

Ethnic America: Migration, Race, and Nation in the 20th Century United States

Course # 01 050 331 01

Department of American Studies

Rutgers University, Spring 2007

Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:35-1:55 PM, Ruth Adams Building Room 104

Professor Ellen D. Wu (ellenwu@rci.rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Fridays, 10 AM-12 Noon or by appointment, RAB 205E

Course Description

This course examines the process of "nation-building" in modern America through the dual, intertwined lenses of migration and race. We will consider the social, cultural, and political impacts of migration (both within the United States as well as from abroad) by placing the experiences of migrants and their communities at the center of our inquiry. Major concepts to be explored include racial formation, citizenship, and transnationalism. Lectures, readings, discussions, and films will emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to our study of American national identity formation.

Required Texts

- Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion era, 1882-1943* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003).
- Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers* (New York: Persea Books, 2003 edition).
- George J. Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993).
- Milton Murayama, *All I Asking For Is My Body* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1988 edition).
- Mary C. Waters, *Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities* (New York and Cambridge: Russell Sage Foundation/Harvard University Press, 1999).
- Mike Davis, *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the U.S. City* (London: Verso, 2001 edition).

The books listed above are available for purchase at the Douglass Student Co-op Bookstore and will also be placed on reserve at the Douglass Library. Other readings on the syllabus will be available for downloading via the course SAKAI website (sakai.rutgers.edu). Your personal SAKAI site should be automatically linked to the course website.

Films (to be screened during class)

A Family Gathering (Lise Yasui, 1988)

Haven From Shame (Marge Pala, 1994)

Kelly Loves Tony (Spencer Nakasako, 1998)

My American Girls: A Dominican Story (Aaron Matthews, 2000)

Crash (Paul Haggis, 2005)

Assignments, Grading, and Course Policies

Full Attendance and Spirited Participation=15%

On-time attendance is mandatory. Missing multiple class sections or chronic without valid and documented reason will lead to affect your grade negatively. To have an absence counted as "excused," it must be accompanied by appropriate documentation which clearly demonstrates the reason for and validity of the absence (e.g., a dated doctor's note), a copy of which must be presented to the instructor. If you must miss a screening, you are responsible for viewing the film at the Music Library on Douglass Campus.

Spirited participation comprises more than simply being present in class. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to engage actively and thoughtfully in the day's discussion.

Note that cell phones will not be tolerated in class. Any cell phone usage (making and receiving calls and text messaging) will result in a deduction in your participation grade.

Paper #1=15%

Due Friday, 9 February, at the beginning of class.

Paper #2=15%

Due Tuesday, 24 April, at the beginning of class.

Midterm=25%

In-class midterm will be held on Tuesday, 6 March.

Final Exam=30%

Take home final exam will be due **Friday, 4 May at 12 Noon** in the American Studies office, Ruth Adams Building Room 024. You must turn in a hard copy—electronic (emailed) copies will NOT be accepted.

Late Assignments

There will be a grade penalty for assignments turned in past deadline. One grade increment will be deducted for each 24 hours late.

Academic Honesty

Students not yet familiar with Rutgers' policies on plagiarism and academic honesty should familiarize themselves with the University's guidelines. (See <http://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.) Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will lead to an automatic failing grade in the course (F).

Changes to Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the syllabus

Week 1: Welcome and Introduction [T, 16 Jan]

Week 1: Frameworks for Considering Immigration, Race, and Nation in the 20th Century United States [F, 19 Jan]

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (New York: Verso, 1991 edition), pp. 1-7.
- George Sánchez, "Race, nation and culture in recent immigration studies," *Journal of American Ethnic History* (Summer 1999): 66-83.

- Donna Gabaccia, "Is Everywhere Nowhere? Nomads, Nations, and the Immigrant Paradigm of United States History," *Journal of American History* 86:3 (December 1999): 1115-1134.

Part One: Migration, Modernization, and Nation-Building

Week 2: The Origins of America as a "Gatekeeping" Nation [T, 23 Jan]

- Lee, *At America's Gates*, Introduction and Chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-145).

Week 2: The Origins of America as a "Gatekeeping" Nation [F, 26 Jan]

- Lee, *At America's Gates*, Chapters 5-7, Epilogue, and Afterword (pp. 147-255).

