The issues of globalization, transnational migration, ethnic group formation, and the politics of citizenship are among the most provocative areas of social science and humanities research today. This intensive upper-division reading/discussion course is designed to provide a thematic interdisciplinary overview on the history of these issues and related questions by exploring recent interpretations of developments in the migration history of the United States over the course of the twentieth century.

**Course Requirements:** This is an intensive upper-division interdisciplinary course in which students are expected to come well prepared to discuss readings each week. Individual students will lead discussion of readings each week and participation in class will account for 30 percent of the final grade. Students are also expected to write a 20-25 page term paper based either on a synthetic review of course readings or on one of the topical areas addressed in the course (e.g. changing paradigms in migration studies; the debate over globalization; problems of the “second generation” and general issues of immigrant adaptation; economic and/or labor dimensions of transnational migration; gendered dimensions of transnational migration; the politics of ethnicity and citizenship; etc.). Students may also choose other topics after consultation with the instructor. The term paper will account for the remaining 70 percent of the final course grade. Papers will be due during final exam week.

All required reading will be available online through the UCSD Library website.


**Week 1 (Oct. 6)—Course Introduction and Overview**

**Week 2 (Oct. 13)—Capitalism, Imperialism, and Migration: The Global Context**

American comprehension of the history of immigration, ethnicity, and citizenship has always been colored by deeply rooted assumptions that are often empirically untested, much less considered critically for their ideological underpinnings. This week’s readings engage some of those basic assumptions by placing the phenomenon of immigration to the United States in a larger global context that attends to the history of imperialism and capitalism. The assigned readings focus in particular on the question of how these
massive social forces helped to stimulate the transnational and transregional movement of peoples around the globe.


**Week 3 (Oct. 20)—The Evolution of the Immigration Debate**

The forces of imperialism and capitalist development in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries helped set the context for the largest mass movement of human populations in history in the period between the dawning of the Industrial Revolution and the onset of the Great Depression. Rapid population shifts created steadily increasing social tensions and strains in settler societies such as the United States (and other immigrant-receiving areas of the world), and largely as a result, a movement emerged in many nations to restrict and control both the process of transnational population movement and transnational migrants themselves. This week’s readings explore the evolution and significance of the impulse to restrict and control immigration and thus help to provide the historical context for understanding the origins of the contemporary debate over issues of immigration and national citizenship.

Week 4 (Oct. 27)—Immigrant Responses to Racialization and Restriction

The global movement to restrict and control migration flows between and among nations and regions placed huge strains on the populations against whom these policies and practices were targeted. As a result, members of these increasingly dense and complex transnational social networks were compelled to devise innovative social, economic, and political strategies to help them cope with and survive attempts to control their freedom of movement. This week’s readings explore different historical examples in which members of different immigrant and ethnic groups attempted to devise and implement different coping mechanisms and strategies of resistance against efforts to constrain their activities.


Week 5 (Nov. 3) The Social and Cultural Worlds of Immigrants

While different segments of immigrant and ethnic populations engaged in various forms of civil rights and citizenship politics, they also dealt with the challenge of adjustment and adaption in their everyday lives. This week’s readings explore some of the quotidian strategies people employed to adapt and adjust to what was often a hostile and bewildering social environment in the United States.


Week 6 (Nov. 10) -- NAFTA, Neoliberalism, and Demographic Change

If the Great Age of Migration that followed the Industrial Revolution marked the first period of what is now commonly referred to as “globalization,” the period following the
Second World War—and especially the period since the early 1970s—surely marks a second great era of globalization. A key feature of the current historical moment of globalization is the pronounced economic restructuring of the world under principles that economists and economic historians have dubbed “neoliberalism.” This week’s readings explore the phenomenon of neoliberal economic restructuring, focusing in particular on the many profound ways structural economic change has impinged on human migration and on both formal and informal systems of social membership in modern economies and societies.


**Week 7 (Nov. 17)—Gendered Dimensions of Migration**

As we have seen in previous readings, the phenomenon of global migration has always been a deeply and complexly gendered process affecting family structure, the structure of systems of gender in both immigrant-sending and immigrant-receiving societies, and the complex universe of constructed social norms about sexual orientation, sexuality, masculinity, and femininity. This week’s readings explore some of the ramifications of the global migration on these key areas of social life.


**Week 8 (Dec. 1)—Citizenship and Its Discontents**

The institution of national citizenship in liberal societies such as the United States has always been held as the foundation upon which systems of civil, social, political, (and to some extent) economic “rights” have been based. In recent years, however, critical
scholars in a variety of academic disciplines have raised questions about the actual design and function of the formalized systems of social and political membership known as “citizenship.” This week’s readings provide brief exposure to some of the debates about the history and future of citizenship policy and praxis in the broader context of the history of immigration we have explored in the course.


**Week 9 (Dec. 8)—Citizens, Non-Citizens, and the Significance of the Contemporary “Immigrant Rights” Campaign**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau there are now more foreign-born people in the United States than ever before. The presence of millions of both authorized and unauthorized residents has raised pressing new concerns about the future of citizenship and the changing social structure of the nation. This week’s readings provide an introduction to the current debate over the shifting role of immigrants and their children to the future of the country.


**Week 10 (Dec. 15) The Economics and Politics of Contemporary Immigration**

The current debate over immigration and citizenship policy and practice is clearly one of the most contentious areas of political discord in the United States and other immigrant-receiving nations and regions. This final week’s readings explore some of the most important dimensions of the current debate over these historically vexed issues.
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