

LAS 6938/POS 6933/REL 6137
Immigration, Politics, and Religion
in a Hemispheric Perspective
Spring 2005
Tuesdays, 3rd to 5th Period
216 Anderson Hall

Instructors: Dr. Manuel A. Vásquez & Dr. Philip J. Williams
Office: Anderson 107B Tel. 392-1625, ext. 229 E-mail: mvasquez@religion.ufl.edu
Office Hours: Thursday, 10AM to 1PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This advanced seminar explores the interplay among immigration, religion, and politics from an interdisciplinary and hemispheric perspective, comparing and contrasting historical and current patterns in the United States and Latin America, particularly in the Caribbean and Brazil. Topics include: the tension between assimilation and multiculturalism, the role of religion and other cultural institutions and practices in both classical and transnational migrations, gender and family networks, second generation dynamics, the evolution of U.S. migration policy, the increasing militarization and commodification of life at the U.S.-Mexican border, and the impact on Florida of migration from Latin America. The course will be coordinated with the Center for Latin American Studies' Latino Immigrants in Florida Project and the Bacardi distinguished speaker series, giving students the opportunity to interact with leading scholars in the field. Students will be expected to conduct and present their own research on topics connected with the course.

OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce students to theories and methods in the study of immigration in the Americas.
2. To encourage dialogue between the social sciences and the discipline of religion in the study of immigration.
3. To explore the evolution of U.S. Latino and Latin American identities in response to emerging patterns of migration.
4. To examine the changing roles of state in regulating migrations flows in the context of globalization.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Two Short Response Papers** (5-6 pp). Drawing from the course readings and class discussions, students will address key issues raised by the invited speakers. More specifically, students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of theories, methods, evidence, and claims presented by the speakers during their public talks. Students are free to choose the two speakers for which they will write their reaction papers. However, given the intensity of the course, students are strongly encouraged not to leave papers for the last weeks of the semester. The papers are due on the Monday (at 4PM) following the specific week to which they respond. They constitute 30 % of the final grade (15% each).
2. **A Take Home Mid-Term Exam** which will contain a choice of essay questions designed to test how well students handle concepts, theories, and methods in the readings. Since students will have at least a week to complete this assignment, I expect essays to be not only well-developed, with good grammar, spelling, and syntax, but also analytical substantive, making explicit references to the readings. This take-home exam will be 20% of your final grade.
3. **A Final Research Paper** (15- 20pp) focusing on a theme related to migration, religion, and politics. Students need not do original empirical research, but may base the paper on secondary sources. However, they are encouraged to combine theoretical frameworks, archival and field research, and analyses of the policy dimensions of

migration. If the project includes human subjects, students must fulfill regular IRB protocols. Please refer to: <http://irb.ufl.edu/> Students will give a short presentation (15-20 minutes) of their research project in the final two weeks of the semester. They are expected to produce a brief precis (2pp) containing the questions that framed the project, as well as the methodology and type of evidence used and conclusions reached. The assignment is due during exam week and is worth 40% of the final grade (30% for the paper and 10% for the presentation).

4. Attendance and Active Participation. Given that this course is a small advanced seminar, attendance is **mandatory**. Attendance to the invited speakers' public lectures is also **required**. Absences will be allowed only under very special circumstances, such as a medical emergency. In that case, students must bring a doctor's note. Students are expected to **read all** the assigned material and to participate actively in class discussion. The instructors reserve the right to give quizzes at any time (in case students are not doing the readings). Attendance and participation represent 10% of your final grade.

RULES

1. **Plagiarism or cheating:** Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. On the issue of plagiarism and cheating, I operate under a zero tolerance policy. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment in question and will fail the course. In addition, they will be reported to the appropriate university authorities. Please keep in mind that plagiarism does not consist only in copying verbatim someone else's material and presenting it as if it were yours. It also includes taking ideas (even paraphrased!) from an author without according him/her proper recognition (through a footnote, for instance). Other forms of cheating (particularly downloading material from the Internet and presenting as if it were yours) will also be subject to the same action. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm> <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm> for more information on UF policies.

