**SOC 2370/LAS 2746: Immigration and the Politics of Exclusion**

Spring 2016

Banister 106

TTH 1:00 pm – 2:25 pm

Instructor: Prof. Marcos López

Office: Adams 212

E-mail: mlopez@bowdoin.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-4 pm

Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 pm

“Remember, remember always, that all of us, you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

**Course Description:**

The United States, like other nations in the global north, heavily relies on external and internal migrants. In this course we will look carefully at immigration to the U.S., and at other international cases comparative lessons, to understand the political, economic, and social causes of migration, the politics of immigrant inclusion/exclusion, and the making of diaspora communities. Specific topics will include: the politics of citizenship and assimilation, immigrant illegality and criminality; the global migrant workforce; and how class, gender, race, and sexuality influence the migrant experience.

**Course Goals:**

1. Provide students with an advanced understanding of immigration, with particular emphasis on the social and structural mechanisms that shape immigrant life in the United States and abroad.
2. Develop students’ critical thinking and analytical skills to better evaluate contemporary debates and issues relating to U.S. immigration policy, social inequalities and immigrant communities.
3. Build a critical awareness and understanding of the need for greater equity, justice, dignity and voice in immigrant issues.

**Required Books and Readings:**

The following required books are available through Chegg and are on reserve at H/L Library:

Abrego, Leisy. 2014. *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders*. Stanford: Stanford University Press

De Genova, Nicolas, and Nathalie Peutz (Eds.). 2010. *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement*. Durham: Duke University Press

Nazario, Sonya. 2007. *Enrique’s Journey: The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother.* New York: Random House

Park, Lisa and David Pellow. 2011. *The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in America's Eden*. New York: NYU Press

Rodriguez, Robyn Magalit. 2010. *Migrants for Export: How the Philippine State Brokers Labor to the World*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

All other readings are available on E-Reserves [ERS].

**Expectations and Evaluation:**

**Attendance and Informed Participation (10%):** You are required to read and be prepared to actively engage with all class readings. Also, you may have two unexcused absences. I take attendance each day at the beginning of class. Students not present at this time will marked absent. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 1% deduction of your final grade.

**Exam #1 (20%) and Exam #2 (20%):** Each take-home exam is meant to evaluate a students’ ability to comprehend and analyze course readings and supporting films. Students will have one week before the due date to prepare essay responses. Essay responses should be well thought out, reflect your understanding of the material, and include proper citations.

**Response Papers (25%):**Reading response papers are due five times over the course of the semester. Each paper should be 2 pages. Drawing on at least two readings, students are asked to provide: 1) a brief summary of the readings, including the author’s argument; and 2) a critical response that builds on your own analysis. I encourage students to take risks in their analyses.

**Immigration Reform Paper and Presentation (25%):** Changing our current immigration policy is complicated, and as you will learn in this course, muddled with political discourse. In groups of 3-4 students, your final assignment is to analyze and respond to the proposed immigration legislation from 2013. Final papers should be 15-20 pages. The focus of your analysis is of your choosing. For example, you are welcome to focus solely on detention, or look at the underlying issues associated with visa regimes and the U.S. labor market.

**Course Policies:**

* Copies of the readings should be brought to class.
* To prevent disruptions, please turn off all electronic devices when class is in session. This includes computers, tablets and cell phones.
* Class begins promptly at 1 pm and ends at 2:25 pm. Do not arrive late or depart early from class without advanced notice with the instructor. Each student is allowed two unexcused absence during the term.
* At all times show respect and courtesy to fellow students and others in class.
* It is important to turn in your assignments by the due date. Late assignments will result in a 5% deduction per day. Under no circumstances do I accept electronic copies.
* I check and reply to email once daily during weekdays and once over the weekend.
* Please adhere to the College’s academic honor code to avoid issues related to academic dishonesty. The honor code is available in the student handbook.

