

History 4485-01
History of U.S. Immigration
Fall 2015

Professor: Steve Goodson

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Place and Time: Pafford 107, TTH 12:30-1:50

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Office Hours: M-Th 2:00-4:30, or by appointment.

Course Description: In this course we will explore the history of immigration to the U.S., from the beginning of European settlement to the early 21st century.

Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the assigned readings, from class discussions, from lectures, and from any other material (films, music, handouts, etc.) presented in class. The final exam will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only if the student provides a written doctor's excuse, and it is the student's responsibility to let me know in advance if he or she will have to miss an exam.

Class Participation: History is a reading-intensive discipline. Nothing is more crucial to a good historian than the ability to read carefully, thoroughly, and critically. In order to be prepared and to participate in discussions, students will need to do the required reading *in advance* of each class session. In order to encourage students to do the reading, there may be short in-class writing assignments as well as unannounced quizzes. Attendance will be taken daily and a student's attendance record will play a significant role in determining his or her final grade. Students are expected to arrive in class on time and to remain until class is ended. Inappropriate classroom behavior (talking out of turn, sleeping, texting, etc.) will *severely* damage a student's final grade. *Please* silence cell phones before entering class!

Paper Assignments: Each student will be required to prepare three-to-four-page papers on *The Emigrants*, *Bread Givers*, and *The Death of Josseline*. In addition, each student will write an end-of-term paper (seven to nine pages) which will be due on December 3. Please note that plagiarism will result in failure of the course. See the History Department's statement on plagiarism at <http://www.westga.edu/~history/statementonplagiarism.pdf>

Evaluation: Each exam will account for 25% of the final grade, the three book papers for a total of 20%, the final paper for 20%, and class participation (including quiz and in-class writing grades) for 10%. Students must submit all required work in order to pass the course.

Additional information from UWG: http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Reading List (Available at the Campus Bookstore):

David A. Gerber, *American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction*
Ilan Stavans, ed., *Becoming Americans: Four Centuries of Immigrant Writing*
Vilhelm Moberg, *The Emigrants*
Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*
Margaret Regan, *The Death of Josseline*

Tentative Class Schedule

Date and Required Reading:

Aug. 25 – Introduction

Aug. 27 – Gerber, Introduction

Sept. 1 – Gerber, chaps. 1 and 2

Sept. 3 – Gerber, chap. 3

Sept. 8 – Gerber, chap. 4

Sept. 10 – Gerber, chap. 5

Sept. 15 – Gerber, chap. 6

Sept. 17 – *BA*: Frethorne, Tillam, Revel

Sept. 22 – *BA*: Diallo, Wheatley

Sept. 24 – *BA*: Mittleberger, de Crevecoeur

Sept. 29 – *The Emigrants*

Oct. 1 – *BA*: McElgun, Mattson, Schurz

Oct. 6 – *BA*: Riis, Eaton

Oct. 8 – **Midterm Exam**

Oct. 13 – *BA*: Cahan, Antin, Roth, Halpern

Oct. 15 – *BA*: Poetry by Chinese Immigrants, Pellegrino, Caminita, Adamic

Oct. 20 – *Bread Givers*

Oct. 22 – *BA*: Rolvaag, Galarza, Vega

Oct. 27 – *BA*: Chu, Bulosan, Burgos, Cofer

Oct. 29 – *BA*: Singer, Perloff, Auden

Nov. 3 – No Reading

Nov. 5 -- *BA*: Pell, Simic

Nov. 10 – *BA*: Arenas, Danticat

Nov. 12 – *The Death of Josseline*

Nov. 17 – *BA*: Chang-rae Lee, Mengetsu

Nov. 19 – *BA*: Hemon, Vapnyar, Rodriguez

Dec. 1 – Gerber, chap. 7

Dec. 3 – **Papers Due**

Dec. 10 (Thursday) – **Final Exam, 11:00-1:30**