

Immigration and Politics Research Seminar

Gov 4032/LSP 4032/AMST 4032

Spring 2009

119 Stimson Hall

W 2:30-4:30pm

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Office hours: Wednesday 10am-2:30pm or Friday by appointment

Course Description

Immigrants are a greater presence in American society and political life than ever before. Students in this course will explore themes such as immigration, political incorporation, inter-ethnic relations through both extensive readings and the use of unique datasets—including the 2006 Latino National Survey, a survey of 8,600 Latinos across 15 states, which includes questions ranging from crime and education to transnationalism and discrimination. Students will be expected to learn and use statistical software to conduct preliminary analyses of these data, and to use these data and other resources to explore original research projects. Prior coursework in American politics is recommended; no prior exposure to statistical software required.

Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation (35%). Any seminar depends upon active participation in class; students will be expected to complete the assigned readings and to contribute to class discussions every week. Attendance is required.
2. Discussion Questions (20%). Each student will be asked to submit at least two (2) discussion questions to the course's Blackboard website by 12:00 p.m. (noon) the day before class (Tuesday). The questions should be broad and designed to encourage conversation and/or debate. Students are expected to check the Blackboard website before class (and after 12:00 p.m. Tuesday) to get a sense of their classmates' questions, concerns, and interests.
3. Two Data Essays (10% each). Students will be required to write two essays using survey data of your choice to explore questions raised in the course of the readings and/or class discussion. Papers should approximately 3-5 pages long (not including data tables). The papers should present tables from source data and the analysis/interpretation of these tables, to address a central question or questions. Some questions to consider might also include: Are there limitations to the data? Does who the data are drawn from, or how they were collected, make a difference to the interpretation of the data? How do the data intersect with the readings: do they collaborate or challenge the arguments made in the readings?

4. Final Paper (25%). Students will be required to write a 10-20 page final paper. Papers are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1st. Paper topics must be approved by me by April 5th. Papers should have a research question, have a grounding in an immigration-related literature, and use empirical data to address the research question.

For all assignments, students are required to abide by Cornell University's Code of Academic Integrity. A copy of the code can be found at the following URL:

<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>.

Violations of the Code of Academic Integrity, especially plagiarism, may result in a failing grade in the course. Students are urged to read and complete the exercises on "Recognizing and Avoiding Plagiarism" at <http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm>.

Required Texts

The following required books are available at the Cornell bookstore:

- Lee, Taeku, Karthick Ramakrishnan and Ricardo Ramirez. 2007. *Transforming Politics, Transforming America: The Political and Civic Incorporation of Immigrants in the United States* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press).
- Tichenor, Daniel. 2002. *Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).
- Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette. 1994. *Gendered Transitions: Mexican Experiences of Immigration* (Berkeley: University of California Press).
- Smith, Robert. 2005. *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of Immigrants* (Berkeley: University of California Press).
- Waters, Mary. *Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities* (Cambridge: Russell Sage Press and Harvard University Press).
- Wong, Janelle. 2006. *Democracy's Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press).
- Zuñiga, Victor and Rubén Hernández-Leon. 2006. *New Destinations: Mexican Immigration in the United States* (New York: Russell Sage) .

Texts on Reserve

Reserve readings and data will be made available electronically either on a course Blackboard site, or directly via the professor. Access will be restricted to registered students in the class. You can access Blackboard at the following url: <http://www.blackboard.cornell.edu/>

Signing Up for CISER Account

As part of the course you will be expected to use SPSS, a general social science data program. For class you will be asked to sign up for a CISER class account, which will give you access to SPSS.

To sign up for an account

- 1) On your computer, go to: http://ciser.cornell.edu/athena_newacct.shtml
- 2) Fill out the form.
 - a) for “type of account” enter: for a class
 - b) when class menu comes up, enter: “mj64” for instructor ID
 - c) enter Gov 4032 for class number

Learning more about CISER:

SPSS is navigated by straightforward pull-down menus which do not require statistical knowledge to manipulate. We will go over SPSS in class. In addition, there are on-line tutorials for SPSS (see links below), as well as SPSS short courses offered through CISER.

Course Schedule

January 21	Introduction to Course
January 28	Immigration History Read: Tichenor, <i>Dividing Lines</i>
February 4	Immigration History, continued Read: Tichenor; discuss survey research
February 11	Immigrant Transnationalism Read: Smith, <i>Mexican New York</i>
February 18	Immigrant Transnationalism, continued Read: Smith; discuss survey research
February 25	Gender and Immigration Read: Hondageneu-Sotelo, <i>Gendered Transitions</i> .
March 4	Gender and Immigration, continued Read: Hondageneu-Sotelo; discuss survey research
March 11	Race and Immigration Read: Waters, <i>Black Identities</i>
March 18	Spring break
March 25	Race and Immigration, continued Read: Waters, discuss survey research
April 1	Immigrant Civic Life Read: Wong, <i>Democracy's Promise</i>
April 8	Immigrant Civic Life, continued Read: Wong; discuss survey research
April 15	Immigrant Politics Read: Lee, Ramakrishnan and Ramirez, <i>Transforming Politics, Transforming America</i>
April 22	Immigrant Politics, continued Read: Lee, Ramakrishnan and Ramirez; discuss survey research
April 29	New Immigrant Destinations

Read: Zuñiga and Hernández-Leon

Data Sources

Centers

Woodrow Wilson Center, Mexico Institute

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=5949&fuseaction=topics.categoryview&categoryid=357BE4DA-65BF-E7DC-470FC03539EBF9CB

Migration Policy Institute

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/usimmigration.php>
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/integration/>

Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/>
<http://www.census.gov/main/www/access.html>

Census Bureau- Foreign Born

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign/index.html>

USCIS

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Brookings Institution

<http://www.brookings.edu/topics/immigration.aspx>

Berkeley Immigration Page

<http://www.irle.berkeley.edu/immigration/students/centers.html>
<http://www.irle.berkeley.edu/immigration/readings/index.html>

Mexico North: Transnationalism

<http://www.mexnor.org/programs/TRP/covernew.htm>

Data

Latino National Survey

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/ICPSR/STUDY/20862.xml>

Pew Research Center

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/topics/raceandethnicity/>

Pew Hispanic Center

<http://pewhispanic.org/>
<http://pewhispanic.org/topics/?TopicID=16>

MPI Data Hub

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/>

MPI Guide to Immigration Data

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/2008DataGuide.pdf>

Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/statistics/>

Census Current Population Survey

http://www.nber.org/data/cps_progs.html

Syracuse University Government Immigration Reports

<http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/>

IPUMS Historical Immigration Data

<https://international.ipums.org/international/>

Berkeley List of Immigration Data

<http://www.irle.berkeley.edu/immigration/data/statistical.html>

SPSS Guides

SPSS Learning Modules UCLA

<http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/spss/>

<http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/spss/modules/>

SPSS Syntax

<http://www.spsstools.net/SampleSyntax.htm#Transform>