IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP
SYLLABUS

Course Description

We often hear that America is a “nation of immigrants.” But this representation of the United States does not explain why some are presumed to belong in the United States, and others are not. Why are Mexicans the prototypical “illegal alien”? Why are Latinos and Asian Americans so often considered “alien citizens,” as American citizens who are nonetheless presumed to be foreign? And why are European Americans assumed to belong? This course will examine these questions, among others, through studying how the law of immigration and citizenship historically included some communities and excluded others through both explicit racial bars and formally neutral requirements. In addition to this historical examination, we will also study contemporary immigration and citizenship law, and its role in shaping the borders of our national community today. Thus, our focus will be on both the history of immigration and citizenship law, and on contemporary debates in the field.

While we will frequently foreground questions of race in the class, we will also spend considerable time on a comprehensive overview of the major facets of American immigration law and policy. These topics will include admissions, substantive grounds for removal (exclusion and deportation), the treatment of undocumented immigrants, asylum and refugee policy, and the law of citizenship.

This course will serve as an introduction to legal studies. Thus, what will be different about the approach of this course, as compared to courses in sociology, political science, or ethnic studies that examine immigration, is the attention to how the law has served to shape both immigrant communities and American national identity. In addition to scholarly texts, students will learn to read and analyze excerpts of both cases and the statute that governs immigration and citizenship, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
Lastly, this course meets the American Cultures requirement. As a result, the course examines the origins of certain racialized ideas which serve to shape contemporary policy and thought. Ideas about race are often bound up in questions of gender and sexuality, and we will thus look at how racial concepts intersect with assumptions about normative families and behavior. We will study how immigrant communities and national identity have been made through immigration and citizenship law, with the direct experiences of specifically racialized groups integrated into the course structure. When possible, we will contemplate how racialization happens in a comparative frame, across communities.

Requirements
Course requirements include a personal immigration history, a midterm, a three-four page book review essay, and a final exam. The one-two page personal immigration history will be worth 5% of the grade on a pass/fail basis.

The personal immigration history will be due the third week of class. The midterm (worth 20%) will be held in class during the sixth week of class and will cover weeks one to five of the course. The book review essay (worth 15%) will be due during week ten. The final exam (worth 50%) will cover material from the entire semester.

Students may choose between the following two books (available on bspace) for their book review essay:

More information about each of these assignments will be made available on bspace under “Resources.”

Grading
Personal Immigration History, 1 – 2 pages 5% (pass/fail)
Class Participation in discussion section 10%
Midterm 20%
Book Review Essay, 3 – 4 pages 15%
Final Exam 50%

Course Materials
All course materials will be made available on bspace.
Schedule
All readings will appear on bspace under “Resources.” You will also receive a weekly announcement/email via bspace alerting you as to the reading assignment for the following week.

Week One: Welcome and Introduction (Jan 19 & 21)
Readings
Tuesday, January 19:

Thursday, January 21:

*No discussion section meetings this week *

Week Two: The Origins of Federal Immigration Law (Jan 26 and 28)
Readings
Tuesday, January 26:
3. Take a look at poems written by Angel Island detainees about their detention experience, from the book Island (just skim for your own interest)
   http://casefiles.berkeley.edu/
   This is a website with information as to available case files for early immigrants to SF and Hawai‘i.

   Guest lecturer: Bob Barde, author of Immigration at the Golden Door

Thursday, January 28:
2. Ekiu v. United States (1892)
Take a look under “passenger records” to see what you may find.

**Week Three: Deportation (Feb 2 and 4)**

*Readings*

**Tuesday, February 2:**
2. *Fong Yue Ting v. United States* (1893).

**Thursday, February 4:**


*Personal Immigration History Due February 4*

**Week Four: Citizenship Restrictions on Naturalization (Feb 9 and 11)**

*Readings*

**Tuesday, February 9:**
5. Film clip in class: “Race: The Power of an Illusion”

**Thursday, February 11:**

**Week Five: Japanese American Internment (Feb 16 and 18)**
Readings
Tuesday, February 16:
1. Daniel Kanstroom, Deportation Nation, pp 206-213 (already distributed)
3. Civilian Exclusion Order No. 33.

Thursday, February 18:
No readings assigned. Film in class: “Rabbit in the Moon.”

Week Six: The Bracero Program (Feb 23 and 25)
Readings
Tuesday, February 23:
1. Daniel Kanstroom, Deportation Nation: 213-224 (already distributed)

Thursday, February 25:
No assigned reading: In Class Midterm.

*In Class Midterm February 25*

Week Seven: National Origins Quotas and Repeal, Film screening of Sentenced Home (March 2 and 4)
Readings
Tuesday, March 2:

Thursday, March 4:
Film in class: Sentenced Home (78 minutes).

Week Eight: Admissions Today (March 9 and 11)
Readings
Tuesday, March 9:

Thursday, March 11:
2. look at Diversity Visa Lottery Instructions, available at:

Week Nine: Removal Grounds and Procedure – and Special Lecture on Guantanamo (March 16 and 18)
Readings
Tuesday, March 16:
2. INA sections 212 and 237 (just skim).

Thursday, March 18:
   http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2005/06/08/AR2005060802358_pf.html
5. The Omar Khadr Project:
   http://www.omarkhadrproject.com/
6. ACLU press release re new proposed legislation to indefinitely detain terrorist suspects:

Guest Lecture: Professor Muneer Ahmad, Yale Law School, in Room 110, UC Berkeley School of Law.

SPRING BREAK WEEK OF MARCH 22

Week Ten: Crime and Immigration; Introduction to Undocumented Immigration (March 30 and April 1)
Readings
Tuesday, March 30:
1. INA section 212(a)(2), section 237(a)(2) (already assigned in previous session; just skim).
Film clip in class: “Alliance for Justice: The Case of Jesus Collado”

Thursday, April 1: Introduction to Undocumented Immigration; Focus on Education
1. Listen to This American Life segment on the DREAM Act, available at: http://www.dreamactivist.org/this-american-life-profiles-a-dreamer/

*Book Review Essay Due April 1*

**Week Eleven: The Rights of Immigrants and Undocumented Immigration (April 6 and 8)**

Tuesday, April 6:
Look at the following websites:
3. La Raza Centro Legal, About the Day Labor Program, at: http://techforpeople.net/~lrcl/article.php/about_day_labor

Guest Lecture: Renee Saucedo, Community Empowerment Coordinator, La Raza Centro Legal

Thursday, April 8:

**Week Twelve: Asylum and Refugees (April 13 and 15)**

Readings
Tuesday, April 13:
1. look at Obtaining Asylum in the United States, information from USCIS, available at http://www.uscis.gov/ (link will be in announcement on bspace)
Film clip in class: “Well Founded Fear”

Thursday, April 15:

Week Thirteen: Immigration and the War on Terror (April 20 and 22)
Readings
Tuesday, April 20:

Guest Lecture: Sin Yen Ling, Staff Attorney, Asian Law Caucus

Thursday, April 22:

Film clip in class: “Out of Status”

Week Fourteen: Citizenship: Focus on Acquisition and Loss (April 27 and 29)
Readings
Tuesday, April 27:
2. “Birthright Citizenship Debate Set to Begin,” MSNBC.com

Thursday, April 29:
*Final Exam Friday May 14, 2010 *