The Immigrant City

Urban Studies 270 / Sociology 270 / Latin American and Latinx Studies 273

Spring 2022
Monday 1:45-4:45pm
Classroom: Bennett Hall 231

Prof. Domenic Vitiello
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215-898-5226
Office hours: by appointment – generally available on campus Monday morning and Wednesday early afternoon; other times via phone or Zoom

Course Description and Goals

Migration is among the most important phenomena shaping neighborhoods, cities, regions, and communities. Understanding migration and migrant communities is fundamental to understanding cities and society.

This course focuses on immigrant, migrant, and refugee communities in United States cities and suburbs. We survey migration and community experiences among a broad range of ethnic groups in different city and suburban neighborhoods. Class readings, discussions, and assignments explore topics including labor markets, commerce, housing, civil society, race and ethnic relations, neighborhood change, refugee resettlement, integration, and transnational communities. The class introduces students to a variety of social science approaches to studying social groups and cities, including readings in sociology, geography, anthropology, social history, and political science. For most of the semester, we alternate between a week focused on particular migrant groups, and a week focused on broader social science frameworks and the topics noted above.

Assignments include: one very short (3-page) paper; and three short (5-7 page) papers reflecting on the readings, class discussions/lectures/guests.

Ultimately, the class aims to help students develop:
1) a broad knowledge of migration and its impacts on U.S. cities and regions;
2) a comparative understanding of diverse migrant communities and neighborhoods; and
3) familiarity with social and community institutions in immigrant destinations.
Society Sector
This course counts as a general elective in the Society sector, which (per the College) “focuses on the structure and norms of contemporary human societies…. While historical materials may be studied, the primary objective of Society courses is to enable students to develop concepts and principles, test theories and perfect tools that can be used to interpret, explain and evaluate the behavior of human beings in contemporary societies. …the emphasis in each course should be on developing in students a general capacity for social analysis and understanding.”
This course does these things through 1) readings in sociology and allied social sciences, including anthropology, political science, social geography, and social history; 2) class discussions, meetings with community organization leaders, and exploring neighborhood environments online and perhaps in-person; and 3) paper assignments in which students develop frameworks of comparative analysis of immigrant communities, using readings to interpret the groups, institutions, and neighborhoods that we explore.

Reading
Course readings provide the foundations for class discussion and are intended to introduce students to a variety of social science perspectives and tools for understanding migration, communities, cities, and neighborhoods. All students are expected to come to class having thoroughly explored the material and well prepared to discuss it in detail. You are expected to spend about 2-to-3 hours doing the assigned readings each week.

All readings (and assignments) are available on Canvas (https://upenn.instructure.com/), where you should use the HOME page to access all materials. On the page for each class meeting, please read the brief notes at the top of the page, plus occasionally other instructions for reading or browsing.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all class meetings and should email the instructor in advance if they cannot attend; or email the instructor as soon as possible in cases of unexpected absence (reasons of health or personal/household/family emergency are considered “excused” absences). If you have more than 3 unexcused absences during the semester, you will not pass this class.
Assignments and Grading

Family history paper (max. 3 pages double-spaced) 5%
Three (3) papers on readings/trips (each 5-7 pages double-spaced) 60% (20% ea.)
Class participation and attendance 35%

In evaluating the content of your participation as well as written assignments, I weigh:
especially criticality (the depth and nuance of your analysis when explaining/assessing);
and also precision (the clarity and specificity of your descriptions/statements); creativity
(of your ideas); synthesis (the ways you engage and relate different things we read, see,
hear, and do to one another); struggle (to learn things that are new to you); and
cooperation (the quality of your efforts to create an inclusive, respectful, serious
intellectual community, particularly in class meetings). Engagement with assigned
readings is a critical part of this, in both class discussions (in the classroom and on trips)
and written assignments.

Late Work and Extensions:

Unless you contact the instructor in advance of the assignment deadline, or have a last-
minute emergency, no written work will be accepted late. Please try to plan ahead and
ask for an extension in advance if you need one. I am very accommodating about
extensions, and do not mark grades down for late work if you ask for an extension before
the due date (or if you have a last-minute personal emergency, health or otherwise). You
do not need to justify your reasons when requesting an extension – it is fine to take an
extension simply if more time will permit you to write a stronger paper. If you do not ask
for an extension before the due date (or have a last-minute emergency), late work will be
marked down one full grade (e.g., A to B).

Grading: numbers – to – letters

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**Schedule – overview**

January 12:  **Introductions**

January 24:  **Migration in History**  
*Paper due: family history*

January 31:  **Great Migrations**  
Trip: Eastern North Philadelphia

February 7:  **Geographies of Migration**

February 14:  **Old and New Migrations**  
Trip: South Philadelphia

February 21:  **Institutions: Labor Markets, Housing, Civil Society**

February 28:  **Chinatown**  
Trip: Chinatown; with Yue Wu, PCDC

Friday, March 4  *Paper due: institutions and group experiences*

March 14:  **Neighborhood Change**  
Trip: Upper Darby; with Raya Fagg, Upper Darby Welcome Center

March 21:  **Refugee Resettlement**  

March 28:  **African Diasporas**  
Trip: Woodland Avenue; with Voffee Jabateh, ACANA (to be confirmed)

Friday, April 1  *Paper due: neighborhoods*

April 4:  **Integration**  
Guest: Manuel Portillo, The Welcoming Center

April 11:  **Arab America**  
Trip: Al Aqsa mosque; with Marwan Kreidie, AADC

April 18:  **Sanctuary and Immigration Movements**  
Guest: Blanca Pacheco, New Sanctuary Movement (invited)

April 25:  **Migration and Development**

Friday, April 29  *Paper due: politics, integration, development*
SCHEDULE – detailed (note: full citations for readings are on Canvas)

January 12: **Introductions**
- **Reading:**
  - Spend at least 30 minutes reading about migration – see Canvas.

