

Immigration and Transnationalism (INTRL-GA 1731.015)

New York University Program in International Relations

Thursdays, 6:20 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.

Silver Center Room 402

Fall 2015

Instructor: Roy P. Germano

Email: roy.germano@nyu.edu

Phone: (804) 620-7299

Office hours: By appointment

Course Overview

This course explores some of the many challenges and opportunities associated with the movement of people across national borders. Global migration flows have reached unprecedented levels. Immigrants now account for one of every eight people in the United States—the largest share in almost a century. Many rural communities in countries like Mexico, on the other hand, have been all but deserted by young adults, with those who remain behind supported by massive sums of money that migrants send home. Meanwhile, debates rage in Europe about Islam and assimilation while thousands of refugees die in the Mediterranean Sea fleeing conflict and repression in countries like Somalia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and Syria. Furthermore, a growing number of people around the world are trafficked and sold into slavery while governments do little to enforce anti-trafficking conventions. What is driving trends like these, and what are their political, economic, and social implications? Why do people emigrate, how are people smuggled and trafficked, and to what extent can states control immigration? How do immigration policies affect families, children, and communities? What is the relationship between emigration and human development in developing countries? This course explores these and other questions about human mobility in the 21st century.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a class participation (worth 20%), a Midterm Essay Exam (worth 40%), and a Final Essay Exam (worth 40%). The Final Essay Exam will emphasize the second half of the course, but it will be cumulative in that questions will draw on concepts and readings covered throughout the course. As part of the class participation component, students will write a critical reflection for each book we read, due the day we finish a book. Critical reflections should be submitted to NYU Classes by 2pm on Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Nov. 5, and Nov. 19. Although there is not a word-count requirement, a thorough critical reflection will probably be about 500-1000 words. Critical reflections will not be graded, but their quality and on-time completion will impact the class participation component of each student's overall grade.

Readings

Students should plan to purchase and read the following books for this course.

- Bhabha, Jacqueline, *Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age*, Princeton University Press, 2014.
- Caldwell, Christopher, *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: Immigration, Islam, and the West*, Anchor Books, 2009.

- Kenney Ngaruri, David and Philip Schrag, *Asylum Denied: A Refugee's Struggle for Safety in America*, University of California Press, 2009.
- Smith, Robert Courtney, *Mexican New York*, University of California Press, 2006.
- Urrea, Luis Alberto, *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*, Back Bay Books, 2005.

Course Schedule & Themes

I. Course Overview

September 3, 2015.

II. Migration, Borders, and the State

September 10, 2015

Read: Urrea, *The Devil's Highway*, pp. 1-114

September 17, 2015

Read: Urrea, *The Devil's Highway*, pp. 115-220

III. Assimilation, Transnationalism, and Homeland Development

September 24, 2015

Read: Smith, *Mexican New York*, pp. 1-146

October 1, 2015

Read: Smith, *Mexican New York*, pp. 147-292

IV. Guest workers, Refugees, and Anti-Immigrant Sentiment

October 8, 2015

Read: Caldwell, *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe*, pp. 1-67, pp. 99-138

October 15, 2015

Read: Caldwell, *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe*, pp. 172-195, pp. 221-286

IV. Midterm Examination Essays

October 22, 2015

V. Legality, Internal Enforcement, and the Age of Deportation

October 29, 2015

Read: Kenney Ngaruri and Schrag, *Asylum Denied*, pp. 1-171

November 5, 2015

Read: Kenney Ngaruri and Schrag, *Asylum Denied*, pp. 172-327

VI. Child Migration, Human Trafficking, and the Modern Slave Trade

November 12, 2015

Read: Bhabha, *Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age*, pp. 1-134

November 19, 2015

Read: Bhabha, *Child Migration and Human Rights in a Global Age*, pp. 137-281

November 26, 2015

Thanksgiving break, no class

VII. Writing about immigrants and immigration

December 3, 2015

We will be joined by special guest Kirk Semple, who has reported on and written about immigration for the *New York Times* for over a decade. Reading assignment TBA.

December 10, 2015

Catch up, review, concluding discussion

VIII. Final Examination Essays

December 17, 2015