2. **Incompletes are strongly discouraged** and will be given only when students who have finished most of the assignments satisfactorily cannot complete the final requirements due to unforeseen events. If this is the case, students must arrange for the incomplete **before** the end of the semester.

3. Students reading the newspaper or engaging in any other disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom. Please turn phones and pagers off during class.

4. **Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting classroom accommodation or special consideration must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation or special consideration.

REQUIRED READINGS

Books:

- Levitt, Peggy. 2001. *Transnational Villagers*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Massey, Douglas et al. 2003. *Beyond Smoke and Mirror: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration*. New York: Russell Sage.
- Vila, Pablo. 2000. *Crossing Borders, Reinforcing Borders*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette. 2003. *Gender and U.S. Immigration: Contemporary Trends*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Portes, Alejandro and Ruben Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Lesser, Jeffrey 1999. *Negotiating National Identity: Immigrants, Minorities, and the Struggle for Ethnicity in Brazil*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Stepick, Alex et al. 2003. *This Land is your Land: Immigrants and Power in Miami*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Articles and Book Chapters:

Additional articles and book chapters are included in a reader available at University Copy Center. They are marked with an asterisk (*) in the course schedule.

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

01/04: Introduction to the Course

01/ 11: Overview of Classical Theories of Immigration

Portes, Alejandro and Roberto Bach. 1985. *Latin Journey: Cuban and Mexican Immigrants in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-71. (*)

Faist, Thomas. 1997. "The Crucial Meso-Level." In *International Migration, Immobility and Development: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Tomas Hammar et al. New York: Berg, pp. 187-217. (*)

01/18: Assimilation and Marginality

Park, Robert. 1928. "Human Migration and the Marginal Man." *American Journal of Sociology* 33(6): 881-893. (*)

Gordon, Milton. 1964. "The Nature of Assimilation." Chapter 3 in *Assimilation in American Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (*)

Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 1995. "Children of Immigrants: Segmented Assimilation and its Determinants," in Alejandro Portes, ed., *The Economic Sociology of Immigration*. New York: Russell Sage, pp. 248-279. (*)

Alba, Richard and Victor Nee. 1999. "Rethinking Assimilation Theory for a New Era of Immigration." *International Migration Review* 31 (4): 826-874. (*)

01/25: Transnationalism I: Theoretical Statements and General Dynamics

Levitt, Peggy. 2001. *Transnational Villagers*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-124.

Roger Rouse. 1991. "Mexican Migration and the Social Space of Postmodernism." *Diaspora* 1: 8-24. (*)

Glick-Schiller, Nina. 1999. "Transmigrants and Nation-States: Something Old and Something New in the U.S. Immigrant Experience." In *The Handbook of International Migration: The American Experience*. Edited by Charles Hirschman et al. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, pp. 94-126. (*)

02/01: Transnationalism II: Theoretical Statements and General Dynamics

Levitt, Peggy. 2001. *Transnational Villagers*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 127-216.

Portes, Alejandro et al. 1999. "Introduction: Pitfalls and Promise of an Emergent Research Field." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 22(2): 217-238. (*)

Portes, Alejandro. "Conclusion: Theoretical Convergencies and Empirical Evidence in the Study of Immigrant Transnationalism." *International Migration Review* 37(3): 874-892. (*)

Invited Speaker: Nina Glick-Schiller, University of New Hampshire, Anthropology

"'The Land which the Lord your God Giveth you.' Locality, Global Christianity, and Immigrant Incorporation in a New Imperial Age." February 1st, 2005, 3-5PM Friends of Music Room

02/08: Transnationalism III: Religion's Role

McAlister, Elizabeth. 1998. "The Madonna of 115th Street Revisited: Vodou and Haitian Catholicism in the Age of Transnationalism." In *Gatherings in Diaspora: Religious Communities and the New Migration*, eds. Stephen R. Warner and Judith Wittner. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. (*)

Vasquez, Manuel A. and Marie Friedmann Marquardt. 2003. "Saving Souls Transnationally: Pentecostalism and Youth Gangs in El Salvador and the United States." In *Globalizing the Sacred* by Manuel A. Vasquez and Marie F. Marquardt. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. (*)

