POLI 150A: The Politics of Immigration  
Winter 2011  
Peterson 110, T/TH 8-9:20am  

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Course Description

Immigration is an issue that numerous countries are currently dealing with— from trying to control the number of migrants entering the country to attempts at attracting immigrants to fill a void in the labor market. This course examines the various factors involved in crafting an immigration policy, the process in which immigrants enter and become part of the political process, public opinion towards immigration, and how the institutional structures and immigration policies of a country determine whether immigrants can actively participate in the political system.

Immigration is a highly controversial topic; as such, the aim of this course is not to weigh in on any side of a particular debate, but to provide students with the analytical tools to critically compare and contrast the relevant issues, actors, political institutions, and political processes that are part of the immigration debate. We will do so from a comparative standpoint, focusing on the United States, Western Europe, and Asia. By taking this comparative approach, we can determine whether the issues and concerns over immigration are similar across these countries.

Course Policies

Attendance and Class Readings

Attendance, readings, and course assignments are mandatory. All readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of class.

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Graded assignments are not collaborative efforts in this class. You must work independently on all exams and papers. Please refer to the UCSD policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. If you are caught cheating in this course (this includes plagiarism), you will be awarded a letter grade of an F.
Course Requirements

Grades in this class will be based on the following:
In-class midterm exam 30%
Documentary film analysis 30%
Final Exam 40%

In-class midterm exam (30%): The mid-term will cover all material from Week 1 through Week 5. The midterm exam will take place on February 3, 2011.

Documentary film analysis (30%): Students are to analyze one of the documentaries (either Balseros or Farmingville) shown in lecture. It should reference lecture materials and at least four (4) assigned readings from the course in the analysis. The main question to address is: how does this documentary highlight concerns over immigration? More specifics regarding this assignment will be discussed in lecture. This assignment will be due in lecture on February 22, 2011, and should not exceed four (4) double-spaced pages in 12-point font (excluding the works cited page).

Final Exam (40%): The final exam will take place on March 17, 2011 from 8-10:50am. It will be cumulative in nature, and will be a combination of short identifications and several long essays.

Course Materials


All other readings will be available online at: webct.ucsd.edu. In order to access the readings, you must be registered for Blackboard.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1 (Jan. 4 & 6): Why do individuals move? The phenomenon of global migration
Castles and Miller, Chapter 1-3
**Week 2 (Jan 11 & 13): Immigration Policies**: How should immigration policies be designed? Managing immigration flows

Jan 11: Castles and Miller, Chapter 8

Jan 13: Cornelius et al., Chapter 1


**Week 3 (Jan 18 & 20): Immigrant Assimilation and Integration – political, social and cultural aspects**

Jan 18: Castles and Miller, Chapters 11, 12


**Week 4 (Jan 25 & 27): Public Opinion and Immigration**

In-class documentary: *Farmingville*


**Week 5 (Feb 1 & 3): Migration and Security**

Feb 1: Castles and Miller, Chapter 9

Feb. 3: Midterm
**Week 6 (Feb 8 & 10): Migration to the United States**

Feb 8: Cornelius, *et al.*, Chapter 2 (Martin) and commentaries by Hanson and Tichenor, pp. 51-94

Feb 10: Castles and Miller, pp 83-87, 120-122

In class documentary: *Balseros*

**Week 7 (Feb 15 & 17): Immigration to Western Europe**


Feb 17: Castles and Miller, pp 108-111

Cornelius, *et al.* Chapters 4, 8

In-class documentary: *Inside the European Union: Parliament Under Pressure* and *Help Wanted: Dynamics of the EU Labor Market*

**Week 8 (Feb 22 & 24): Newcomers to Immigration- Japan and Spain**

Feb 22: Cornelius, *et al.* Chapters 10 and 11


Feb 24: Asia-- Castles and Miller, Chapter 6


In-class documentary: *Tokyo: The Neon City* (2005)

**Week 9 (March 1 & 3): Forced Migration: Refugees, International Law and Human Trafficking**

March 1: Castles and Miller, Chapter 8

In-class documentary: *Lost Boys of Sudan*

**Week 10 (March 8 & 10): Effects of Migration/Conclusion**

March 8: Castles and Miller, Chapters 3, 13

March 10: Review for Final Exam