Course Syllabus

Course Information

SOC 4337 Immigrants and Immigration in U.S. Society  Section 001

Spring 2013

Professor Contact Information

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PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.

Office: GR 2.532
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15-3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

No pre-requisites or co-requisites.

Course Description

This course takes a sociological approach to American’s “newest” immigrants – those arriving after 1965 – and their U.S.-born children. The course focuses on the two largest immigrant groups: Latin Americans and Asians, including immigrants from the Middle East. The course examines the assimilation of immigrants into U.S. society and its public institutions (the economy, governance, education, and others). The course also examines public policy related to assimilation, focusing on immigration law.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course objectives are to gain a sociological understanding of the assimilation of the newest immigrants in U.S. society and its public institutions, and an understanding of relevant public policy.

Required Textbooks and Other Readings

Two texts are required: 1) Strangers among Us: Latino Lives in a Changing America, by Roberto Suro (Vintage Books), and 2) The Contemporary Asian American Experience: Beyond the Model Minority, by Timothy P. Fong (Pearson/Printice Hall). Both are available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books. Readings on electronic reserve through McDermott Library.
will supplement these texts. Students will do further reading in scholarly sources as part of a literature review assignment.

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**Assignments and Academic Calendar**

Students will write two take-home exams, one at mid-term and the other at the end of the course. Both will be in short-answer/essay format. Exam questions will be handed out one week before the exams are due.

Students also will write three 2½-page literature reviews of scholarly sources on a topic related to immigrants and immigration in U.S. society students will choose. Students will choose topics that both interest them and have significance for U.S. society.

Instructions for all course assignments will be available on eLearning. The instructor will go over all instructions in class.

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**January 15 and 17**

**Orientation to the Course**

**Overview of U.S. Immigration**

Read: Electronic Reserve: *Race and Ethnic Relations:*
Excerpt from Chapter 5 “Foundations of the American Ethnic Hierarchy”

**January 22 and 24**

**Latino Immigration**

Read: *Strangers among Us:*
Chapter 1 “Children of the Future”
Chapter 2 “Looking North”
Chapter 3 “From One Man, a Channel”

**Note:** On January 24th Ms. Susie Kutchi with McDermott Library will give a demonstration of searches in the library’s electronic databases for sources to review for the literature review assignment.

**January 29 and 31**

**Assimilation of Latino Immigrants**

Read: *Strangers among Us:*
Chapter 4 “Day People, Night People, Madres”
Chapter 5 “Living by American Rules”
Chapter 6 “Branding the Babies” and
Chapter 7 “Save Our State”

**Topic for literature reviews due in class January 29th**
February 5 and 7

Four Case Studies

Read: *Strangers among Us:*
  Chapter 8 “Los Angeles: People in Motion”
  Chapter 9 “Houston: Cantina Patrol”
  Chapter 10 “New York: From Stickball to Crack”
  Chapter 11 “Miami: A Barrio Without Borders”

February 12 and 14

Four Contrasting Case Studies

Read: *Strangers among Us:*
  Chapter 12 “New York: Teetering on the Heights”
  Chapter 13 “Los Angeles: From the Churn to the Burn”
  Chapter 14 “The City That Worked”
  Chapter 15 “From the Burn to the Backlash”

February 19 and 21

Public Policy and Latino Immigrants and Their U.S.-Born Children

Read: *Strangers among Us:*
  Chapter 16 “Closing the Doors”
  Chapter 17 “After the Earthquake”
  Chapter 18 “Accept the Fear”

First Literature Review due February 21st

Mid-Term Exam Questions handed out February 21st

February 26 and 28

Asian Immigrants and Asian Americans

Read: *The Contemporary Asian American Experience:*
  Introduction “Changing Asia America”
  Chapter 1 “The History of Asians in America”
  Chapter 2 “Emerging Communities, Changing Realities”

Mid-Term Exam due February 28th

March 5 and 7

Social Opportunities and Barriers for Asian Immigrants and Asian Americans

Read: *The Contemporary Asian American Experience:*
  Chapter 3 “The Right to Excel: Asian Americans and Educational Opportunity”
  Chapter 4 “Workplace Issues: Beyond Glass Ceilings”
Note: No Class March 12 and 14 Spring Break

March 19 and 21

Asian American Political Power

Read: *The Contemporary Asian American Experience*:
Chapter 8 “The Final Frontier: Asian American Political Empowerment”

March 26 and 28

Asian American Families

Read: *The Contemporary Asian American Experience*:
Chapter 7 “More Than ‘Family Values’: Asian American Families and Identities”

April 2 and 4

Asian American Responses to Prejudice and Discrimination

Read: *The Contemporary Asian American Experience*:
Chapter 5 “Anti-Asian Violence: Breaking the Silence”
Chapter 6 “Charlie Chan No More: Asian Americans and the Media”
Conclusion “Coming Full Circle”

Second Literature Review due April 4th

April 9 and 11

Assimilation of Muslim Immigrants and Muslim Americans

Read: Electronic Reserve: *Muslims in the West After 9/11*:
Chapter 1 “Islam in America”

April 16 and 18

Note: April 16th Guest Speakers UTD Baha’i Club

Assimilation of Muslim Immigrants and Muslim Americans continued

Read: Electronic Reserve: *Muslims in the West After 9/11*:
Chapter 8 “American Muslims at the Dawn of the 21st Century”

April 23 and 25

Muslim American Institution Building

Read: Electronic Reserve: *Religion and Immigration*:
Chapter 9 “Islam in America: The Mosaic”
Third Literature Review due April 25th

April 30 and May 2

Muslim American Institution Building continued

   Read: Electronic Reserve: Religion and Immigration:
       Chapter 10 “Constructing the American Muslim Community”

Final Exam Questions handed out May 2nd

May 9th

Final Exam due

Note: Students will turn in their exams in the instructor’s office (GR 2.532) between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. during the regularly scheduled exam period.

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals 100%) for the course grade follows.

65%: the two exams combined
25%: the three literature reviews combined
10%: attendance

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100
A  = 94-96
A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89
B  = 84-86
B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79
C  = 74-76
C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69
D  = 64-66
D- = 60-63
F  = 59 and below

Course and Instructor Policies

Attendance is required. Students automatically will be excused from two classes. Students who miss more than two classes will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide documentation.
The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion.

**Students must submit hard copies of all assignments on the due dates.** Electronic submissions will not be accepted, unless the student is absent from class and has a legitimate reason for being absent. Late papers will not be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor.

This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness, since students work hard to submit work on time.

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**University Policies**

To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, and others, please go to the link that follows.

http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies