In this course we will examine – primarily through academic texts, but also documentaries and political cartoons – how governmental institutions, political actors, and socio-political processes have both shaped and responded to immigration to the United States from the beginning of the Republic, but with an emphasis on the post-1965 period. While recognizing the international and transnational significance of immigration, this course primarily examines immigration in the context of U.S. domestic politics and public policy. Course topics include the role of key policy actors in the development of immigrant admissions and immigrant integration policies over time, debates over the nature and consequences of immigration at the national, state, and local levels, changing racial and ethnic relations in American gateway cities, public opinion and immigration, immigrants’ participation in American political life, and issues of contemporary relevance such as undocumented immigration, border enforcement, welfare reform, definitions of citizenship, and developments in immigrant and refugee rights since the 2001 terrorist attacks. This course provides an overview of the many political discussions related to immigration and citizenship in the United States, but a basic understanding of American politics and the American political system is assumed (i.e. PS1 or equivalent).

**Els de Graauw**  
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OHs: W 2:15-3:45PM  
Online OHs: W 10-11PM

**COURSE SYNOPSIS**

In this course, we will examine both immigrant admissions policies and immigrant integration policies in the context of the United States, with an emphasis on the post-1965 period. This course will examine immigration to the U.S. from a historical as well as comparative perspective, looking at U.S. immigrant admissions and immigrant integration policies over time and comparing the immigration and integration experiences of different nationality groups that have made their way to the U.S.

Our goals are 1) to develop analytic tools to understand the many political debates surrounding immigrant admissions and immigrant integration policies, 2) to understand the determinants of immigrant admissions and immigrant integration policies over time, 3) to examine empirical evidence on how immigration and immigrants have affected American society more generally and American political life more specifically, and 4) to assess the political, economic, and social consequences of U.S. immigrant admissions and immigrant integration policy choices.
This course consists of five sections:

**Section 1: Introductions**
In this first part of the course, we will consider some theoretical aspects of the immigration debate in the American context. We will look at what is peculiar about discussing immigration in the U.S. context (both in terms of the content of the debates and the policy-making process). We will also learn about the ethical debates surrounding immigration and citizenship more generally as well as what are theorized to be the leading causes of international migration.

**Section 2: Immigrant Admissions: A Historical Overview of U.S. Immigration Law, Key Political Players, and Key Political Debates**
In the second section of the course, we will look at policy responses to the questions: who is allowed into the U.S., when, and under what circumstances? We will review the major pieces of U.S. immigrant and refugee admissions legislation, paying particular attention to the major provisions of each admissions law, as well as the most important political debates underlying these laws and the key political actors involved in the creation of these pieces of legislation.

**Section 3: The (Non)Incorporation of Immigrant America**
In the third section of the course, we will look at policy responses to the questions: what to do with immigrants and refugees once they have arrived in the United States? What rights do they enjoy in the U.S.? What public accommodations do immigrants and refugees need and what kinds of accommodations has the government provided? We will switch our attention to immigrant integration policies and practices and immigrant rights in the larger U.S. society. We will review theoretical debates on immigrants’ assimilation or integration into U.S. society more broadly as well as the reality of immigrants’ integration (or lack thereof) into the majority language, the labor market, the American membership base, and the American political system more specifically. We will separately discuss refugees’ resettlement into U.S. society.

**Section 4: The Politics of American Diversity**
In the fourth section of the course, we will look at the debates about multiculturalism and the effects of immigration on the “American identity,” immigrant narratives on becoming an American, and the state of inter-ethnic/racial group relations in American gateway cities in recent years.

**Section 5: U.S. Immigration and Current Political Debates**
In the final section of the course, we will turn our attention to issues of contemporary relevance to the American immigration debate. More specifically, we will discuss undocumented immigration and border control by focusing on developments at the U.S.-Mexico border. Furthermore, we will look at how debates about the U.S. welfare state and immigration intersect in the controversy over welfare reform during the late 1990s and beyond. Finally, we will discuss what has happened to immigrant and refugee rights in recent years, with an emphasis on the curtailment of rights in the post-9/11 period.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a relatively reading-intensive upper-division undergraduate course. This course, because it is a compressed course offered during the summer, will be demanding and students are expected to do all daily readings and all assignments. Students unable to make the commitment should not enroll in this class.

