

The Settling of America: Immigration and Ethnicity, 1924-Present Syllabus

Instructor

Fred Beuttler

Quarter: Spring 2024

Start – end date: March 19 – May 7

Session day/time: Tuesday, 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Course Code and Section: HUAS90939, 24S1

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Course Overview

There is no history of America without its immigrants; indeed the immigrant story *is* American history, for we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. In this three-quarter sequence, we will examine migration and immigration to the lands that become the United States, from the Colonial period to the present. We will learn of how early settlement shaped patterns and mores, as well as how later waves of peoples enriched what some have called “trans-national America.”

Modality

Remote learning

Ethnicity is one key part of our identities, and class participants will be invited (but not required) to explore and share their own family stories of migration, both to and within this country, as the internal shifting of peoples are also part of our story.

The Autumn Quarter examined the Colonial period, focusing primarily on British North America from 1492 to around 1820. Winter Quarter we concentrated on the great century of migration, from 1820 to 1924, when immigration was dramatically curtailed by legislation. Spring Quarter we will focus on the last century, from 1924 to 2024, with the new immigration post-1965. As this is an election year, and immigration policy is part of the campaigns, this course will increase its discussion of the contemporary debates over immigration policy, in a non-partisan manner, seeking to find some ways to retain a vision of “e pluribus unam”.

There are no prerequisites, and students can take one, two, or all three courses.

Note to students

This course is non-credit; there are no papers, no exams, no grades! (Education in its essence!)

Required texts

Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, Harper, 2002, ISBN: 978-0060505776

Colin Woodard, *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, Penguin, 2012; updated, 2022, ISBN-13 : 978-0143122029

Oscar Handlin, *The Uprooted: The Epic Story of the Great Migrations that Made the American People*, Grosset, 1951. Second Revised Edition, 1973 ISBN 978-0316343138

Maria Cristina Garcia, et al. *Whose America? U. S. Immigration Policy since 1980*, U of Illinois Press, 2023, ISBN-13 : 978-0252087271; also on Kindle.

Primary source readings, emailed to students each week.

Books can be purchased online through the [University of Chicago Bookstore](#).

Course readings

Week	Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 1	The Story So Far: After the Great Century of Migration	Revisit: C. Becker, “Everyman His Own Historian” Daniels, c11 “Migration in Prosperity, Depression, and War, 1921-1945” Garcia, <i>Whose America</i> , Introduction
Week 2	Immigration from the Americas	Daniels, c12 “From the New World: Mexicans and Puerto Ricans” Immigrant Narratives Themes from “ <i>West Side Story</i> ”
Week 3	Immigration and Law	Daniels, c13 “Changing the Rules: Immigration Law, 1948-1980” Woodard, c25 “Culture Clash” Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (McCarran-Walter Act) President Truman Veto Message <i>Whom We Shall Welcome: Report of the President’s Commission on Immigration and Naturalization</i> , 1953. Chap II, “Immigration and the American Economy, pp.21-32, here: https://archive.org/details/whomweshallwelco00unit/page/n9/mode/2up

Week	Topic	Reading Assignment
		<p>Audio version, here: https://librivox.org/whom-we-shall-welcome-by-the-presidents-commission-on-immigration-and-naturalization/</p> <p>Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Hart-Celler Act) (selection)</p> <p>President Johnson remarks on signing of Immigration Bill</p>
Week 4	Asian Immigration Post 1965	<p>Daniels, c14 “The New Asian Immigrants”</p> <p>Immigrant Narratives, TBD</p> <p>Garcia, c3. Levy, “Give Me Your Best and Brightest: Chasing STEM Workers since World War II</p>
Week 5	Immigration and Ideology: 1970s – 2000s	<p>Daniels, c15 “Caribbeans, Central Americans, and Soviet Jews”</p> <p>Woodard, c26 “War, Empire, and the Military”</p> <p>Film: <i>El Norte</i> (1983)</p> <p>Garcia, c5 Kraut, “In the Name of National Security: Ideological Exclusion ... to the War on Terror</p>
Week 6	Immigration and Diversity	<p>Daniels, c16 “The 1980s and Beyond”</p> <p>Woodard, c27 “The Struggle for Power: The Blue Nations”</p> <p>Garcia, c4 Goodman, “Legislating Diversity in the Immigration Act of 1990”</p> <p>Other Readings TBD</p>
Week 7	Immigration in an Age of Globalization	<p>Daniels c17 “Immigration in an Age of Globalization”</p> <p>Woodard, c28, “The Struggle for Power: The Red and the Purple”</p> <p>Woodard, “Epilogue”</p> <p>Woodard, “Afterward to the Tenth-Anniversary Edition” 2022</p>
Week 8	Immigration Policy: From 2000 to 2030 and Beyond	<p>Garcia, c7 Tempo, “‘Human Rights for All’” The Recent History of Immigration and Human Rights”</p> <p>Garcia, c6 Capo, “Uncle Sam Wants You Dead or Deported: How Fears ... Crafted US Immigration Policy since 1980</p> <p>Other Readings, TBD</p>

Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

Accessibility information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

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For more information, please see [this handout for students](#) as well as the [University’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment](#). You can also reach out directly for services and support from the [Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support](#) by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zmel@uchicago.edu.