

Course Syllabus

Course Information

SOC 4396 Selected Topics, Section 001: Immigrants and Immigration

Spring 2010

Professor Contact Information

Bobby C. Alexander, Ph.D. 972-883-6898 bcalex@utdallas.edu

Note: USE UTD PIPELINE (the e-mail address above) AND NOT the eLearning site for our course TO SEND ME AN E-MAIL.

Office: GR 2.124

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:45-2:15 p.m., and by appointment at other times

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

This course examines the “newest” immigrants in the U.S. – those arriving after 1965 – and their U.S.-born children, focusing on the two largest immigrant groups: Latin Americans and Asians, including Middle Easterners. Course topics include: assimilation of the newest immigrants into the main U.S. social institutions, including their contribution to the labor force and the economy; multiculturalism and the place of these immigrants in it; and U.S. immigration policy, with an emphasis on immigration law. The course highlights the prevailing trend and pattern of assimilation, multiculturalism, and emphasis on selection of immigrants who contribute economically and in other ways to U.S. society while examining ambiguities and countervailing aspects of these trends and patterns.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course objective is to understand the social factors at work in the newest immigration, beginning with the necessity of immigrant labor in the U.S. economy, and the process of assimilation of these immigrants into U.S. society and culture. The course objective will be accomplished by students’ writing two essay exams on assigned course reading materials on the course topics as well as three short literature reviews of published scholarly research in sociology or related fields on a topic related to the newest immigrants in U.S. society.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Three texts are required: 1) *Diversity in America* (Pine Forge Press, 2005), by Vincent Parillo, 2) *Strangers among Us: How Latino Immigration Is Transforming America* (Alfred Knopf, 1998), by Roberto Suro, and 3) *Americans in Waiting: The Lost Story of Immigration and Citizenship in the United States* (Oxford University Press, 2007), by Hiroshi Motomura. The texts are available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books. Supplemental reading material is available through electronic reserve in the UTD McDermott Library: an excerpt from *Race and Ethnic Relations: American and Global Perspectives* (Wadsworth, 2008), by Martin Marger. Reading assignments are printed in the course calendar below. Students are required to read the assigned materials before class in order to contribute to class discussion.

Students will supplement the required course readings with peer-reviewed journal articles and other scholarly sources on the newest immigrants. These will be the basis of students' literature reviews. (See Assignments below).

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Students will write two take-home exams. Both will be in essay format. Exam questions will be handed out in class one week before the exams are due. Exam due dates are printed in the course calendar below.

Students will write three two-to-three-page reviews of scholarly literature on a topic related to the newest immigrants that interests them and is significant to U.S. society and/or of sociological importance. The instructor will provide detailed instructions on how to select a topic and review the literature. Due dates for the literature reviews are found in the course calendar.

Students must submit hard copies of the exams and literature reviews; e-mailed electronic files of the exams are not accepted, with the exception of medical and other emergencies.

Students will make informal, in-class presentations based on their review of the literature. The instructor will provide instructions for the presentations and will schedule them for the second half of the semester.

Instructions for these assignments will be distributed in class. The guidelines also will be posted on eLearning for students who are unable to attend class the day instructions are handed out.

January 11

Orientation to the Course

January 13

Sociological Overview of Immigration and the "Newest Immigrants"

Read: *Race and Ethnic Relations*:

Excerpt from Chapter 5: "Foundations of the American Ethnic Hierarchy"
(Electronic Reserve)

Diversity in America:

Chapter 7: "Diversity in the Information Age"

January 20 and 25: No Class January 18th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday observed

U.S. Immigration and Racial/Ethnic Diversity of Immigrants Revisited

Read: *Diversity in America*:

Chapter 1: “Perception and Reality”

Chapter 8: “Intergenerational Comparisons”

Literature Review Topic due January 25th

January 27 and February 1

U.S. Immigration and Racial/Ethnic Diversity of Immigrants Revisited

Read: *Diversity in America*:

Chapter 9: “Is Multiculturalism a Threat?”