Your grade in this class will be based on the following:

- **In-class midterm exam** 35% (IN-CLASS, F 7/22)
- **Documentary film analysis** 30% (DUE M 8/8)
- **24-hour take-home final** 35% (DUE F 8/12)
- **Extra credit assignment** 6% (OPTIONAL, DUE F 8/12)

**In-class midterm exam (35%)**: The midterm exam will take place on Friday 7/22 during class time. The midterm will cover Sections 1 and 2 of the course and will consist of identification terms and a number of essay questions.

**Documentary film analysis (30%)**: Students will analyze one of four documentaries shown in class in light of the lecture materials and assigned readings for this course. Students are free to write on any topic related to immigration addressed in the documentaries, as long as they are able to incorporate and demonstrate their thorough understanding of at least four (4) different assigned course readings. The analysis should not exceed five (5) double-spaced, 12-point font pages (excluding the works cited page). Students can choose between the following four documentaries: *Life and Debt* (2003; shown on M 7/11), *Well-Founded Fear* (2000; shown on Th 7/21), *A Day Without a Mexican* (2004; shown on W 7/27), and *Lost Boys of Sudan* (2004; shown on W 8/3). Although the documentaries will be shown on different dates during the course, the written analysis for all – irrespective of the documentary selected for analysis – is due on Monday 8/8 at the beginning of lecture. All four documentaries are also available for (re)viewing at the Media Resources Center in Moffitt Library (*Life and Debt* = DVD 1793; *Well-Founded Fear* = VIDEO/C 7297; *A Day Without a Mexican* = DVD 3148; *Lost Boys of Sudan* = DVD 3110).

**24-hour take-home final (35%)**: Students will receive the take-home final (and exam formatting requirements) at the end of lecture on Thursday 8/11. The typed final exam is due on Friday 8/12 and needs to be handed in during class time (no e-mail submissions will be accepted). The final exam is cumulative and comprehensive in nature and will cover Sections 1-5 of the course. The final exam will contain a mix of short answer and longer essay questions.

**Extra credit assignment – OPTIONAL (6%)**: Students have the option to keep a “diary” of newspaper/magazine articles on issues directly related to the contents of the course. During each week of the course, students need to find one article (from a respectable news source) on a U.S. immigration issue, read it thoroughly, and provide a one-paragraph comment (not to exceed one page in length, double-spaced) on how the contents of the article relates/contradicts/responds/etc. to the course materials. For full extra credit, students need to submit six (6) different articles (one for each week of the
course) and six (6) separate one-paragraph mini-analyses (one for each news clipping). The complete “diary” is due together with your take-home final on Friday 8/12. Students may submit fewer articles (and thus fewer accompanying mini-analyses) for partial extra credit.

**Grading criteria:** All assignments will be graded with the following criteria in mind: 1) analytic rigor and originality, 2) conceptual clarity, and 3) factual accuracy and correct use of the course materials. In addition, the documentary film analysis and take-home final will also be graded according to the quality of written expression. Grades will be assigned as follows. Please note that students should not expect an A grade unless they are completing exceptional work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td><em>Exceptional work.</em> Shows near perfect understanding of the course materials, as well as exceptional rigor and originality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td><em>Good work.</em> Shows a strong grasp of the course materials, as well as some analytical rigor, but there are some errors. Not the most original or thought-provoking work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td><em>Poor work.</em> Serious errors or misunderstanding of the course materials. Hard to discern what the student is arguing or trying to say.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td><em>Very poor work.</em> Student appears to have made little to no effort. Very serious errors or misunderstanding of the course materials. Completely unclear what the student is arguing or trying to say.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td><em>No work or insulting work.</em> Student either did not turn in work or what was turned in showed no efforts to keep up with the course materials.</td>
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**Extensions:** NO EXTENSIONS will be granted for any of the assignments. Plan your schedule in such a way that you can hand in all your assignments on time. Assignments handed in late will be docked by 2/3 of a full grade for each day late.

