

Sociology 467  
Winter 2009  
1:30 – 3:20 TTH  
110B Condon Hall

Charles Hirschman  
328 Condon Hall  
Tel: 543-5035  
charles@u.washington.edu

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 MW and by appointment

### **IMMIGRATION AND ETHNICITY**

[http://faculty.washington.edu/charles/467\\_2009/Index.htm](http://faculty.washington.edu/charles/467_2009/Index.htm)

This course is a sociological survey of immigration and ethnicity, with a primary focus on the contemporary United States. Most readings and classroom discussions will examine current trends and patterns – the “Post 1965 Wave of immigration,” but we will compare the current situation with two earlier major waves of migration: (1) the “1880 – 1924 Age of Immigration,” (2) the “Great Migration of African Americans” from the South from 1915 to 1960. Three of the four assigned books this term are centered on the experiences of immigrants in New York City, but this just reflects the recent publication of several great studies about the New York experience. The study of New York is a window on broader patterns.

My objectives for the course are that students will learn:

- The reasons why peoples migrate long distances and cross international borders,
- The factors that explain the varied experiences of first and second generation (the children of immigrants) immigrants and immigrant communities,
- How and why immigration influences the native born at the destination and the receiving society, more generally,
- The value of historical and geographical comparisons, as well as a critical perspective on the often superficial comparisons of immigrants with native born populations, both the majority and minorities,
- Changes in immigration policies and the ideological forces that influence policy formation,
- The social, economic, and cultural ties between immigrants and their origin communities,
- How to read and interpret data, both descriptive narratives and statistical analyses,
- How to write a cogent term paper that includes a clear introduction, a review of the relevant literature, a dispassionate empirical analysis, and thoughtful conclusions.

#### **Readings:**

There are four assigned books, which are available from the University Book Store (and from online retailers):

Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbaut. 2006. *Immigrant America: A Portrait*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Berkeley; University of California Press.

Philip Kasinitz, John H. Mollenkopf, Mary C. Waters and Jennifer Holdway. 2008. *Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age* by New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation and Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Robert Courtney Smith. 2006. *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants*. Berkeley; University of California Press

Pyong Gap Min 2008. *Ethnic Solidarity for Economic Survival: Korean Greengrocers in New York City*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation Publications

### **Course Format**

The class format will be a mix of lectures and seminar-style discussion. In general, I will present a lecture during the first hour of each class, but student questions and comments are always welcome. Around 4:20 or so, we will take a short break, and then the second hour will be a class discussion focused on the course readings and related materials. On the course website, I will post a set of PowerPoint slides that will be used to illustrate my presentations. You may wish to download these slides and use them to take notes during class. I will also post questions about the assigned readings that may provide a partial study guide.

There is a student forum, on the course homepage, for your comments and questions about course readings, lectures, and related issues. To encourage student participation and engagement, every student is expected to post a question(s) and/or comments every week on the student forum. Your comments can be posted anytime, but to be meaningful, they should come early in the week. Ten percent of the final course grade will be based on each student's comments posted on the webpage.

### **Exams:**

There will be an in-class mid-term exam on February 10<sup>th</sup> that will cover the first two books (*Immigrant America* and *Inheriting the City*) and the first five weeks of lectures. The final exam will be scheduled at the assigned time for our class MARCH 19, 2007, 4:30 to 6:20. The final exam will be cumulative for the course, but will emphasize materials covered since the midterm. Both exams will consist of short answer and essay type questions.

### **Required Term Paper:**

A term paper on a topic related to immigration and ethnicity is required. I suggest that you read and draw upon at least one book as a primary source for your term paper. A list of interesting books on immigration, immigrants, and ethnic groups is posted on the course website. You are encouraged to do additional readings as well. A good term paper should be around 10-15 double-spaced pages (3,000-4,500 words).

One possible topic for the term paper would be your family history interpreted in light of sociological research on immigration. Although interviews with older family members would be an essential part of this assignment, you will also need to consult appropriate scholarly references and perhaps to explore relevant data sources.

You should schedule an appointment with me during the first few weeks of the course to discuss your term paper topic. Term papers are due on the last day of our regular class, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Determination of Final Course Grade:**

Final course grades will be a weighted average of participation (postings to the website and class participation) 10%, the Midterm exam 20%, Term Paper 30%, and Final Exam 40%.

**Reading Assignments**

Week 1: Portes and Rumbaut, chapters 1-4

Week 2: Portes and Rumbaut, chapters 5-8

Week 3: Portes and Rumbaut, chapters 9-10  
Kasiniz et al., chapters 1-3

Week 4: Kasiniz et al., chapters 4-7

Week 5: Kasiniz et al., chapters 8-11

Week 6: Smith, chapters 1-6

Week 7: Smith, chapters 7-10 and Conclusions

Week 8: Min, chapters 1-4

Week 9: Min, chapters 5-8

Also read <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/09/02/in-the-produce-aisle-solidarity-for-korean-grocers/>

Week 10: No readings (work on your term paper)

**Class Topics**

January 6 Course Introduction: Concepts and Perspectives

January 8 Assimilation, Segmented Assimilation, and Other Outcomes

January 13 Why Do People Leave their Homelands?

January 15 A Short History of Immigration to the United States

- January 20 A Closer Look at 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Immigrants
- January 22 Nativism and Immigration Restriction in the 1920s
- January 27 The Origins of Race and Racism in Historical Perspective
- January 29 Slavery and Jim Crow in the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Century America
- February 3 The Great African American Migration
- February 5 The Ghetto and Racial Segregation
- February 10 First Mid Term Exam**
- February 12 The Post 1965 Wave of Immigration
- February 17 The Role of Immigrants on the Economy
- February 19 The Impact of Immigration on Politics and Culture
- February 24 Immigrants and Race Relations
- February 26 Measuring Race and Ethnic Groups
- March 3 Immigration in Comparative Perspective I
- March 5 Immigration in Comparative Perspective II
- March 10 Can Past Trends Predict the Future?
- March 12 Review Session for Final Exam

**TERM PAPER DUE ON MARCH 12**

**FINAL EXAM IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 19, 2009, 4:30 to 6:20.**