Johnson, Paul Christopher. 2002. "Migrating Bodies: Circulating Signs: Brazilian Candomble, the Garifuna of the Caribbean, and the Category of Indigenous Religions." *History of Religions* 41/4: 301-327. (*)

Levitt, Peggy. 2004. "Redefining the Boundaries of Belonging: The Institutional Character of Transnational Religious Life." *Sociology of Religion* 65/1: 1-18. (*)

Invited Speaker: Paul Christopher Johnson, African & Afroamerican Studies, University of Michigan. "Joining the African Diaspora: Dynamics of Migration and Urban Religion." February 8, 2005, 3-5 PM at Friends of Music Room.

02/15: State and Immigration Policy

Massey, Douglas et al. 2003. *Beyond Smoke and Mirror: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration*. New York: Russell Sage.

Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy* (March/April): 30-45 (*)

Invited Speaker: Jorge Durand, University of Guadalajara, Anthropology. "Miracles on the Border. Traditions and Religion of Mexicans Migrants in the United States." February 15th 2005, 3-5 PM. Friends of Music Room.

02/22: The U.S.-Mexico Border

Vila, Pablo. 2000. *Crossing Borders, Reinforcing Borders*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

*** TAKE-HOME MID-TERM DUE ON FRIDAY 02/26/2005 AT 4 PM ***

03/01: Spring Break – No Classes

03/08: Gender, Families, and Households

Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette. 2003. *Gender and U.S. Immigration: Contemporary Trends*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 3-42, 194-240, 287-358.

Lorentzen, Lois and Rosalina Mira. 2005. "'El Milagro Está en Casa': Gender and Private/Public Empowerment in a Migrant Pentecostal Church." *Latin American Perspectives* 32/1: 57-71. (*)

Invited Speaker: Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, University of Southern California, Sociology.
Topic TBA, March 8, 2005, 3-5 PM, 216 Anderson Hall

03/15: The Second Generation

Portes, Alejandro and Ruben Rumbaut. 2001. *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1-16, 70-191, 269-286.

03/22: Networks, Social Capital, and Enclaves

Portes, Alejandro and Robert D. Manning. 1986. "The Immigrant Enclave: Theory and Empirical Examples." In *Competitive Ethnic Relations*, edited by Susan Olzak and Joane Nagel. Orlando, FL: Academic Press, 47-68. (*)

Kyle, David. 1999. "The Otavalo Trade Diaspora: Social Capital and Transnational Entrepreneurship." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 22(2): 422-446. (*)

Guarnizo, Luis Eduardo. 2003. "The Economics of Transnational Living." *International Migration Review* 37(3): 666-699. (*)

Invited Speaker: David Kyle, University of California, Davis, Sociology. "Cross-Cultural Brokers of the Andes: Otavalan Migrant Merchants and Musicians." March 22nd, 2005, Ruth McQwon Room (# 219), Dauer Hall

03/29: Hemispheric Comparisons: The Case of Brazil

Lesser, Jeffrey 1999. *Negotiating National Identity: Immigrants, Minorities, and the Struggle for Ethnicity in Brazil*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Invited Speaker: Jeffrey Lesser, Emory University, History. “Beautiful Bodies and (Dis) Appearing Identities: Japanese Brazilian Ethnicity and Brazilian Film.” March 28, 2005, 3:30-5:30 PM, Friends of Music Room

04/05: Focus on Florida: Labor, Religion, and Collective Identity

Stepick, Alex et al. 2003. *This Land is your Land: Immigrants and Power in Miami*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Papers from the Ford Project on “Latinos Immigrants in Florida: Lived Religion, Space, and Power.”

<http://www.latam.ufl.edu/fordproject/>

“Nobodies: Does Slavery Exist in America?” *The New Yorker*, April 21 & 28, 2003. (*)

Workshop with Local Latino Activists from Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Corn Maya, and National Interfaith Committee on Worker Justice.

04/12: Student Presentations

04/19: Student Presentations