Course Description

This class examines a critical issue in contemporary societies: How do changes in technology affect the process of immigration and how immigrant identity is shaped? While some immigrants have chosen to maintain strong symbolic and material ties to their home countries throughout history, technology has greatly reduced the costs of doing so. Increasing and less expensive opportunities for the acquisition of information, communication, and travel mean that immigrants can choose different areas in which to settle without giving up access to their home culture. In addition, they frequently know much more about the new country, and they can develop transnational identities that embrace both the home and new country cultures. How do these changes affect patterns of immigrant settlement, political participation, and socialization?

In this class we will combine studies of immigration with studies of the social uses of technology, as well as research that directly addresses transnational identities and processes.

Requirements

This is a writing-intensive (WI) course. Therefore, the writing component is as important as the reading and discussion components in the learning process. There will be four assignments, all of which will be submitted in draft form for feedback and revision.
Assignments #1 & #2: Two short literature review papers of 5-7 pages, one on immigration topics and one on the social uses of technology. The first draft of each will be graded Highly Satisfactory, Satisfactory, or Needs Substantial Revision. The revised version will receive a grade, which will be determined by the quality of the product and the student’s responsiveness to feedback (not the amount of change, but the extent to which you take the comments into account).

Assignment #3: students will keep logs of their internet and field research activity. These logs will be submitted for feedback. They will not be graded but they must be submitted and students must take the feedback on drafts into account when submitting their final logs.

Assignment #4: A 12-15 page paper (or analogous format, to be discussed in class) focused on an immigrant journey from home to destination country. This paper builds on the literature reviews and draws on the material gathered through your research and will be due at the end of the semester.

The class will be structured as a seminar, so students are required to have done the readings beforehand and attendance is mandatory (students may miss two classes without explanation or penalty).

Literature reviews: 15% each
Field research logs: 15%
Attendance and participation: 15%
Final paper: 40%

Course Materials

All course materials will be available on the course’s Blackboard site, with one exception: K. Anthony Appiah’s Cosmopolitanism will be read in full, so you should purchase or borrow a copy. It is available in ebook and paperback editions, and there are also inexpensive copies available at Amazon.

Class Schedule

August 24: Introductory class; no readings


September 21: Appiah, Cosmopolitanism, Ch. 6-10.


1st paper draft due in class September 30

**October 5, 7: Tutorials**

We will not meet as a class. Instead, we will schedule individual meetings to discuss paper revisions.


Revised 1st paper due in class October 14


Jens Hainmueller, et al. 2015. “Naturalization Fosters the Long-Term Political Integration of Immigrants.” *PNAS*.


2nd paper draft due in class November 4

**November 9, 11: Tutorials**

We will not meet as a class. Instead, we will schedule individual meetings to discuss paper revisions.


Revised 2nd paper due in class November 18

**November 23:**

Turn in draft of internet and field research log

**November 25: Thanksgiving Break!!!**


1st draft of final paper due December 4

Final Paper (with final log/journal) is due during Finals week.