Week 3: The Great Migration [T, 30 Jan]

- primary documents from Eric Arnesen, *Black Protest and the Great Migration: A Brief History With Documents* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003):
- W.E.B. Dubois, "The Migration of Negroes," June 1917, pp. 46-50.
- Mary DeBardeleben, "The Negro Exodus: A Southern Woman's View," March 18, 1917 (pp. 50-53).
- "Letters From Migrants, 1916-1918" (pp. 64-66).
- New Orleans Times-Picayune*, "The Negro In The North", June 4, 1917 (pp. 78-80).
- Crisis*, "The Massacre of East St. Louis," September 1917 (pp. 80-85).
- Chicago Defender*, "Thousands March in Silent Protest," August 4, 1917 (pp. 85-86).
- Chronology of Events Related to the Great Migration (pp. 204-205).

Week 3: Exclusions and Inclusions: Defining "Whiteness" [F, 2 Feb]

- James Barrett and David Roediger, "In-between peoples: race, nationality, and the 'new immigrant' working class," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 16:3 (Spring 1997): 3-44.
- excerpts of *Takao Ozawa v. United States*, 260 U.S. 178 (1922) *United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind*, 261 US 204 (1923) [reprinted in Ian F. Haney López, *White By Law: The Legal Construction of Race* (New York: NYU Press, 1996), pp. 217-225.]
- Yeziarska, *Bread Givers*, Foreword (pp. vii-xvii), Introduction (pp. xxi-xxxvi), and Book I, "Hester Street" (pp. 1-151).

Week 4: Immigrants and the City [T, 6 Feb]

- Yeziarska, *Bread Givers*, Book II, "Between Two Worlds," and Book III, "The New World" (pp. 155-297).

Week 4: WWI and the Rise of Nativism [F, 9 Feb]

*****Paper #1 Due*****

Part Two: Migration, Expansion, and Conquest

Week 5: Western Expansion, Agriculture, and Migration I [T, 13 Feb]

-Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Introduction and Chapters 1-5 (pp. 3-125).

Week 5: Western Expansion, Agriculture, and Migration II [F, 16 Feb]

-Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Chapters 8 and 10 (pp. 171-187, 209-226).

Week 6: Imperialism—Hawaii [T, 20 Feb]

-Murayama, *All I Asking For Is My Body*

Week 6: CLASS CANCELLED [F, 23 Feb]

Week 7: Imperialism—Philippines [T, 27 Feb]

-Paul G. Cressey, *The Taxi Dance Hall: A Sociological Study in Commercialized Recreation and City Life* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1932), Foreword, Introduction, Author's Preface, and Chapter 7, "The Filipino and the Taxi Dance Hall" (pp. ix-xx, 145-174).

-A Filipino Immigrant Is Shocked by Sexual Freedom in the United States, circa 1924, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*, eds. Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003), pp. 224-225.

-Sociologist Emory Bogardus Analyzes an Anti-Filipino Riot, 1930, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*, pp. 225-228.

-Time Magazine Reveals Sexual Basis for Filipino Repatriation, 1936, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*, pp. 228-231.

Week 7: Imperialism—Puerto Rico [F, 2 March]

-Esmeralda Santiago, *When I Was Puerto Rican* (New York: Vintage Books, 1993), pp. 204-270.

Week 8: MIDTERM [T, 6 March]

Week 8: NO CLASS—HAPPY SPRING BREAK! [F, 9 March]

Part Three: The Rise of America to Global Prominence

Week 9: The Watershed of World War II [T, 20 March]

-Philip Gleason, "Americans All: World War II and the Shaping of American Identity," *The Review of Politics* 43 (October 1981): 482-518.

-Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American*, Chapter 12 and Conclusion (pp. 253-274).

- Robin D. G. Kelley, "The Riddle of the Zoot: Malcolm Little and Black Cultural Politics During World War II," in *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class* (New York: The Free Press, 1994), pp. 161-181.

Week 9: Japanese American Internment/Resettlement [F, 23 March]

- Charlotte Brooks, "'In The Twilight Zone Between Black and White': Japanese American Resettlement and Community in Chicago, 1942-1945," *Journal of American History* 86:4 (March 2000): 1655-1687.
- Sociologist Rose Hum Lee Describes How World War II Changed the Lives of Chinese Americans, 1942, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*, pp. 287-290.

