**PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy and Immigrants**  
Winter 2016  
Professor J. Vigdor

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**Syllabus**

**Synopsis**

The purpose of this course is to build foundational knowledge of American immigration policy, providing students with the conceptual and analytical tools required to critically evaluate any and all arguments made in current policy debates, and to move toward making unique and original contributions to those debates. After quickly reviewing current and historical immigration policy in the United States, we’ll go back to basics, considering migration as an essential human behavior and reviewing topics in the economics, sociology, and politics of immigration. We will also review the techniques of producing evidence for use in immigration policy debates. With these tools in mind, we will return to current policy debates.

**Course Meetings**

Wednesdays, 1:30-4:20 PM  
MGH 234

PLEASE NOTE that our class will relocate to MGH 251 on February 10th while MGH 234 receives a technology upgrade.

**Instructor**

Jacob Vigdor  
Parrington 324  
jvigdor@uw.edu  
(206)616-4436  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM or by appointment

**Readings**

The complete set of readings for this course are incorporated in the calendar links listed at the bottom of the Canvas website.

All students enrolled in the course will be provided a free copy of Professor Vigdor’s 2009 book *From Immigrants to Americans: The Rise and Fall of Fitting In*, on condition that this copy be either held in perpetuity by the student and not sold on any secondary market or returned to the instructor at the conclusion of the term.

Numerous readings for the course will also be sourced from the following books. Although you are not required to purchase these books, you are responsible for securing a copy to read.
Assignments

Students will complete weekly writing assignments, in most cases due just before our class meeting, designed to accomplish multiple goals. The assignment due will require familiarity with the topics covered in the reading to be discussed in class the following day. Assignments may also draw connections to topics of current news interest. Most assignments will take the form of professional memoranda rather than more traditional academic writing, to cultivate students’ ability to summarize complex arguments succinctly. Completing these writing assignments before class meets will provide students with an opportunity to refine their thinking on a given topic, and to identify areas where additional discussion might enhance their understanding and opinions. This, in turn, will permit our class sessions to move more towards open discussion and away from the traditional lecture format.

Students will take turns serving as lead facilitators. Each class period will be divided roughly in half, with the first half focusing on the readings and the second half on the writing assignment for the day. Student facilitators should come to class prepared with discussion questions for the group. Performance in the role of student facilitator, assessed in part by peers, will comprise a portion of the class participation grade for the quarter.

The mock debate session scheduled during the regular final exam period for this course will involve pairing students up in teams of 2-3 to prepare for a free-form session moderated by one or more student moderators. Students will have the opportunity to select a perspective to defend in the debate, ranging from libertarian-style support for open borders to "Tea Party" style calls for enhanced restrictions on immigration.

Grading policy

Grades in this course will be based

72% Weekly writing assignments (9 @ 8% each)
15% Mock debate
13% Class participation, including lead facilitation role.

Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Other considerations
We will endeavor to abide by the Evans School Community Conversation Norms.

For other guidelines as to student expectations, please refer to the Evans School MPA Student Handbook. Please pay particular attention to sections on plagiarism and academic integrity.

Please note that this syllabus and course schedule does not constitute a contract and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

**Origin Stories; Introduction to American Immigration Policy**

Jan 6, 1:30pm - 4:20pm

**Calendar**  PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants

**Location**  MGH 234

**Details**  From Immigrants to Americans Chapter 1, "An Immigrant's Decision"

Borjas Immigration Economics Chapter 1, "The Selection of Immigrants"

Everett S. Lee (1966) "A Theory of Migration" Demography v.3 n.1 pp.47-57.

John S. MacDonald and Leatrice D. MacDonald (1964) "Chain Migration, Ethnic Neighborhood Formation, and Social Networks" The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly v.42 n.1 pp.82-97.

**Migrant Perspectives I: Rural Migrants & Farm Workers**

Jan 13, 1:30pm - 4:20pm

**Calendar**  PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants

**Location**  MGH 234


**Migrant Perspectives II: Urban Migrants**

Jan 20, 1:30pm - 4:20pm

**Calendar**  PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants

**Location**  MGH 234


Migrant Perspectives III: Refugees
Jan 27, 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Calendar PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants
Location MGH 234

Immigration Impacts I: The Labor Market
Feb 3, 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Calendar PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants
Location MGH 234
Details Borjas Immigration Economics Chapters 3-8

From Immigrants to Americans Chapter 3, "Fitting In Economically"


Immigration Impacts II: Housing; Fiscal Implications
Feb 10, 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Calendar PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants
Location MGH 251 (NOT the regular classroom)
Details From Immigrants to Americans Chapters 5 and 6, "Fitting In Officially" and "Fitting Into the Neighborhood"


Policy Regimes I: United States pre-1965
Feb 17, 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Calendar PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants
Location MGH 234
Details From Immigrants to Americans Chapter 2, "A Historical Overview of Immigration to the United States"


Policy Regimes II: United States Post-1965
Feb 24, 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Calendar PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants
Location MGH 234
Details Zolberg Chapters 9-11, conclusion


Policy Regimes III: International Perspectives
Mar 2, 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Calendar PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants
Location MGH 234

Conclusion: Framing the Debate
Mar 9, 1:30pm - 4:20pm
Calendar PB AF 562 A: Immigration Policy And Immigrants
Location MGH 234