**Grading Scale:**

A = 94-100% A- = 90-93.9%

B+ = 87-89.9% B = 84-86.9% B- = 80-83.9%

C+ = 77-79.9% C = 74-76.9% C- = 70-73.9%

D = 67-69.9%

F = 65.9% and below

**Course Calendar:**

**I. Migrations in Context**

**January 26:**

Introduction, review syllabus, and course expectations

**January 28**

[ERS] Vargas, Jose Antonio. 2011. “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant.” In *The* *New York Times*, printed 6/22/2011.

[ERS] Huntington, Samuel. 2004. “The Hispanic Challenge.” In *Foreign Policy*, printed March/April 2004.

**II: Historicizing Immigration: Citizenship and Race in Question**

**February 2:**

[ERS] Anderson, Benedict. 2006. Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins of Nationalism. New York: Verso. Read Intro and Chap. 8, pp. 1-7 and 141-154

**February 4:**

[ERS] Ngai, Mae. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read Chap. 1-2, pp. 21-90

[ERS] Luibheid, Eithne. 2007. “Looking Like a Lesbian: The Organization of Sexual Monitoring at the U.S.-Mexican Border.” Pp. 106-133 in *Women and Migration in the US-Mexico Borderlands*, edited by D. Segura and P. Zavella. Durham: Duke University Press

**February 9:**

[ERS] Lee, Erika. 2002. “The Chinese Exclusion Example: Race, Immigration, and American Gatekeeping, 1882-1924.” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 21(3): 36-62

[ERS] Fitzgerald, David and David Cook-Martín. 2014. *Culling the Masses: The Democratic Origins of Racist Immigration Policies in the Americas*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Read Chap. 5 and 7, pp. 186-216 and 259-298

Due: Response Paper #1

**III. The Journey: Causes and Consequences**

**February 11:**

Nazario, Sonia. 2006. *Enrique’s Journey: The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother.* Read Chap. 1-3, pp. 3-100

Film: Clips from *Wetback* [2005]

**February 16:**

Nazario, Sonia. 2006. *Enrique’s Journey: The Story of a Boy’s Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother.* Read Chap. 4-8 and Epilogue, 101-272

[ERS] Falcón, Sylvanna. 2007. “Rape as a Weapon of War: Militarized Rape at the US-Mexico Border.” Pp. 203-223 in *Women and Migration in the US-Mexico Borderlands*, edited by D. Segura and P. Zavella. Durham: Duke University Press

[ERS] De Leon, Jason. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Read Chap 1, pp. 23-37

Guest Lecture: Bill de la Rosa, Bowdoin College

**February 18:**

[ERS]Borjas, George. 1999. *Heaven's Door: Immigration Policy and the American Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read Chap. 1-2, pp. 3-38

[ERS] Executive Office of the President. 2013. “The Economic Benefits of Fixing Our Broken Immigration System.” Washington, D.C.

[ERS] Migration Policy Institute. 2013. “Side-by-Side Comparison of 2013 Senate Immigration Bill with Individual 2013 House Bills.” Issue Brief No. 7, August 2013

**February 23:**

[ERS] Harvey, David. 2006. *The Limits to Capital.* New York: Verso. Read Chap. 13, pp. 373- 412

**February 25:**

Rodriguez, Robyn. 2010. *Migrants for Export: How the Philippine State Brokers Migrants to the World*. Read Intro and Chap. 1-4, pp. ix-xxviii; 1-92

Due: Response Paper #2

**March 1:**

Rodriguez, Robyn. 2010. *Migrants for Export: How the Philippine State Brokers Migrants to the World*. Read Chap. 5-6 and Conclusion, pp. 93-165

**IV. Being in America**

**March 3:**

[ERS] Portes, Alejandro, and Ruben Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California Press Read Chap. 3., pp. 44-69

**March 8:**

Park, Lisa Sun-Hee and David Pellow. 2011. *The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in America's Eden*. New York: NYU Press. Read Intro and Chap. 1-3, pp. 1-126

**March 10:**

Park, Lisa Sun-Hee and David Pellow. 2011. *The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in America's Eden*. New York: NYU Press. Read Intro and Chap. 3-5, pp. 127-210

Film: *The Visitor* [2008, 104 minutes]

Due: Exam #1

**Spring Break: March 12-27**

**V. Criminalizing Immigrants: Illegality and Deportability**

**March 29:**

[ERS] Foucault, Michel. 2003. “17 March 1976.” Pp. 239-64 in *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-1976*, edited by Mauro Bertani and Alessandro Fontana. New York: Picador.

