

ECON 114: Economics of Immigration
Department of Economics
University of California, San Diego
Spring 2004

Lecture: MWF 12-12:50pm Humanities and Social Sciences Building (HSS), Room 2250

Instructor: Mary Lopez
Office: Economics Building, Room 108
Office Hours: Mondays, 9:30am-10:30am, Wednesdays, 1:30pm-3:00pm, and
Fridays, 9:30-10:30
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Course Description: This course examines the economic causes and consequences of immigration. The focus of the course will be on the United States' experience. However, we will also examine aspects of other international migrations. The course will focus on the economic reasons that motivate people to migrate ^{to other parts of the world, the} labor market and fiscal impacts of immigration on sending ^{and receiving countries, and} and the economic consequences of current immigration policies.

Text: George J. BORJAS: *Heaven's Door*, Princeton University Press: Princeton, ^{New} Jersey, 1999 (Required).

In addition to the text, we will rely on selected book chapters, articles from academic journals, articles from the popular press, working papers from research institutions, and Web-based documents from a variety of government sources. All of the readings from the above sources can be downloaded and printed through the library's electronic reserves at <http://reserves.ucsd.edu>. It is your responsibility to make sure you print and read the articles before lecture.

The text is also on reserve in the Social Sciences and Humanities Library (SSHL). ^{In} ^{New York} addition, students are encouraged to read a major newspaper, such as the ^{New York} *Times*.

Course Structure: The course consists of formal lectures three days a week. The lectures will be devoted to surveying issues related to the economics of immigration, as well as reviewing the assigned readings.

Course Requirements: The requirements for the course are (i) Problem Sets 30%, (ii) Midterm Examination 30%, and (iii) Final Examination 40%.

Problem sets will be posted on WebCT. I will announce in class when each assignment is posted and when it is due. Problem sets are to be handed in at the *beginning* of class. Homework will not be accepted by e-mail or in department mailboxes. If you need to hand in an assignment early because you cannot be in class on the day the homework is due, then please make arrangements with me. Homework will be returned approximately one week after it is due.

Each homework assignment must have the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your Student ID Number
3. Your Section ID Number

Exam Policy: Dates of exams are **NOT** negotiable and you **MUST** take your exam during the time specified. If you miss the **MIDTERM** for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, your midterm grade will be your grade on the final exam (you may not take the midterm before or after the scheduled day and time). Otherwise you will receive a zero, no exceptions!!

Midterm: Monday, April 26, in class

Final Exam: Monday, June 7, 11:30-2:30pm

You must take the final exam on this day and time. No exceptions will be made to take the exam before or after the scheduled day and time.

Academic Code of Honor: The class is conducted in accordance with the University of California, San Diego's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. All work on the examinations and the written assignments is to be the work of the individual student. Students may (and are encouraged) to work together in preparation for classes and in studying for the exams.

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all exams and the course is as follows:

A = 92-100

A- =90-91.9

B+ =87-89.9

B =82-86.9

B- =80-81.9

C+ =77-79.9

C=72-76.9

C- =70-71.9

D =60-69.9

F =0-59.9

Course Management: The course will be managed using WebCT. You can access WebCT by going to <http://webct.ucsd.edu> and login using your UCSD e-mail username and password. I will post the reading assignments, power points from lecture, problem sets, and class announcements on WebCT. It is your responsibility to make sure you can access this information. I will also post your problem set and exam grades on WebCT. It is your responsibility to make sure that your grades accurately reflect the scores written on your assignments. If a score is recorded incorrectly, please contact me immediately. Friday, June 7 (the day of the final exam) is the last day to inform me of any discrepancies in the recording of your grades. No changes will be made after this date.

Contents (Subject to Change):

Topics

Overview of Immigration Trends and Policy	Week 1
Who Migrates?	Week 2
Assimilation	Week 3
Effects of Immigrants on Natives' Labor Market Outcomes	Week 4
Benefits of Immigration	Week 5
Immigration and the Welfare State	Week 6
Skills vs. Family Reunification Policy	Week 7
Guest Workers and Illegal Immigration	Week 8
The Economic Consequences of Outmigration	Week 9
Case Studies	Week 10