

History 5485: History of U.S. Immigration
Spring 2018

Professor: Steve Goodson **Place and Time:** TLC 3205, MW 3:30-4:45
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Office Hours: MW 1:00-1:50; TTH 1:30-5:00; or by appointment.

Course Description and Goals: In this course we will focus on immigration to the United States from the colonial period until the twenty-first century. A primary emphasis will be upon the experiences of the immigrants themselves as related in letters, memoirs, novels, nonfiction, poetry, and film. We will also trace the varying American reactions to immigrants and in the roles immigrants and immigration have played in the politics, economics, and culture of the U.S. Assignments will allow students to sharpen their writing, interpretive, and research skills. This course will include a spring break trip to New York City in which we will visit sites related to immigration history.

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 will *severely* damage a student's final grade. Please silence cell phones and do not use them during class.

Paper Assignments: Each student will be required to prepare four-page papers on three of the books we will be reading this semester. In addition, each student will write an end-of-term paper (eleven to thirteen pages). All paper assignments must be submitted in order for a student to pass the class. Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the course. Students will need to submit each assigned paper to the Drop Box on CourseDen and provide the professor with a hard copy. Expectations for papers and exams will be higher for grad students than for undergrads.

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 for 10%.

Additional Information on UWG Policies: <http://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

Required Books:

David A. Gerber, *American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction*
Ilan Stavans, ed., *Becoming Americans: Four Centuries of Immigrant Writing*
Ronald Takaki, *Strangers From a Distant Shore*
Tom Gjelten, *A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story*

Vilhelm Moberg, *The Emigrants*
Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*
Gene Luen Yang, *American Born Chinese*
Margaret Regan, *The Death of Josseline*
George J. Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*

Date and Required Reading:

Jan. 10 – Introduction

Jan. 17 – Gerber, Introduction and chaps. 1 and 2 (pp. 1-44)

Jan. 22 – Gerber, chap. 3

Jan. 24 – Gerber, chap. 4

Jan. 29 – Gerber, chap. 5

Jan. 31 – Gerber, chap. 6

Feb. 5 – *BA*: Frethorne, Tillam, Revel

Feb. 7 – *BA*: Diallo, Wheatley

Feb. 12 – *BA*: Mittleberger, de Crevecoeur

Feb. 14 – ***The Emigrants***

Feb. 19 – *BA*: McElgun, Mattson, Schurz

Feb. 21 – *BA*: Riis, Eaton

Feb. 26 – No Reading

Feb. 28 – **Midterm Exam**

March 5 – *BA*: Cahan, Antin, Roth, Halpern

March 7 – *BA*: Poetry by Chinese Immigrants, Pellegrino, Caminita, Adamic

March 12 – ***Bread Givers***

March 14 – *BA*: Rolvaag, Galarza, Vega

Spring Break Trip to New York City: Sunday March 18 to Friday March 23

March 26 – *BA*: Chu, Bulosan, Burgos, Cofer

March 28 – *BA*: Singer, Perloff, Auden

April 2 – ***American Born Chinese***

April 4 – No Reading

April 9 -- *BA*: Pell, Simic

April 11 – *BA*: Arenas, Danticat

April 16 – ***The Death of Josseline***

April 18 – *BA*: Chang-rae Lee, Mengetsu

April 23 – *BA*: Hemon, Vapnyar, Rodriguez

April 25 – Gerber, chap. 7

April 30 – **Final Papers Due**

May 2 (Wednesday) – **Final Exam, 2:00-4:00**