SYLLABUS

AMERICAN IMMIGRATION: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

26: 050:510:01 (American Studies); 26: 510:586:01 (History); 26:790:570:01 (Political Science) 26:977: 624: 01 (Urban Systems).

Spring 2018

Time: Tuesday 2:30 – 5:20 pm
Place: Conklin Hall, room 448
Instructor: Steven Diner
Office: Conklin Hall 420
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INTRODUCTION

This course examines immigration to cities and urban areas of the United States since the nineteenth century. It will consider the causes of immigration, the social, cultural and economic adaptation of various groups, return migration, the significance of race, the varied experience of different immigrant groups, the development of ethnic group identities, changing American policy and attitudes towards immigrants and ethnic groups, and the impact of immigration and ethnicity on American society and culture. The class will consist of weekly discussions of assigned books. Students will be required to write a bibliographic essay on the scholarly literature of a particular immigrant group, a specific time period, some aspect of the immigrant experience, the impact of immigration on a particular city or how immigration has shaped America’s economy, political system, social institutions or culture.
REQUIRED TEXTS


**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES**

Class Discussion – 30%

Bibliographic Essay – 30%

Final Essay – 40%

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

January 16

Reading: Tyler Anbinder, *City of Dreams: The Four Hundred-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*.

January 23

Reading: Mark Wyman, *Round Trip to America: Immigrants Return to Europe, 1880-1930*.

Due: Proposed Topic for Bibliographic Essay

January 30

February 6
Due: List of books for Bibliographic Essay

February 13
Reading: Alan Kraut, *Silent Travellers: Germs, Genes, and the “Immigrant Mennace.”*

February 20
Readings: Hasia Diner, *Hungering for America: Irish, Italian and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration.*

February 27

March 6

March 13
Spring Break: Class does not meet.

March 20
Reading: Libby Garland, *After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965.*

March 27
April 3
Reading: Leon Fink, *The Maya of Morgantown: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South*.

April 10
Reading: Cindy Hahamovitch, *No Man’s Land: Jamaican Guestworkers in America and the Global History of Deportable Labor*.

April 17
Reading: Vivek Bald, *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian Americans*.

April 24

May 1
No assigned readings.

Due: Final Essay

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY**

Your bibliographic essay should compare the ways historians and other scholars have written about some particular aspect of U.S. immigration. Your essay could consider the literature on a specific immigrant group or on immigration to a particular city. Or you might select a thematic topic, looking at gender differences in the immigrant experience, the economic, educational, religious or communal experiences of various groups, immigrant engagement with American politics, or the transnational ties of different immigrant groups. You could also examine
scholarship on immigration policy or the comparative experience of different groups, among other possibilities. You will need to discuss at least ten books in addition to any books assigned for the course that address your topic.

FINAL ESSAY

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive a broad question to address in your final essay. You will be asked to draw upon your extensive readings and discussions of U.S. immigration history in an integrated essay. There will be no in-class examinations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf. When submitting your research paper and final essay, please attach the following statement with your signature: **On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.**