Students need to complete ALL assignments (excl. the extra credit assignment) in order to receive a grade for the class.

**Grade disputes:** All grade disputes must be made in writing, in not less than a paragraph and not more than a page. The dispute should outline very specifically why students feel they received a grade in error and should not contain information about what kinds of grades they are used to receive, how long they studied, etc. Students must wait at least 24 hours after receiving their grade to raise the issue of a dispute with the Acting Instructor. Students must turn in a written dispute within a week of receiving the grade. Please note that there are no exceptions to this policy.

**Academic dishonesty:** Plagiarism and cheating – such as copying work (including published materials) in your documentary film analysis and take-home final without proper citation, having your work done by someone else, improperly using notes in the midterm exam – will not be tolerated. Any such misconduct will result in an automatic “F” for the class. The work students submit should be entirely their own.
REQUIRED READINGS

In addition to the course reader (available at Copy Central on Bancroft Way, ca. $87; comes in 2 volumes), there is one required book for this course, available at the ASUC Bookstore and at Ned's Books. This book is also placed on reserve in Moffitt Library:


COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION 1 | Introductions

**Tuesday, July 5: Introductions and Course Overview [37pp]**

- *For referral throughout the course:*
- The Presidents of the United States.

**Wednesday, July 6: Debating Immigration in the U.S. Context [69pp]**

**Thursday, July 7: Immigration, Citizenship, and the Ethical Debates [65pp]**

Friday, July 8: Causes of International Migration [33pp]

Audio-visual material to accompany this lecture: the documentary film Life and Debt (2003), to be shown in class on M 7/11.

Recommended materials for F 7/8:
- Maquila: A Tale of Two Mexicos (2000). This documentary examines the impact of corporate globalization on Mexico, focusing on the maquiladoras or maquilas, U.S.-owned factories (often located on the U.S.-Mexico border) employing low-wage Mexican labor. Archival footage and interviews highlight the displacement of peasant farmers who migrate to northern border cities such as Juarez and Tijuana, the dangerous working conditions in the maquilas, and the environmental and cultural impact of these border factories. (Media Resources Center: VIDEO/C 7459)

- No readings assigned for today.
- A short description of the documentary: Life and Debt documents the destabilizing impact economic globalization has on the developing country of Jamaica. This documentary film dissects the "mechanism of debt" that is destroying local agriculture and industry while substituting sweatshops and cheap imports. It provides a look at the "new world order," from the point of view of Jamaican workers, farmers, government, and policy officials who see the reality of globalization from the ground up. This documentary demonstrates well how forces unleashed by economic globalization can ultimately bring about international migration. (Media Resources Center: DVD 1793)

SECTION 2 | Immigrant Admissions: A Historical Overview of U.S. Immigration Law, Key Political Players, and Key Political Debates

Tuesday, July 12: The Founding of the Republic to the Gilded Age (1770s-1880s) [68pp]

Wednesday, July 13: Progressive Era to World War II (1890s-1945) [36pp]

Thursday, July 14: Cold War America (1945-1965) [67pp]

Friday, July 15: The Rebirth of American Immigration (1965-1980) [54pp]


Recommended reading for M 7/18:

Tuesday, July 19: Contemporary Immigration – Part II: The Public Response (1980 to the Present) [22pp]

**Recommended reading for Tu 7/19:**

Wednesday, July 20: Refugee Admissions Policies [62pp]

**Handout to be distributed at the end of class: midterm review sheet**

• No readings assigned for today.
• Short description of the documentary: Well-Founded Fear provides a behind-the-scenes view of how the federal bureaucracy decides which political refugees receive political asylum and which do not. The documentary reveals a system fraught with contradictions and impossibilities, where asylum officers are faced with the difficult task of separating truth from fiction in their applicants’ stories and where these federal officials often fall back on guesswork and suspicion in making asylum decisions. (Media Resources Center: VIDEO/C 7297)

