

UGS 303: Difficult Dialogues: Immigration and the Changing Face of America

Unique #63690, FALL 2010

M-W, 10-11:30, MAI 220D

Professor Neil Foley

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by appointment

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This seminar will examine the history of immigration since World War II in order to understand the historical context for the profound demographic changes that have occurred in the last few decades. We will be particularly interested in post-1965 immigration from Asia, Africa, and Latin America (particularly Mexico), and the ways in which these immigrant streams have led to declining white majorities in the 21st century. Hawaii, New Mexico, California, and Texas are already “majority-minority” states (as is the District of Columbia), in which the population of non-Hispanic whites is less than 50%. Nationally the under-15 population declined from 60.8% white in 2000 to 54.6% in 2009. The census now estimates that the U.S. will be a “majority minority” nation by 2042.

The changing face of America raises a number of questions: How will sustained immigration from non-European countries change what it means to be American? What is an American? Is being American grounded mainly in citizenship status regardless of race, religion, or national origin? Or does it also involve one’s understanding of and adherence to certain civic values and democratic ideals? If so, what are those values and ideals? How does one “assimilate” those ideals? What do we mean by “assimilation”? How will sustained immigration from Mexico, both legal and illegal, affect the future of the nation politically, economically, and culturally? How might the economic forces of globalization and the global movement of peoples be fashioning transnational, supranational, and subnational identities in the United States and throughout the world? In attempting to respond to these and other questions, students will be encouraged to come to their own conclusions based on thoughtful critiques of scholarly works and their own research on some aspect of immigration history and/or current debates. The course will help students develop skills in argumentative writing that draws upon their own research as well as the assigned readings.

Course Requirements

- Two short (response) papers (750 words each, or three typed pages)—10% each, due September 16 and October 7.
- Research paper (2000 words, or eight typed pages)— Draft (15%) due no later than November 10. Final version (25%) due December 1.
- Library assignment, 5%, due no later than Nov. 3
- Oral Presentation based on research paper, 5%
- Class Participation and attendance, 10% (includes attendance at Lecture Series Oct. 4 & 5)
- Weekly posts to Blackboard Discussion Forum, 20%

Plus/Minus grades will be assigned as the final grades. See table at end of syllabus.

Required Texts:

Aviva Chomsky, *"They Take Our Jobs!": and 20 Other Myths about Immigration* (Beacon Press, 2007)

Victor Hanson, *Mexifornia: A State of Becoming* (Encounter Books, 2003)

CP: Course Pack available at Speedway Printers in Dobie Mall

Important Notes

- Please arrive on time to class.
- Assignments will be reduced one letter grade for each day late
- Plagiarism is a serious form of academic dishonesty. Penalties for plagiarism range from failure in the course to expulsion from the University. If you paraphrase or quote words or ideas that are not your own, in any paper or presentation, you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism.
- Attendance is mandatory and more than one unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by 3 points on a 100-point scale for each unexcused absence. Excused absences are given only for medical reasons or other emergencies in which you notify the instructor by email in advance.
- Turn off cell phones. Lap tops permitted for note taking and research, not FaceBook, etc.
- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Service for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.
- The University respects religious holidays: Please inform me if a religious holiday will affect your attendance or other requirements in the course.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Week 1

Aug. 25 Introduction to Course

Week 2

Aug. 30 The (ongoing) Immigration Debate

9500 Liberty film clip 1 and 2

CP: "Changing Face of America"; "Arizona Backlash"

Sept. 1

Some Immigrant Stories

CP, "Nine Stories,"; Common Statements about Immigrants Handout

(nos. 1,3,4,6,9); instructions for researching statements.

Week 3

Sept. 6

Labor Day – no class

Sept. 8

Common statements about Immigrants

In-class exercise on Statements; discussion of research methods/sources

Instructions for first paper (hand-out)

Week 4	
Sept. 13	Citation Exercise Chomsky, "Introduction" [vii-xxvi]; "Myth 15", 149-161
Sept. 15	First Short Paper Due. Lecture: Growth of the Hispanic Population since 1980 CP: "Hispanic Americans by the Numbers"
Week 5	
Sept. 20	Case Against Mexican Immigration CP: Samuel Huntington, "The Hispanic Challenge"
Sept. 22	Critique of the Huntington Thesis CP: "Return of the Nativist"; "Huntington and Hispanics"
Week 6	
Sept. 27	Asian Americans: "Model Minority"? CP: Wu, "The Model Minority" [38]; Prashad, "Of India"; "Indians American"; "Model Minority, No thanks"
Sept. 29	Race, Identity, and Asian Americans CP, "Race and Identity" [20]; "New White Flight" [6]
Week 7	
Oct. 4	Immigrants and the Economy Chomsky, 3-49 [46] Oct. 4: University Lecture: Cirque du Politique; and Oct. 5, The Great Debate: How Do You Change the World?
Oct. 6	Second Short Paper Due Immigrants and the Law, Chomsky, 51-74 [33]
Week 8	
Oct. 11	Immigration Backlash CP, "Proposition 187 in California"; Chomsky, "Myth 16"
Oct. 13	Birthright Citizenship and "Anchor Babies" debate CP: "Unauthorized Immigrants"; "Born in the USA"; "Anchor Babies"
Week 9	
Oct. 18	Library PCL 1.339 The California Case 20 Years after Proposition 187 Hanson, <i>Mexifornia</i> , preface and 1-59
Oct. 20	The Argument continued Hanson, <i>Mexifornia</i> , 60-102
Week 10	
Oct. 25	Popular Culture and Assimilation Blues Hanson, <i>Mexifornia</i> 103-150
Oct. 27	Immigration and U.S. Policy Chomsky, 119-146 [27]
Week 11	
Nov. 1	Immigration and Race Chomsky, 75-118 [43]
Nov. 3	The Dream Act,

CP: “Dream v. Reality”

Week 12

Nov. 8

Draft of Research Paper Due

No readings; Strategies for paper revisions

Nov. 10

Immigration and African Americans

CP: “On Backs of Blacks”; “Immigration, African Americans, & Race Discourse” [21]

Week 13

Nov. 15

Oral Presentations

English-Only Movement

CP: “Should English be the Law?”; “Disabling Spanish” [21]

Nov. 17

Oral presentations

American Multiculturalism after 9/11

CP: “Multiculturalism and Immigration” [10 pp]

Week 14

Nov. 22

Oral presentations

Intermarriage and Mixed Race Movement

CP: “Changing Face of America”

Nov. 24

No Class (day before Thanksgiving)

Week 15

Nov. 30

Oral Presentations

America’s Last Hope?

CP: “Hispanic and Asian Immigrants” [16]

Dec. 1

Final Thoughts. **Final Papers due**

Grading Scale:

A	94-100	C+	78-79	D-	60-63
A-	90-93	C	74-77	F	<60
B+	88-89	C-	70-73		
B	84-87	D+	68-69		
B-	80-83	D	64-67		