Sociology 496: Contemporary Issues of Immigration
University of Wisconsin-Madison
2007 Fall Semester

Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00-5:15 PM
Location:	6112 Social Science
Instructor:	Professor Zhen Zeng
Office:	Thursday 2-4
Course Website:	https://learnuw.wisc.edu/
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Course Description

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Millions of immigrants have come to the U.S. to seek religious freedom, family re-union, political asylum, and most importantly, economic prosperity. Immigrants play a significant role in enriching American culture and fueling economic growth. Yet at the same time, they are also regarded as an "unsettling force" and a burden on the taxpayers. As the numbers of legal as well as illegal immigrants climbed precipitously since the 1970s and 1980s, we see a backlash against immigration.

This course is devoted to understanding controversial issues around immigration to the U.S. We will read and discuss social science research on demographics of immigrants, immigration policy, immigrant incorporation, impact of immigration on receiving society, etc. Below are some of the topics we will discuss–

- Why do immigrants come to the U.S.?
- Are immigrants positively selected?
- Is the quality of immigrants declining?
- What is the economic impact of immigration on the U.S. society?
- What role do ethnic enclaves play in the social mobility of immigrants?
- Are new immigrants assimilating?
- Should the U.S. militarize the border to control illegal immigration?
- Should the U.S. adopt a skill-based point system to regulate legal immigration?
- Should the U.S. declare English as the official language?

Textbooks and Additional Readings

The following textbooks are available for purchase at the University Book Store and on reserve at the Social Science Library.

Bean, Frank D. and Gillian Stevens. 2003. America's newcomers and the dynamics of diversity. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Borjas, George J. 1999. Heaven's door : immigration policy and the American economy. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Additional readings are available on electronic course reserve.

Course Requirements and Grading

Readings - Please complete the readings before class and be ready to discuss them. Reading questions will be posted at the course website on discussion board. You are expected to make no less than 8 posts during the course of the semester.

Written homework - With a partner, you will prepare a short statistical profile (3~4 single-spaced pages including tables and figures) for one of following immigrant groups: Mexicans, Cubans, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Asian Indians, immigrants in Wisconsin (or Madison), and immigrant women. You can choose any of the above immigrant groups and investigate any topic(s) that interests you--age structure, geographic distribution, educational attainment, occupations, income and poverty status, family structure, and legal status and citizenship, etc. I will show you some online data sources for immigration research. This assignment is due in class on October 4, Thursday.

Presentation - With a partner, you will prepare and deliver a short (5-10 min) presentation on one of the following topics:

September 27, Thursday

1. Visa, Green Cards, and Citizenship
2. How to become a permanent resident and a citizen of the United States
3. U.S. quota system
4. Canada's point system
5. Germany's guest worker system

October 4, Thursday

6. Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
7. Gentleman's Agreement of 1908
8. National Origins Act of 1924
9. Immigration Act of 1965
10. Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
11. Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996

October 11, Thursday

12. Bush's comprehensive immigration reform plan
13. Mariel Boatlift
14. Proposition 187
15. The Bracero Program
16. Operation Wetback

Debate - You will participate in a class debate with 2 teammates. The debate will last 50 minutes. Each group must submit an outline of arguments and evidence (1~2 single-spaced pages) before the debate. There are four debate topics to choose from:

(a) Do immigrants hurt or help the U.S. economy? (October 18, Thursday)
(b) Should the U.S. replace its current immigration policy based on the principle of family reunification with a skill-based point system? (November 1, Thursday)
(c) Should the U.S. make English the official language? (November 15, Thursday)
(d) Should U.S. universities hire non-native English-speaking TAs? (December 13, Thursday)

Mid-term and final - The exams will consist of short answer questions. Some of the exam questions will come from reading questions posted on the discussion board. The mid-term is scheduled in class on October 25, Thursday. The final is on December 17, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM. Location TBD.

You final grade will be determined by your performance on the following items:

- Participation in in-class and online discussions (10%)
- Written report of a statistical profile of an immigrant group (10%)
- Presentation (10%)
- Debate (10%)
- Midterm (30%)
- Final (30%)

Team members will receive the same grade on group activities. Each member is expected to make an equal contribution.

Logistics

Lecture notes, handouts, and exercises will be posted on the course website the evening before the class. Please print and bring your copy to class. Hard copies will not be distributed in class except in the first week.

Please rank the presentation topics (1-16) and the debate topics (a-d) according to your preference. Please send me your ranked lists by September 13. I will do my best to accommodate your preference.