**March 31:**

De Genova and Peutz. *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space and Freedom of Movement*. Read Part One, pp. 33-65 (optional, pp. 1-17)

* De Genova, “The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space, and the Freedom of Movement”
* (Optional) Peutz and De Genova, “Introduction”

Due: Response Paper #3

**April 5:**

De Genova and Peutz. *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space and Freedom of Movement*. Read Chap. 3-4, pp. 123-165

* Karakayali and Rigo, “Mapping the European Space of Circulation”
* Andrijasevic, “From Exception to Excess: Detention and Deportations across the Mediterranean Space”

[ERS] Huffer, Lynne and Sheth, Falguni. 2015. “When Empathy Isn’t Nearly Enough: Why the Syrian Refugee Crisis Demands More than Mercurial Emotion.” *Salon.com.* Sept. 19, 2015.

**April 7:**

De Genova and Peutz. *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space and Freedom of Movement*. Read Chap. 2, and 5-6, pp. 101-122 and 166-223

* Cornelisse, “Immigrant Detention and the Territoriality of Universal Rights”
* Talavera et. al, “Deportation in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: Anticipation, Experience and Memory”
* Gardner, “Engulfed: Indian Guest Workers, Bahraini Citizens, and The Structural Violence of the Kafala System”

**April 12:**

De Genova and Peutz. *The Deportation Regime: Sovereignty, Space and Freedom of Movement*. Read Chap. 1, pp. 69-100

* Walters, “Deportation, Expulsion, and the Territoriality of Universal Rights.”

[ERS] Golash-Boza, Tanya, and Pierrette Hondageu-Sotelo. 2013. “Latino Immigrant Men and the Deportation Crisis: A Gendered Racial Removal Program.” *Latino Studies* 11(3): 271-292

Due: Response Paper #4

**VI. Transnational Living and Immigrant Futures**

**April 14:**

[ERS] Jefferies, Julián. 2014. “The Production of “Illegal” Subjects in Massachusetts and High School Enrollments for Undocumented Youth.” *Latino Studies* 12(1): 65-87

[ERS] Golash-Boza, Tanya. 2014. “Forced Transnationalism: Transnational Coping Strategies and Gendered Stigma among Jamaican Deportees.” *Global Networks* 14(1): 63-79

**April 19:**

Abrego, Leisy. 2014. *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Read Chap. 1-5, pp. 1-132

**April 21:**

Abrego, Leisy. 2014. *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Read Chap. 1-5, pp. 1-132

**April 26:**

[ERS] Castles, Steven. 2004. “Why Migration Policies Fail.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 27:205-227.

[ERS] Golash-Boza, Tanya and Cecilia Menjívar. 2012. "Causes and consequences of international migration: sociological evidence for the right to mobility." *The International Journal of Human Rights* 16:1213-1227.

**April 28:**

[ERS] Nicholls, William. 2013. “From Political Opportunities to Niche-Openings: The Dilemmas of Mobilizing for Immigrant Rights in Inhospitable Environments. Theory and Society 43(3): 23-49

[ERS] Unzueta Carrasco, Tania, and Hinda Seif. 2014. “Disrupting the Dream: Undocumented Youth Reframe Citizenship and Deportability Through Anti-Deportation Activism.” *Latino Studies* 12(1): 279-299

Guest Lecture: Maria Ines Peniche, Member of the Dreamer 9

Due: Response Paper #5

**May 3:**

**Student Presentations**

Due Exam #2

**May 5:**

**Student Presentations**

**May 10:**

**Student Presentations**

Due: Immigration Reform Paper, May 16th