Migrant Nation:
How Mobility Shapes American Society, Politics, and Culture
History 146C: Spring 2019
Haines 118, 11 am to 12:15 pm Tuesday and Thursday

Tobias Higbie
Associate Professor, UCLA History Dept.
Office: 5242 Bunche Hall
Email: higbie@history.ucla.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4 PM or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant
Bernard Remollino
Office: Bunche 2149
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-5 PM

Course Description
We often hear that the U.S. is a "nation of immigrants." But what does that really mean? In this course, we will dig into both halves of that expression to develop a better understanding of the nation and the migrant. We will explore the experiences of immigrants and internal migrants, the cultures of racial and ethnic stratification in North America, and the policies that govern migration, citizenship, and exclusion in the United States. We will place immigration to the U.S., and migration within the U.S., in a wider context of global migration and the global economy stretching from the 18th century to the present. In a ten-week quarter, we will not be able to deeply cover every immigrant experience, nor will every event and theme get its due attention. The course is both thematic and chronological, allowing us to look at similar events from the perspective of social history, policy and law, as well as labor and cultural studies.

Course Specific Learning Outcomes:
• Understand the legal, social, and political contexts for international and domestic migrants, and relate the history of immigration and internal migration to contemporary issues;
• Develop historically situated understanding of terms for diversity, difference, and belonging like “melting pot,” “ethnicity,” “race” and citizenship;
• Identify and describe the varied ways migrant communities and individuals have shaped policy debates through community institutions, social movements, and commercial activity;
• Engage with a variety of scholarly perspectives on migration history;
• Identify and use primary sources to craft historical analysis;

Readings
Although there are two books assigned as required reading, there will be quite a few additional readings available on the course website.


Primary sources and other readings will be on the course website.

**Assignments/Assessment**

Grades will be figured on a 100-point scale, so for instance, if you get a score of 88% (B+) on your Midterm Paper you have earned 88 x .25 = 22 points out of a possible 25 for the assignment.

**Midterm Paper: Transnational America in the Immigrant Press (25%)**

Write an analytical report placing a single source in its historical context. Using the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey (a collection of translations of immigrant newspapers), you will locate one article, summarize it, and explain its context and meaning. Detailed assignment descriptions will be available on the course website.

**Research Paper (35%)**

Each student will write a research paper based on a particular topic on the history of migration, work, and citizenship. Specific guidelines for paper topics will be on the course website. The final paper will include analytical text of roughly 2,000 words, plus footnote citations, and a bibliography of your most important research sources. The assignment is graded in two parts: 1) attend a research workshop and write a 1-page abstract for 5% of your total grade; and 2) write the paper for 30% of your total grade. See the course website for more details on the research paper.

**Quizzes (3 quizzes worth 5% each = 15%)**: Online quizzes with multiple choice, matching, and short-answer type questions drawn from assigned reading and lectures.

**Sanctuary Teach-In (5%)**: Attend the event on June 5 (4-7 PM in the Palisades Room of Carnesale Commons. Write a reaction 1-page paper (Due June 7).

**Final Exam (20%)**: Online open book final exam based on readings and lectures.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (April 2 and 4): Stories of a “Migrant Nation”?**

Donna Gabaccia, *Foreign Relations*, 1-23, 24-30

Erika Lee, *The Making of Asian America*, 4-9

James Barrett, *The Irish Way*, 3-11

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, *City of Inmates*, pp. 7-15
Week 2 (April 9 and 11): Empire, Nation, and Citizenship

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, City of Inmates, 26-44
Gabaccia, Foreign Relations, 30-41, 77-92
Jones, Birthright Citizenship, 59-70
Equiano, “The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano”
A Colored Baltimorean’s Comments on Independence Day, 1831

Week 3 (April 16 and 18): Foreign Colonies or American Communities?

Barrett, The Irish Way, 15-31 (street), 60-85 (church), 157-184 (stage)
Lee, Making of Asian America, 67-88
Bourne, “Transnational America” (Excerpt)
M.E. Ravage, “How do you like America?”
Examples from the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey

Week 4 (April 23 and 25): The Politics of Immigrant America

Barrett, Irish Way, 111-155 (labor), 199-210 (urban political machines)
Guglielmo, White on Arrival, 1-12
Lee, Making Asian America, 151-173

Week 5 (April 30 and May 2): Closing the Door on Immigration

Gabaccia, Foreign Relations, 59-69, 92-106
Hernandez, City of Inmates, 69-82

Midterm Paper Due: May 4

Week 6 (May 7 and 9): State Management of Migrant Populations: Case Studies

Film: East L.A. Interchange
Lee, Making Asian America, 211-251
Primary sources TBA

Week 7 (May 14 and 16): Internal Migration & Urban Society

James Gregory, The Southern Diaspora, chapters 4-5
Irish Way, 239-248, 269-279

Week 8 (May 21 and 23): Reform and Control: Neoliberal Migration Regimes, 1965-Present

Gabaccia, “Immigration and Globalization” pp. 199-209
Lee, 269-279, 283-300
Latino Mass Mobilization, 1-3, 25-40
Week 9 (May 28 and 30): The Organization of Transnational Communities

May 28: Guest Lecture: Gaspar Rivera Salgado, UCLA Labor Center
May 30: No Lecture
Reading: Latino Mass Mobilization, chapter 3

Research Paper Due

Week 10

June 4: From Proposition 187 to “El Gran Paro”
Latino Mass Mobilization, chapters 3 and 5

June 5: Sanctuary Teach-In: 4-7 PM Palisades Room, Carnesale Commons

June 6: Migrant Futures

Final Exam: Monday June 10, online.