

David Nasaw
Fall, 2018, Monday, 4:15 to 6:15

"Immigrants, refugees, and the ceaseless, sometimes futile quest for American citizenship"

There is nothing new in the current debates on immigration, refugees, and paths to citizenship or the rancor, the anger, the fear that envelopes them. Every nation on earth is defined by its immigration and citizenship policies. Every nation on earth chooses, in one way or another, its future citizens. In a representative democracy, these decisions are made through the political process.

In this course we will examine how and why Americans have chosen to welcome or close this nation's mighty gates to those who sought to enter our nation and become our fellow citizens. 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 and the Chinese exclusion acts, 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 read works of history and sociology, as well as novels and memoirs 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 or civic groups on the themes and issues discussed in the readings.

This is a seminar, not a lecture course.

Weekly assignments

I. Overviews

Aug. 27 Problems of definition, a bit of historiography.

Sept. 5 John J. Bukowczyk "The Racial Turn," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 36, no. 2 (Winter 2017), 5-10

Anna Pegler-Gordon, "Debating the Racial Turn in U.S. Ethnic and Immigration History," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 36, no. 2 (Winter 2017), 40-53

Paul A. Kramer, "Review Essay: The Geopolitics of Mobility: Immigration Policy and American Global Power in the Long Twentieth Century," *American Historical Review*, April, 2018, 393-438

Sept. 17 Aristide R. Zolberg, *A Nation by Design: Immigration Policy in the Fashioning of America*. Harvard U.P., 2006.

Oct. 1 Nancy Foner, *From Ellis Island to JFK: New York's Two Great Waves of Immigration*. Yale University Press, 2000.

II. Chinese Exclusion Act, Asian Immigrants and immigration

Week of Oct. 8 (date to be determined)

Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*. University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Oct. 15 Lisa Lowe, *Immigrant Acts: On Asian-American Cultural Politics*. Duke U.P., 1996.

Beth Lew-Williams, "'Chinamen' and 'Delinquent girls': Intimacy, Exclusion, and a Search for California's Color Line," *Journal of American History* (December, 2017), 632-655

Oct. 22 Evelyn Takano Glenn, *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor*. Harvard U.P., 2002.

III. Illegals and the Making and Unmaking of Mexican Americans

Oct. 29 Mae Ngai, *Unequal Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton U.P., 2004.

Nov. 5 David G. Gutiérrez, *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity*. University of California Press, 1995.

Nov. 12 Douglas S. Massey, Jorge Durand, Nolan Malone, *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration*. Russell Sage Foundation, 2012

Roberto G. Gonzales and Steven Raphael, "Illegality: a Contemporary Portrait of Immigration," *RSF: Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Science* 3, no. 4 (2017), 1-19.

IV. Fictional representations

Nov. 19 Novels by and about immigrants and immigration.

V. Refugees

Nov. 26 Carl J. Bon Tempo, *Americans At the Gate: The United States and Refugees during the Cold War*. Princeton University Press, 2008

VI. Immigration and Citizenship

Dec. 3 Eithne Luibhéid, *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*. University of Minnesota Press, 2002.

Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America*. Princeton U.P., 2009, 19-55, 214-165

Dec. 10 Peter Spiro, *Beyond Citizenship: American Identity After Globalization*. Oxford U.P., 2008.

Valeria Luiselli, *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions*. Coffee House Press, 2017