Course Overview

In this course we will survey past and present U.S. immigration policies, examine how governmental institutions, political actors, interest groups, and socio-political processes have shaped and responded to immigration to the United States, and study migration theory. Migration is an international phenomenon; the course will focus primarily on the United States, but will also examine the global trends that create the context for immigration policy. Course topics will include immigrant admission, deportation, and integration at the national, state, and local levels. By the end of this course, students will have a good understanding of the U.S. immigration system, the various factors that go into shaping immigration policy and practice today, and the theories that underlie and explain these trends. We will utilize journal articles as well as contemporary newspaper articles, governmental reports, and other relevant documents.

Immigration is a contentious and emotional issue. Having strong feelings about the course material is natural and encouraged. However, everyone must listen respectfully to all arguments presented and evaluate them based on the available evidence and according to academic standards. I wish to foster a constructive discourse among the participants.

Goals of the class

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- Understand the historical and contemporary patterns of U.S. immigration and immigration policy and the forces driving migration.
- Understand the multiple social, economic, and political forces that influence migration.
- Understand the role of Congress, the executive, the courts, the media, public opinion, and various civil society organizations in the development of immigration policy.
- Communicate your ideas effectively in written and spoken format.
Course Texts and Materials
There are no books for this class. Links to articles and other documents are included in this syllabus or will be made available by the instructor.

Format
The class format will be mixed, including lectures, review of readings, discussions, and guest speakers. Any changes in class topics, readings, or activities will be announced in advance.

Assignments and Grading
- **Policy commentaries (60% or 20% each):** You will write three brief policy commentaries based on current events or relevant issues. Each commentary will: 1) identify and describe an immigration policy issue; 2) explain 2 contrasting views on the problem; and 3) describe your own perspective on what should be done to address the issue and why. We will review current events in class, and you can use news consolidation sites such as Migratory Notes to keep up on current issues.
- **Final exam (20%):** Cumulative final exam. Multiple choice, short-answer, essay.
- **Class participation (20%):** You are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, complete the required readings before class, and contribute to class discussions. Quality of participation will be evaluated as well as quantity.

Written assignments
Detailed instructions will be communicated and discussed well in advance of the assignment due dates. Written assignments will be submitted in electronic form.

*Your written work is a fundamental life and professional skill. Regardless of your occupation, you will be asked to document the work you do in some fashion. It is important that you learn how to express your thoughts in writing, substantiate your professional opinions and assessments with facts, and present them in a manner that will command the respect of the reader. The outcome of your work and your professional reputation will be compromised if your paperwork is late, sloppy, incomplete, inaccurate, superficial, or just poorly done* (adapted from G.M. Samuels, 2012).

Policy for late assignments
No late work will be accepted and no make-up exams will be given, except in the case of a documented emergency (something unavoidable and out of your control). If you have an emergency, let me know as soon as possible and I will try to accommodate you. If you miss a due date and do not give me prior notice, or if you do not have a valid excuse, your written work is subject to a late penalty.

Electronics
Students may use their laptop computer/tablet/cell phone in class for note taking. You should not surf the internet, text, or engage in any other activities that prevent you from participating in class.
Blackboard
It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and email regularly for class-related communications. I will post notes, resources, grades, and announcements on Blackboard.

Honor Code
Coursework is expected to be the student’s own original work. Students may use books, notes, and other sources to prepare assignments. Under no circumstances are students to collectively write papers with another student, turn in work previously submitted, or use material from other sources (textbook, websites, journal articles etc.) without proper citation. This will be considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at academicintegrity.gmu.edu. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. I reserve the right to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

Disability Accommodations
If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Office of Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; http://ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Disclaimer
The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class and through email or Blackboard.
Class Topics and Reading Assignments

June

1  Introduction and Migration Theory

3  US Immigration History
Alex Wagner, “America’s Forgotten History of Illegal Deportations,” *The Atlantic*, March 6, 2017

8  The US Immigration System – Family and Employment Based Immigration
William Kandel, “Permanent Legal Immigration to the US: Policy Overview,” Congressional Research Service, May 11, 2018
Harriet Duleep, et. al. “The Immigrant Success Story: How Family-Based Immigrants Thrive in America,” American Immigration Council, 2018

10  Refugees and Asylees
Karen Jacobsen, “Refugees and Global Migration.” See attachment in Blackboard
*Refugee Admissions and Resettlement Policy*, Congressional Research Service, December 2018

15  Legality and Illegality


Policy Commentary #1 Due

17 Interest Groups and Public Opinion


https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/post-9-11-immigration-policy-program-changes

“Beyond the Clash: How a Deliberative Public Talks about Immigration” The Kettering Foundation, 2019

22 Immigration Enforcement

http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigration-enforcement-united-states-rise-formidable-machinery

https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/us-immigration-policy-trump-deep-changes-impacts

24 Citizenship and Naturalization


Citizenship Through Parents https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-parents

Birth of US Citizens Abroad https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/while-abroad/birth-abroad.html
Dara Lind, “Denaturalization, explained: how Trump can strip immigrants of their citizenship,” Vox, July 18, 2018
https://www.vox.com/2018/7/18/17561538/denaturalization-citizenship-task-force-janus


https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/constitutional-citizenship-legislative-history

**29** Immigration Courts (Guest lecturer)
Reading to be determined

**July**

**1** Immigrants and Entrepreneurship (Guest lecturer)
Reading to be determined

**Policy Commentary #2 Due**

**6** The Role of the Executive Branch


**8** State and Local Responses: Immigration Federalism


The Fiscal and Economic Impact of Immigration


DACA, the DREAM Act, and Immigrant Students


Policy Commentary #3 Due

Immigration and Gender


Where Does the US Go From Here?

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234146737_Looking_Back_to_See_Ahead_Unanticipated_Changes_in_Immigration_from_1986_to_the_Present_and_Their_Implications_for_American_Politics_Today

https://escholarship.org/content/qt27n3x5km/qt27n3x5km.pdf