The issues of transnational migration, globalization, 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 overview on the recent history of these issues and related questions by exploring recent interpretations of developments in the history of the United States in the twentieth century, and especially since World War II.

Course Requirements: This is an intensive upper-division course in which students are expected to come well prepared to discuss readings each week. To facilitate discussion, students are required to submit a 1-2 page reaction paper discussing the major readings assigned each week. Students are also expected to write a 15-25 page term paper 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. PLEASE NOTE: Papers will be due during final exam week.

Required Readings (available at Groundwork Books):


Class Schedule:

Week 1—(9/23) Course Introduction.

Week 2—(9/30) The Context: Read Daniels and Graham.


Week 4—(10/14) Transnationalism: Read Hsu, *Dreaming of Gold*.

Week 5—(10/21) Local Examples: Read Hardin, *Double Cross*.

Week 6—(10/28) Local Examples, 2: Read De Genova and Ramos-Zayas.

Week 7—(11/4) The Second Generation: Read Portes and Rumbaut.


Week 9—(11/18) Food for Thought: Read Boyle, *Tortilla Curtain*.

Week 10—(11/25) Happy Thanksgiving.

Week 11—(12/2) Class Discussion.