Immigration Firestorm:  
a Case Study of today’s anti-immigrant legislation

Chicana/o Studies 19  
Fiat Lux  
Monday 10-12  
Fall 2014  
Haines 110

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Office hours: Monday noon-1, or by appointment

Course Description:
Immigration politics generate high passions and media sound bites, not cool discussion and rational debate. While comprehensive federal immigration legislation is stalled, some states have been hyperactive. To make sense of recent anti-immigrant legislation, we will use Arizona as a case study to study the historical, economic and political background of its recent official actions. Then we can discuss the consequences and implications of such actions. This case study will reveal what is happening many locales across the country and the world when people must migrate in response to global economic processes.

Description of Readings:
In spring 2010, the state of Arizona came under intense national and international media scrutiny over its responses to the rise of unauthorized immigration. Arizona's governor signed a controversial immigration bill, SB 1070, that required local police to demand a person's immigration status if "reasonable suspicion" existed that the individual was in the country without papers. While SB 1070 is the most publicized political response, state officials have enacted four other problematic measures to reduce the educational, cultural, linguistic and citizenship footprint of the state's growing Latino population. The network evening news did not dwell on these legislative acts and decrees did not make, but have far reaching consequences for all Arizona's residents.

The anthology we will be reading, Arizona Firestorm, will provide in-depth and accessible scholarship about the responses of local officials to the global phenomenon of immigration, as well as the media's role in this circumstance. The volume makes a two-prong argument.

First, the 2010 Arizona immigration policy firestorm is an expression of local frustration at the effects of globalization. However, all the political actions enacted in Arizona (and at the national level) are provincial, and will prove ineffective in the face of globalization. The 2010 events will recur elsewhere in the nation and across the globe, unless international statesmanship addresses immigration globally. Second, the news media play an integral role to drive public opinion. The media covered the responses of Arizona politicians as ends in themselves. While news professionals are familiar with the parochial nature of political responses, they have been not succeeded in edifying the public. When the media do not set local responses into an international context, they contribute to the nation's myopia. "Global Realities of Immigration" offers lessons for the tensions that globalization will continue to produce.

The anxiety about unchecked immigration is not limited to Arizona. Once the news media spread the word about Arizona's SB 1070, 22 other states introduced copycat bills. The focus of lawmakers was not to address globalization, but to find the language that would avoid courtroom injunctions. Since the U.S. Congress and Obama administration will likely continue to avoid
addressing immigration reform, further local manifestations of this frustration will occur.

**SEMINAR WORKLOAD (10 WEEKS):**

1. **70 points (essay)** Each week, read the assigned short chapter drawn from *Arizona Firestorm*. Write up your answer to "the question of the week" by posting your (maximum 1000 words) response on our website assignment page. ATTENTION: you must post your response the evening BEFORE class, not on the day of class or afterwards. (Each assignment is worth 10 points, thus, 7 assignments * 10 points = 70 points).  

2. **30 points (classroom participation)**

**Syllabus and Writing Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic (chapter)</th>
<th>What to consider</th>
<th>due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>Overview of the class (chapter1)</td>
<td>Whether this is the class for you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Arizona’s historical setting (chapters 2 &amp; 3)</td>
<td>What does the author mean by Arizona’s “moral geography”?</td>
<td>11:50 pm 10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Economics of immigration in Arizona (chapter 4)</td>
<td>How does Gans test her net-benefit claim about immigrants?</td>
<td>11:50 pm 10/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Anti-immigrant legislation: SB 1070 (chapter 5)</td>
<td>On what key elements of SB 1070 will the US Supreme Court rule this summer 2012?</td>
<td>11:50 pm 10/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Anti-ethnic studies legislation: HB 2281 (chapter 6)</td>
<td>On what bullet-points debate about HB 2281</td>
<td>11:50 pm 11/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Attacking on birthright citizenship: the 14th Amendment (chapter 8)</td>
<td>Why or why does AB have to justify his conflicting stances on preserving the 14th amendment and militarizing the border?</td>
<td>11:50 pm 11/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>U.S. news coverage of the immigration debate (chptrs 10 &amp; 11)</td>
<td>What are the key differences of the immigration debate coverage in English-language and Spanish-language reporting?</td>
<td>11:50 pm, 11/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Mexican gov’t and media collusion on immigration reporting (ch 12)</td>
<td>What is the subtle claim the authors make, and what should Americans do about it?</td>
<td>11:50 pm, 11/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Removing the impasse (chapter 13)</td>
<td>Will Americans ever take up Suárez-O &amp; Suárez-O’s viewpoint, and why?</td>
<td>11:50 pm, 12/7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Arizona Firestorm* table of content

1: Arizona’s provincial responses to its global immigration challenges.
3: Chronology of exclusion.
4: Economic impact of immigrants in Arizona.
5: AZ SB 1070: Politics through immigration law.
6: Assault on Ethnic Studies.
7: The ‘Mexican Room’ classroom
8: Teachers banned because of their accents
9: Amending the 14th Amendment won’t solve our problems.
10: U.S. newspaper coverage of SB 1070.
11: Spanish-language TV coverage
12: Mexican newspaper narratives of migration.
13: Immigration in the age of global vertigo.
14: Can America learn to think globally?