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 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 individual readings 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 course website on TritonEd.


Week 1 (Jan. 9)—Course Introduction and Overview

Week 2 (Jan. 16)—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 (Jan. 23)—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 in the 1930s. 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 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 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 in the United States.


**Week 4 (Jan 30)—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 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 resistance against efforts to constrain their activities.


**Week 5 (Feb. 6) 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 cultural adjustment and adaptation 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 and cultural environment in the United States.


**Week 6 (Feb. 13)--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.

**READ:** Cheona Flippen and Emilio A. Parrado, “A Tale of Two Contexts: U.S. Migration and the Labor Force Trajectories of Mexican Women,” *International
Week 7 (Feb. 20)—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 (Feb. 27)—The Rise (and Decline?) of the Immigrants’ Rights Movement

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 built 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 (Mar. 6)—Contours of the Contemporary Debate**


**Week 10 (Mar. 13) The Economics and Politics of Contemporary Immigration**

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