Chapter 10: “Multiculturalism After 9/11”

February 3 and 8

Latino Immigrants

Read: *Strangers among Us*:

Chapter 1: “Children of the Future”

Chapter 2: “Looking North”

Chapter 3: “From One Man, a Channel”

February 10 and 15

Latino Immigrants

Read: *Strangers among Us*:

Chapter 4: “Day People, Night People, *Madres*”

Chapter 5: “Living by American Rules”

Chapter 6: “Branding the Babies”

Chapter 7: “Save Our State”

First Literature Review due February 15th

February 17 and 22

Latino Immigrants

Read: *Strangers among Us*:

Chapter 8: “Los Angeles: People in Motion”

Chapter 9: “Houston: Cantina Patrol”

Chapter 10: “New York: From Stickball to Crack”

Chapter 11: “Miami: A Barrio Without Borders”

February 24 and March 1

Latino Immigrants

Read: *Strangers among Us*:

Chapter 12: “New York: Teetering on the Heights”

Chapter 13: “Los Angeles: From the Churn to the Burn”

Chapter 14: “The City That Worked”

Chapter 15: “From the Burn to the Backlash”

March 3 and 8

Latino Immigrants

Read: *Strangers among Us*:

Chapter 16: "Closing the Doors"
Chapter 17: "After the Earthquake"
Chapter 18: "Accept the Fear"

First Exam Questions handed out March 3rd

March 10

Asian and Middle Eastern Immigrants

Read: *Race and Ethnic Relations*:

Excerpt from Chapter 5: "Foundations of the American Ethnic Hierarchy,"

Section on "Middle-Eastern Americans"

Handout from Middle Eastern Quarterly

First Exam due March 10th

March 15 and 17: No Class: Spring Break

March 22 and 24

Immigration Policy

Read: *Americans in Waiting*:

Introduction: "Immigrants in America" and

Chapter 1: "Contract and Classical Immigration Law"

March 29 and 31

Immigration Policy

Read: *Americans in Waiting*:

Chapter 2: "Promises, Promises"

Second Literature Review due March 29th

April 5 and 7

Immigration Policy

Read: *Americans in Waiting*:

Chapter 3: "All Persons Within the Territorial Jurisdiction" and

Chapter 4: "Alienage and the Ties That Bind"

April 12 and 14

Immigration Policy

Read: *Americans in Waiting*:

Chapter 5: "The Most Tender Connections" and

Chapter 6: "The Lost Story of Americans in Waiting"

In-Class Presentations

April 19 and 21

Immigration Policy

Read: *Americans in Waiting*:

Chapter 7: "Transition at a Crossroads"

Third Literature Review due April 21st

In-Class Presentations

April 26 and 28

Immigration Policy

Read: *Americans in Waiting*:

Chapter 8: “The Meaning of Transition” and

Chapter 9: “Race, Belonging, and Transition”

In-Class Presentations

May 3

Immigration Policy

Read: *Americans in Waiting*:

Chapter 10: “Taking Transition Seriously” and

Conclusion: “The Idea of Americans in Waiting”

The Future of Immigration

Read: *Diversity in America*:

Chapter 11: “The Next Horizon”

In-Class Presentations

Second Exam questions handed out May 3rd

May 10

Second Exam due.

Students will turn in the exam to the instructor’s office (GR 2.124) at 2:30 p.m. during the regular scheduled exam period.

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

60%: the two essay exams combined

25%: the three literature reviews combined

5%: in-class presentation

10%: attendance

Note: Students automatically will be excused from two classes. Students who miss more than two classes will be excused if they have legitimate reasons (i.e., medical emergencies and death in the family) and provide proper documentation.

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100

A = 94-96

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79
C = 74-76
C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69
D = 64-66
D- = 60-63
F = 59 and below

Course & Instructor Policies

Students must submit all assignments on time; late assignments will not be accepted without a grade penalty; late assignments will be accepted without penalty only when students have a legitimate reason (medical emergencies and death in the family). Students must provide proper documentation for any late work. This requirement is intended to help students stay on track in submitting assignments and to be fair to students who submit work on time.

Students must submit hard copies of all assignments in class; electronic submissions will not be accepted, except, when appropriate, for medical emergencies and death in the family.

Class attendance is required. The intent of this policy is to help students keep up with lectures and discussion and perform well on assignments.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with

university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.