Friday, July 22: In-Class Midterm Exam

*Bring two (2) large-format blue books to class.*
*Be kind to your grader (me!): please remember to write legibly.*

SECTION 3 | The (Non)Incorporation of Immigrant America

Monday, July 25: Theorizing Immigrants’ Incorporation [60pp]
**Recommended reading for M 7/25:**

**Tuesday, July 26: Linguistic Incorporation and Language Policies [52pp]**

**Wednesday, July 27: A Day Without a Mexican (2004)**
- No readings assigned for today.
- Short description of the movie: *A Day Without A Mexican* is a “mockumentary” that explores the hypothetical situation of what would happen in California if all “Mexicans” suddenly disappeared. (Media Resources Center: DVD 3148)

**Thursday, July 28: Economics and Labor Markets [72pp]**

**Recommended reading for Th 7/28:**

**Friday, July 29: Naturalization and Citizenship [71pp]**

**Recommended reading for F 7/29:**
Monday, August 1: Political Incorporation and Political Participation [104pp]

Tuesday, August 2: Refugee Resettlement [48pp]

In-class showing of Letter Back Home (1994), a short video letter – shot in San Francisco's Tenderloin district – offering a look at life in the United States for some Laotian and Cambodian youth. As you watch this video letter, pay particular attention to these refugee youth’s understanding of mainstream American society; what does incorporation mean to them? (Media Resources Center: VIDEO/C 4187)

Wednesday, August 3: Documentary Lost Boys of Sudan (2004)[14p]
- Short description of the documentary: Lost Boys of Sudan is a documentary that follows two Sudanese refugees on a journey from Africa to America. Orphaned as young boys in an African civil war, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor managed to reach a refugee camp in Kenya along with thousands of other children. From there, they were chosen to come to America. Once in the U.S., they find themselves confronted with the abundance and alienation of contemporary American suburban life. (Media Resources Center: DVD 3110)

SECTION 4 | The Politics of American Diversity

Thursday, August 4: Multiculturalism and (Re)Defining America [54pp]
**Recommended reading for Th 8/4:**

**Friday, August 5: Immigrant Narratives on Becoming “American”**

Students should also read two (2) of the following selections from *Immigrant Voices: Twenty-Four Narratives on Becoming an American*:

**Monday, August 8: Inter-Group Relations: The American Urban Experience [62pp]**

**Documentary film analysis due at the beginning of class**

**Recommended reading for M 8/8:**

**SECTION 5 | U.S. Immigration and Current Political Debates**

**Tuesday, August 9: Undocumented Immigration and Border Control [48pp]**
**Recommended reading for Tu 8/9:**


**In-class showing of New World Border** (2001), a short documentary on the rise of human/immigrant rights abuses along the U.S.-Mexico border since the implementation of border blockades such as Operation Gatekeeper. The documentary includes interviews with immigrant rights organizers, testimony from immigrants, analysis of free trade policies, and current efforts to build a movement for immigrant rights. (Media Resources Center: VIDEO/C 7931)

**Wednesday, August 10: Welfare Reform – 1996 and Beyond [46pp]**


**Thursday, August 11: Immigrant and Refugee Rights in an Age of Terrorist Threats & Course Conclusions [36p]**

- Additional shorter readings for this day might be assigned later.
- **Handouts to be distributed at the end of class: course review sheet & take-home final**

**Friday, August 12: Take-Home Final Due During Class Time**

- No late final exams will be accepted.
- **Optional extra credit assignment due during class time**

**IMMIGRATION RESOURCES ON THE WWW**

For an excellent library guide to immigration resources produced by UCB Librarian Beth Sibley, please see [http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Collections/soc/immigration.html](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Collections/soc/immigration.html). Be sure to pay this site a visit, especially if you have specific immigration interests or more general questions about immigration to the U.S. you want to investigate on your own.