

Sociology 234
Ethnic America
Spring 2011
Wednesdays 9:00-11:50 a.m., SSPB 2214
Professor Rubén G. Rumbaut

This seminar is an experimental venture – venturing outside the parameters of my previous “Theories of Ethnicity” course to examine such theories in the context of an era of widening inequality and of state persecution of undocumented immigrants (from Proposition 187 to IIRIRA to HR 4437, the failure of comprehensive immigration reform, and the mass immigrant rights marches of Spring 2006; from Hazleton, SB 1070 in Arizona, and the proliferation of hundreds of state and local laws and ordinances seeking to control “illegal aliens,” ICE raids and border fences), the expansion of categories of “removable aliens” and the criminalization of unauthorized migration since 1996, mass detentions and deportations, the politics of scapegoating amid a “war on terror” and the growing assault on immigrants’ civil liberties and social rights, all the more after September 11 and amid today’s Great Recession. All of this, in turn, needs to be located and understood within the larger legal, political and historical contexts in which they emerge.

The seminar is organized as a graduate workshop, and your active participation in discussions is encouraged and expected. During the ten weeks of the quarter, each of you will also be assigned and asked to prepare and lead seminar discussions of selected topics from the required readings (listed below). And you are expected to write a term paper (individually or collaboratively), which will be discussed further in the seminar. The paper is due on the Wednesday of Finals Week in June 2011.

Readings. Aside from occasional articles that will be distributed as pdf files via e-mail attachments and others posted in the course website, readings for the seminar will be drawn from the following: (The agenda will be completed after our first meeting on Wednesday, March 30.)

Books:

Peter Schrag, *Not Fit for Our Society: Immigration and Nativism in America*.
Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010. [\[NFOS\]](#)

Leo R. Chávez, *The Latino Threat: Constructing Immigrants, Citizens, and the Nation*.
Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2008. [\[TLT\]](#)

Natalia Molina, *Fit To be Citizens? Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1939*.
Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006. [\[FTBC?\]](#)

Aristide Zolberg, *A Nation by Design: Immigration Policy in the Fashioning of America*.
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006. [\[NBD\]](#)

Other selected articles and reports are available as pdf files in our class website:
<https://eee.uci.edu/11s/69810/>

Optional book for Extra Credit:

Brian Fry, *Nativism and Immigration: Regulating the American Dream*.
New York: LFB Publishing, 2006.
[Available at the LFB link above at a 50% discount only for this seminar.]

Other recommended books:

Daniel Kanstroom, *Deportation Nation: Outsiders in American History*.
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007.

Douglas S. Massey and Magaly Sánchez, *Brokered Boundaries: Creating Immigrant Identity in Anti-Immigrant Times*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2010.

Hiroshi Motomura, *Americans in Waiting: The Lost Story of Immigration and Citizenship in the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*.
Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.

John Higham, *Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925*.
Revised edition. Rutgers University Press, 2002. [Original published in 1955.]

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