Schedule

AN: America's newcomers and the dynamics of diversity
HD: Heaven's door: immigration policy and the American economy

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: 9/4, 6	Lecture 1: Overview	Video: Border War
		HD Chapter 1 AN Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-27)
Week 2: 9/11, 13	Lecture 2: Why do immigrants come?	Discussion on border control
	AN Chapter 2 (pp. 27-41) Massey, Douglas et al. 1993. "Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal." Population and Development Review 19(3): 431-466.	AN Chapter 3
Week 3: 9/18, 20	Lecture 3: Are immigrants positively selected?	Lab: Statistical profile of immigrant groups
	Feliciano, C. 2005. "Educational selectivity in US immigration: How do immigrants compare to those left behind?" Demography 42:131-152.	
Week 4: 9/25, 27	Lecture 4: Is the quality of immigrants declining?	Presentations on immigration laws and policies 1
	HD Chapters 2, 3	
Week 5: 10/2, 4	Lecture 5: Do immigrants take jobs away from natives and lower wages?	Presentations on immigration laws and policies 2 Statistical profile due
	Smith, J. P., B. Edmonston, et al. 1997. The New Americans : Economic, Demographic, and Fiscal Effects of Immigration. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press. Part of Ch 4. pp. 136-146. Card, D. 1990. "The Impact of the Mariel Boatlift on the Miami Labor-Market." Industrial & Labor Relations Review 43:245-257. HD Chapters 4, 5	
Week 6: 10/9, 11	Lecture 6: Do immigrants impose a net fiscal burden?	Presentations on immigration laws and policies 3
	HD Chapter 6 AN Chapters 4, 9	
Week 7: 10/16, 18	Lecture 7: Theories of immigrant incorporation	Debate: Do immigrants hurt or help the U.S. economy?
	AN Chapter 5 Alba, R. and V. Nee. 1997. "Rethinking Assimilation Theory for a New Era of Immigration." International Migration Review 31:826-874. Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 1993. “The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and Its Variants,” Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 530: 74-96	
Week 8: 10/23, 25	Lecture 8: Intra- and Inter-generational Mobility	Midterm
	AN Chapter 6 HD Chapter 7	

Schedule

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 9: 10/30, 11/1	Lecture 9: Do ethnic enclaves help immigrants or trap them in poverty?	Debate: Should the current immigration policy based on the principle of family reunification be replaced by a skill-based policy?
	Allen, J. P. and E. Turner. 1996. "Spatial Patterns of Immigrant Assimilation." Professional Geographer 48:140-155. HD Chapters 8, 9	HD Chapters 10, 11
Week 10: 11/6, 8	Video TBD	Discussion on legal immigration
Week 11: 11/13, 15	Lecture 10: Linguistic incorporation & Bilingual Education	Debate: Should we make English the official language?
	AN Chapter 7 Ovando, C. J. 2003. "Bilingual Education in the United States: Historical Development and Current Issues." Bilingual Research Journal 27:1. Gersten, R. and J. Woodward. 1995. "A Longitudinal-Study of Transitional and Immersion Bilingual Education-Programs in One District." Elementary School Journal 95:223-239.	
Week 12: 11/20, 22	Lecture 11: Intermarriage	Thanksgiving
	AN Chapter 8 (recommended) Kalmijn, M. 1998. "Intermarriage and Homogamy: Causes, Patterns, Trends." Annual Review of Sociology 24:395-421.	
Week 13: 11/27, 29	Lecture 12: Racial identification of the second generation	Video: TBD
	Harris, D. R. and J. J. Sim. 2002. "Who is multiracial? Assessing the complexity of lived race." American Sociological Review 67:614-627. Xie, Y. and K. Goyette. 1997. "The racial identification of biracial children with one Asian parent: Evidence from the 1990 census." Social Forces 76:547-570.	
Week 14: 12/4, 6	Lecture 13: Immigration and race/ethnic relations	Discussion: TBD
	Lee, J. and F. D. Bean. 2004. "America's Changing Color Lines: Immigration, Race/Ethnicity, and Multiracial Identification." Annual Review of Sociology 30:221-242. Lee, J. 1999. "Retail Niche Domination among African American, Jewish, and Korean Entrepreneurs - Competition, Coethnic Advantage and Disadvantage." American Behavioral Scientist 42:1398-1416. Waters, M. C. 1994. "Ethnic and Racial Identities of 2nd-Generation Black Immigrants in New-York-City." International Migration Review 28:795-820.	
Week 15: 12/11, 13	Lecture 14: Immigrant health paradox	Debate: Should American universities hire non-native English-speaking TAs?
	Abraido-Lanza, A. F., M. T. Chao, and K. R. Florez. 2005. "Do Healthy Behaviors Decline with Greater Acculturation? Implications for the Latino Mortality Paradox." Social Science & Medicine 61:1243-55. Abraido-Lanza, A. F., B. P. Dohrenwend, D. S. Ng-Mak, and J. B. Turner. 1999. "The Latino Mortality Paradox: A Test of The "Salmon Bias" And Healthy Migrant Hypotheses." American Journal of Public Health 89:1543-48.	