
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/guest-column-trump-ban-muslims-wrong-article-1.2459376>

Week 4: Culture, Crime, and Immigration

Class 6- Tuesday July 18, 2017

Immigrants, violence, terrorism

The fear of immigrants

Assignment:

Read:

Bloemraad, Irene. 2011. "The Debate Over Multiculturalism: Philosophy, Politics, and Policy." Washington, DC: Migration Information Source.
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=854>

Thomas, Elaine. 2006. Keeping Identity at a Distance: Explaining France's New Legal Restrictions on the Islamic Headscarf. *Racial and Ethnic Studies* 29(2): p. 237-259.

Class 7- Thursday July 20, 2017

Food, music, religion, and culture

Tacos and halal chicken and rice

Assignment:

FINAL PAPERS DUE TUESDAY JULY 25.

Week 5: Towards a Fair and Justice Immigration Policy

Class 8- Tuesday July 25, 2017

FINAL PAPERS DUE

Pro-and-anti-immigration class debate

Assignment:

Read:

Carens, Joseph H. 1987. Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders. *The Review of Politics* 49(2): 251-73

Class 9- Thursday July 27, 2017

Our immigration policy

Concluding thoughts

Reading Materials Provided for the Class

Readings will either be in PDF form or accessed via links provided in this syllabus.

Assignments

-Reflection Paper

750 Words

You will write a reflection paper choosing which immigrant nation to move to and why. You must show evidence from the text and cite your sources.

-Debate

Every person in the class will be expected to participate in the debate for and against immigration. You must be prepared with your arguments and use evidence from the texts we read in class.

-Final Paper:

2500 words

For your final paper, you will write a five-paragraph essay outlining your own immigration policy touching upon how your policy will address issues such as jobs, the economy, security, and religion, and culture. You must use citations and use supporting evidence for your decisions. You must be able to argue the merits of your ideas.