Films: *A Family Gathering*
Haven From Shame

Week 10: The Cold War and Immigration Reform [T, 27 March]

- Nicholas Gage, A Greek Refugee, Recounts His Escape From His Homeland, 1949, in *Major Problems in American Immigration and Ethnic History*, ed. Jon Gjerde (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998), pp. 389-391.
- President Harry S Truman Vetoes an Immigration and Naturalization Bill, 1952, in *Major Problems in Asian American History*, pp. 327-330.
- Paul Spickard, "Marriages Between American Men and Japanese American Women After World War II," in *Major Problems in Asian American History*, pp. 341-345.
- Arisa Oh, "A New Kind of Missionary Work: Christians, Christian Americans, and the Adoption of Korean GI Babies, 1955-1961," *Women's Studies Quarterly* 33: 3-4 (2005): 161-188.
- A Cuban Flees to the United States, 1979, in *Major Problems in American Immigration and Ethnic History*, pp. 455-457.

Week 10: The Pacific Wars and Southeast Asian Refugees [F, 30 March]

- Chapter 12, "A Journey Called Freedom" (pp. 116-126), Chapter 13, "My Autobiography" (pp. 125-135), Chapter 20, "The Never-Ending Struggle" (pp. 191-197), and Chapter 21, "An Unfinished Journey" (pp. 198-206), in *The Vietnamese American 1.5 Generation: Stories of War, Revolution, Flight, and New Beginnings*, ed. Sucheng Chan (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006).

Film: *Kelly Loves Tony*

Part Four: Migration in the Era of Globalization

Week 11: Race and Post-1965 Immigrant Communities [T, 3 April]

- Waters, *Black Identities*, Chapters 1, 3, 5, 7 (pp. 1-15, 44-93, 140-191, 243-284) [optional: Chapters 2, 4, and 6].

Week 11: Race and Post-1965 Immigrant Communities [F, 6 April]

- Waters, *Black Identities*, Chapters 8 and 9 (pp. 285-344).

-A Latino and an African American Debate the Construction of Race, 1996, in
Major Problems in American Immigration and Ethnic History, pp. 419-421.

Week 12: Transnationalism, Culture, and Consumption [T, 10 April]

-Sandhya Shukla, Chapter 2, "Little Indias, Places for Indian Diasporas," pp. 78-131, and notes, pp. 273-284, in *India Abroad: Diasporic Cultures of Postwar America and England* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003).

-Sunaina Marr Maira, "Mixed Desires: Second-Generation Indian Americans and the Politics of Youth Culture," in *Displacements and Diasporas: Asians in the Americas*, eds. Wanni W. Anderson and Robert G. Lee (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2005), pp. 227-247.

Week 12: 9/11 and Realignments of Race and Citizenship [F, 13 April]

-Leti Volpp, "The Citizen and the Terrorist," *UCLA Law Review* 49: (2002): 1575-1600.

-Tram Nguyen, Introduction, Chapter One, "Becoming Suspects: Brooklyn and New Jersey," and Chapter Four, "The New Racial Profiling: Los Angeles," and notes (pp. pp. xiii-xxiii, 1-19, 72-90, 178-180, 183-184), in *We Are All Suspects Now: Untold Stories from Immigrant Communities After 9/11* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2005).

Week 13: The Browning of America [T, 17 April]

-Davis, *Magical Urbanism*, Foreword and Chapters 1-9 (pp. xi-xvii, 1-92).

Film: *My American Girls: A Dominican Story*

Week 13: The Browning of America [F, 20 April]

-Davis, *Magical Urbanism*, Chapters 10-17 (pp. 93-174).

Week 14: Immigration and Race in Popular Culture [T, 24 April]

TV Show: *Dave Chappelle*

Film: *Crash*

*****Paper #2 Due*****

Week 14: Immigration and Race in Popular Culture [F, 27 April]

Film: *Crash*

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM—DUE FRIDAY, 4 MAY, 12 NOON

To be turned in to the American Studies Office, RAB 024
(note: hard copies only—electronic copies will NOT be accepted)