We will interrogate the sometimes conflicting, sometimes consonant, but always changing relationships between notions of citizenship—and its cultural significance, political resonance, and legal entitlements—and American immigration policy. While attentive to European migrations from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries, we will focus on twentieth and twenty-first century border crossings from Mexico, immigrations from Asia, Cold War refugees from Europe, and the discordant and unintended consequences of post-World War II legislation.

The readings will explore the separate but entwined historical literatures on “citizenship” and “immigration.” I have designed them to be global in reach and interdisciplinary in perspective. We will, as the semester proceeds, read several works of fiction written by authors who have immigrated to the United States in recent years, some with, some without their families.

Students may be asked to write short papers in the course of the semester and a major final paper in the form of a “lecture” to undergraduates on the themes and issues discussed in the readings.

**Weekly Syllabus**


Feb. 8: Smith continued


**Preliminary List of Novels of Immigrant Life:**


A Gesture Life, 1999


Edwidge Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*, 2004

Ngozi Adicheie, *Americanah*, 2013

Atticus Lish, *Preparations for the Next Life*, 2014