January 24: **Migration in History**
- **Reading:**
  - Xiaojian Zhao, “Immigration to the United States after 1945.”
  - Other readings suggested as reference for the assignment.

  *Short paper due:* Family history. See Canvas for details.

January 31: **Great Migrations**
- **Reading:**
  - Schomburg Center, “In Motion” – see Canvas for what to read.
  - Kathryn Wilson, “Building el Barrio.”
- **Trip:** Eastern North Philadelphia

February 7: **Geographies of Migration**
- **Reading:**
  - Arlie Hochschild, “The Nanny Chain.”
  - Audrey Singer, “Twenty-First Century Gateways.”
  - Michael Jones-Correa, “Reshaping the American Dream.”
  - Barbara Smith and Jamie Winders, “New Pasts.”

February 14: **Old and New Migrations**
- **Reading and watching:**
  - Domenic Vitiello et al., “Mexicans and Mexico.”
  - Roa Nixon, Pascual Sanchez and Deutsch, *El Sol Sale Para Todos*.
- **Trip:** South Philadelphia
February 21: **Institutions: Labor Markets, Housing, Civil Society**
- **Reading:**
    - OR: Eckstein and Peri, “Immigrant Niches…”
  - Carter and Vitiello, “Immigrants, Refugees, and Housing.”
  - Nik Theodore and Nina Martin, “Migrant Civil Society.”
  - Mark Stern et al., “Migrants, Communities, and Culture.”

February 28: **Chinatown**
- **Reading:**
  - Arthur Acollín and Domenic Vitiello, “Who Owns Chinatown.”
  - Michael Kimmelman, “Chinatown, Resilient and Proud.”
- **Trip:** Chinatown; meeting Yue Wu, PCDC

Fri., Mar. 4: **Paper due:** Institutions and group experiences. See Canvas for details.

March 14: **Neighborhood Change**
- **Reading:**
  - Robert Sampson, “Immigration and America’s Urban Revival.”
  - Katz and Ginsburg, “Immigrant Cities as Reservations…”
- **Trip:** Upper Darby; meeting Raya Fagg, U. Darby Welcome Center

March 21: **Refugee Resettlement**
- **Reading:**
  - Singer and Wilson, “Refugees in Metropolitan America.”
  - Tram Nguyen, “Unsettled Refugees.”
  - McWilliams and Bonet, “Refugees in the City.”
  - Browse links on Canvas: UNHCR, IOM, others.
- **Guest:** Juliane Ramic, Office of Refugee Resettlement, HHS

March 28: **African Diasporas**
- **Reading:**
  - Schomburg Center, “In Motion” – see Canvas for what to read.
  - Domenic Vitiello, “African Diasporas.”
  - Jonny Steinberg, *Little Liberia*, chapters 1, 26-27.
- **Trip:** Woodland Avenue, with Voffee Jabateh, ACANA (to confirm)

Fri., April 1 **Paper due:** Neighborhoods. See Canvas for details.
April 4: Integration

- Reading:
  - Philip Kasinitz et al., *Inheriting the City*, chapter 1.
  - Brian Ray, “The Role of Cities in Immigrant Integration.”
  - Michael Jones-Correa, “All Immigration Is Local.”
  - New Yorkers for Parks, *Parks for All New Yorkers*.
  - Cities of Migration integration case studies.
- Guest: Manuel Portillo, The Welcoming Center

April 11: Arab America

- Reading:
  - Mattea Cumoletti and Jeanne Batalova, “Middle Eastern and North African Immigrants in the United States.”
  - Sally Howell and Amaney Jamal, “The Aftermath of the 9/11 Attacks.”
  - Sally Howell, “Rights versus Respectability.”
- Trip: Al Aqsa mosque; with Marwan Kreidie, AADC

April 18: Sanctuary and Immigration Movements

- Reading:
  - Domenic Vitiello, *The Sanctuary City*, introduction.
  - Irene Bloemraad and Kim Voss, “Movement or Moment?”
  - Brendan O’Connor, “The Eugenicist Doctor…”
- Guest: Blanca Pacheco, New Sanctuary Movement of Phila. (invited)

April 25: Migration and Development

- Reading:
  - Bob Davis, “Direct Deposits.”
  - Joel Millman and Amy Chozick, “In Haiti, if Someone Gets Your Goat, That's a Good Thing.”
  - Cindy Hahamovitch, *No Man’s Land*, chapter 10 and conclusion.
  - Manuel Orozco and Rebecca Rouse, “Migrant Hometown Associations and Opportunities for Development.”
  - Shaila Dewan, “Scattered Emigrés Haiti Once Shunned…”
  - Bob Dolnick, “Ecuador Tries to Lure Emigrants Home.”