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

**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 individual readings and participation in class will account for 50 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 50 percent of the final course grade. Papers will be due during final exam week.

All required reading will be available online through the course website on TritonEd.

**Week 1 (April 4)—Course Introduction and Overview**

**Week 2 (April 11)—The Contours of the Current Immigration Debate**


**In-Class Film Discussion**: *The State of Arizona*

**Week 3 (April 18)—Capitalism, Economic Development, and Global Migration**

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 capitalism and global economic development. 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 4 (April 25)—Race, Reaction, and Restriction**
The movement of millions of people from places of origin to places of new settlement contributed to a rapid intensification of social tensions and strains in settler societies such as the United States (and other immigrant-receiving areas of the world including Canada, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Southeast Asia, and some parts of Europe). Largely as a result, a movement emerged in many nations to restrict and control the process of transnational population movement—and to manage transnational migrants themselves. This week’s readings explore the evolution and significance of the impulse to restrict and control immigration in different parts of the world and thus help to provide the historical context for understanding the origins of the contemporary debate over issues of immigration and national citizenship law and policy in the United States.


**Week 5 (May 2) Modes of Resistance/Modes of Accommodation**
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 and material success. 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 accommodation and resistance to efforts to constrain their activities.


Week 6 (May 9)—The 1965 INA and the Coming Demographic Revolution
After a long period in which immigration from most of the world was tightly restricted, the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments (INA) abolished the National Origins Quota system that had been in place in different forms since 1921 and implemented a new policy regime in the areas of immigration, naturalization, and citizenship. Although long portrayed as part of the civil rights struggle that was raging at the time, historical scholars have since come to question the supposed liberal underpinnings of the law. This week’s readings explore the INA’s anticipated and unanticipated effects—and its impact in at least partially creating the conditions for the eventual demographic transformation of the population of the United States.


Week 7 (May 16)—Capitalism and the Economic Dynamics of Migration
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 reordering 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 8 (May 23)—The Rise and Decline of the Immigrants’ Rights Movement**

As we have already seen, non-citizen immigrants (and their citizen allies) have a long history of protesting their treatment in the United States, whether in the workplace, in the courts, or in the streets. Since the debate over California’s controversial Proposition 187 in the 1990s, the immigrants’ rights movement has grown in size, scale, and intensity. However, the emergence and growing visibility of this movement has created a backlash that in some ways came to fruition with the results of the 2016 presidential election. This week’s readings provide brief exposure to some of the debates about the history and future of the immigrants’ rights movement in the United States.


**Week 9 (May 30)—Contours of the Contemporary Debate**

As we know, largely due to inaction in the Congress of the United States, immigration law and policy has struggled to cope with recent trends including the massive growth of the foreign-born population, millions of children of different citizenship and nationality
statuses, and a resident population of officially unauthorized persons that is currently estimated to be at least eleven million people—and perhaps many more. This week’s readings explore some of the many issues that have arisen as a consequence of the confluence of these trends.


**Week 10 (June 6) Citizenship and Its Futures**

One of the first laws passed by the first Congress of the United States in 1790 established that access to U.S. citizenship would be restricted to free white adult males, a system of formal membership that remained largely in place until the Civil War. However, after the Civil War, the system of national citizenship was radically transformed by the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Henceforth, “all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof,” would be considered “citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.” In recent years, the explosive growth of the unauthorized immigrant population of the nation has led to calls to abolish birthright citizenship and devise a new system of national membership. This week’s readings explore some important dimensions of that highly contentious debate.