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 one-two page personal immigration history, a two-three page observation of Immigration Court in San Francisco, a midterm, a three-four page book review essay, a final exam, and participation in discussion section. Some details about particular assignments:

Court Observation
For this assignment, you are to observe two hours of proceedings at Immigration Court at 120 Montgomery Street in San Francisco. You may do this on any day between Monday – Thursday, either for a session that begins at 8:30 am or at 1:00 pm, as fits with your schedule. Obviously you should not plan to observe court during a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon session. We encourage you to do your court observation early in the semester, for two reasons. First, the experience will enrich your learning in the remainder of the course. Second, we don’t want to flood the court with an entire class of observers the week your observation is due. We will be posting an online sign up for the court observation.

Book Review
Students will review the following book (available on bspace) for their book review essay:

More information about each of the assignments will be made available on bspace under “Resources” or during section and lecture.
Grading

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Immigration History</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court Observation (pass/fail)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review Essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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TOTAL: 100%

Significant Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Immigration History</td>
<td>September 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class Midterm</td>
<td>October 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review Essay</td>
<td>November 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Observation</td>
<td>December 5</td>
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The personal immigration history will be due the fourth week of class. The midterm will be held in class during the seventh week of class and will cover weeks one to six of the course. The book review essay will be due during week eleven. The court observation will be due the final class meeting. The final exam will cover material from the entire semester, with an emphasis on new material learned after the midterm.

Course Materials

All course materials will be made available on bspace and in a reader available at Copy Central, 2560 Bancroft Way.
Schedule

Week One: Welcome and Introduction (Aug. 29)

Readings

Thursday, August 29:


*No discussion section meetings this week*

Week Two: Introduction and the Origins of Federal Immigration Law (Sept. 3 and 5)

Readings

Tuesday, September 3:


Thursday, September 5:


3. Take a look at poems written by Angel Island detainees about their detention experience, from the book Island (skim for your own interest).
Week Three: Origins of Federal Immigration Law (cont'd), and Deportation (Sept. 10 and 12)

Readings
Tuesday, September 10:
2. Ekiu v. United States (1892)
   Take a look under “passenger records” to see what you may find.

Film clip in class: “Becoming American: The Chinese Experience”

Thursday, September 12:
2. Fong Yue Ting v. United States (1893).

Week Four: Racial Restrictions on Naturalization (Sept. 17 and 19)

Readings
Tuesday, September 17:

Film clip in class: “Race: The Power of an Illusion”

Thursday, September 19:
2. In re Rodriguez (1897)(excerpt).

Guest lecturer: Mary Hoopes

*Personal Immigration History Due September 19*
Week Five: The Bracero Program and Japanese American Internment (Sept. 24 and 26)

Readings

Tuesday, September 24:


Film clips in class: “Harvest of Loneliness” trailer; CNN report on Arizona

Thursday, September 26:
No readings assigned.

Film in class: “Rabbit in the Moon.” Please note, this film is 84 minutes long, and the screening will thus begin at 12:05 pm.

Week Six: Japanese American Internment (cont’d) and National Origins Quotas and Repeal (Oct. 1 and 3)

Readings

Tuesday, October 1
2. Civilian Exclusion Order No. 33.

Thursday, October 3:
Week Seven: Admissions Today and In class Midterm (Oct. 8 and 10)

Readings

Tuesday October 8:

Thursday, October 10:
No reading assigned. In class midterm. Material through Thursday, October 3 tested on midterm.

*In Class Midterm on October 10*

Week Eight: Admissions Today (cont’d) and Introduction to Removal Grounds and Procedure (Oct. 15 and 17)

Readings

Tuesday, October 15:

Film clip in class: “Homeland Security” episode.
Thursday, October 17:
2. INA sections 212 and 237 (just skim).

Week Nine: The Control of Migration and Crime and Immigration (Oct. 22 and 24)

Readings
Tuesday, October 22:

Thursday, October 24:
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”
Week Ten: Crime and Immigration (cont’d), and Undocumented Immigration – Focus on Education (Oct. 29 and 31)

Readings
Tuesday, October 29:

Film clip in class: “My Asian Americana,” by Anida Yoeu Ali for White House AAPI “What’s Your Story?”
Film in class: “Sentenced Home” (no reading assigned)

Thursday, October 31:
2. Listen to This American Life segment on the DREAM Act, available at: http://www.dreamactivist.org/this-american-life-profiles-a-dreamer/

Film: “The Dream is Now”

Week Eleven: Undocumented Immigration – Focus on Responses (State and Local Control; Federal Enforcement and the Case for Amnesty) (Nov. 5 and 7)

Readings
Tuesday, November 5:
Thursday, November 7:

*Book Review Essay Due November 7*

Week Twelve: Asylum (Nov. 12 and 14)

Readings

Tuesday, November 12:
1. Look at website: Obtaining Asylum in the United States, information from USCIS, available at http://www.uscis.gov/ (link will be in announcement on bspace)

Film clip: “Well Founded Fear”

Thursday, November 14:

Film Clip: “Well Founded Fear”
Week Thirteen: Focus on Gender Based Asylum; Immigration and the War on Terror (Nov. 19 and 21)

Readings
Tuesday, November 19

Thursday, November 21

Film clip: “How Democracy Works Now”
Film in class: “Out of Status”

Week Fourteen: Immigration and the War on Terror (Nov. 26)

Readings
Tuesday, November 26:

Thanksgiving November 28 – No Class
Week Fifteen: Citizenship: Acquisition and Loss; Focus on Birthright Citizenship (Dec. 3 and 5)

Readings
Tuesday, December 3:
5. Petition to Strip John Walker Lindh of his Citizenship

Thursday, December 5:

Film clip in class: Kris Kobach on the O’Reilly Factor.

*Court Observation Due December 5*

*FINAL EXAM December 20, 8 am – 11 am*