

*Department of History  
University of Wisconsin -- Madison  
Semester I, AY 2009-2010*

**History 403**

**Immigration and Assimilation in US History**

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**Introduction**

History 403 examines immigration to the part of North America now known as the United States, interactions among and within the various movements of people who have gone there, and the extent to which those waves have or have not formed a single, new nationality and culture. It treats those topics from the beginning of the Age of Exploration to the present day. History 403 focuses on the experiences of Africans, Asians, and Latin Americans as well as on those of the Europeans who, until recently, have constituted the majority of the immigrant flow. The course covers the histories of those who came voluntarily, those who arrived in bondage, and those who migrated under other forms of duress.

The goal of History 403 is to answer a series of basic questions. Who came, and why did they leave their native countries? When did various ethnic and racial groups reach North America, where did they land, and where did they go after landing here? How, across the eras, did the residents whose families had come to America in earlier years, or decades, or centuries receive newcomers? How did the immigrants respond to the unfamiliar environment in which they suddenly found themselves? To what extent did the immigrants and their offspring become part of the mainstream of American society? Which of their Old World practices and values - if any - survived in the New World? Of what importance is immigration in the present era, and how may it af-

fect the future? The questions seem straightforward, but complicated problems of definition, measurement, and judgment lie beneath their appearance of simplicity.

### **Online Course**

History 403 is fundamentally an online course. The online format enables me to organize materials more efficiently, to integrate diverse kinds of media more effectively, and to convey a greater amount of information in the time available. Although I continue to update the course and to make revisions to it, the online format saves me from having to devote the bulk of my time to repeating material that remains constant from semester to semester. I can devote that regained time to other interactions with students. Finally, the online format enables people to take the course who would not be able to fit it into their schedule due to other commitments or distance from Madison.

History 403 has four discussion sections, and undergraduates must enroll for the lectures and one of those sections. For that they can earn four credits, although they may choose to take only three. Graduate students need not participate in the discussion sections and may enroll only for three credits. Graduate students should consult with me about expectations for the course. A schedule of the discussions for each section appears as Appendix III to this syllabus. There will be no section meetings during the first week.

### **Advisories**

History 403 is not designed for students enrolled primarily to complete their ethnic studies requirement. The course existed before the university imposed that requirement, and I teach the subject matter because I care about it. If you chose 403 only for convenience, or in the expectation of having to expend only minimal effort on a general education offering, you will be very unhappy. For your sake and mine, please consider other options. You can find a list of offerings that meet the ethnic studies requirement at <http://www.ls.wisc.edu/gened/courselists/ethniccourses.htm>.

Online delivery of college-level instruction is still in the formative stages of development. It requires flexibility on the parts of instructors and students. Despite my best efforts, some glitches will probably occur; I shall do my best immediately to correct them. If you are willing to engage actively with the material, online courses have great potential for enriching your learning experience. Serious online courses require at least

as much work as regular offering. Do not allow the different form of contact involved in online teaching to fool you; online is neither a synonym for “blow-off” nor a signal that the instructor will be less able to tell how much work you are or are not doing.

History 403 is an intermediate course – not an elementary one. It will be fast-paced and comprehensive. Those enrolled should already know the basic facts, trends, and issues relating to the broad issues of the American past. **If your knowledge of U.S. history is weak, you should not take History 403.**

The approach in History 403 is analytical rather than narrative, more social scientific than humanistic. You will frequently encounter evidence in the form of numbers and graphs. If you dislike subjects like economics and sociology, you will dislike this course.

The fifteen article-length readings are scholarly and serious. They are neither easy nor fun. My role, however, is not to amuse you; it is to enhance your ability to analyze difficult and complex matters. My hope is that the readings will help you think deeply about a set of issues that will probably affect American society for the next half-century – the bulk of the remainder of your lives.

My goal is to encourage you to recognize complexities and ambiguities rather than to provide simple answers or to promote a particular point of view. If you come to the course either looking for information to reinforce a strongly held political ideology – of either the left or right – or for an opportunity to advocate one, you will be disappointed.

## **Course Outline**

### *Weeks 1 to 5*

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, sizable numbers of Europeans migrated to the region that later became the United States. The coming of the Europeans had disastrous demographic consequences for the existing native population. Although the English composed a plurality of the colonial immigrants to settlements along the East Coast of North America, large numbers of men and women from the outlying districts of the British Isles and from the nations of the continent joined them in the New World. So too did many involuntary Black migrants from Africa.

For a variety of reasons, immigration to the United States remained at a modest level for approximately a half century after the War of Independence. Between the 1830s and the Civil War, however, hordes of Irish and German immigrants arrived. Substantial numbers of Canadians, Scandinavians, and other Britons joined the influx after that conflict. We shall discuss the general reasons behind this surge in immigration and the specific causes for the emigration from the “donor” countries.

The arrival of the immigrants posed a series of serious challenges to American society and to the self-image that the United States was articulating in the middle of the nineteenth century. The newcomers helped transform the urban environment physically, and the visible poverty of some of them raised among Americans fears of declining economic opportunities. Likewise, the presence of a high percentage of Roman Catholics among the new arrivals threatened the inclination in American Protestantism to identify the U.S. with the land of the millennium. Nevertheless, the immigrants of the pre-war era and of the following decades survived “nativist” resistance, and adapted to their new lives in the United States.

*Weeks 6 to 10*

Those Europeans who came to America before 1890 became known as the “Old Immigrants” after an exceptionally heavy stream of immigration began flowing to the United States from other source countries late in the nineteenth century. European peoples, such as Italians, Jews, and Slavs, whose cultures were unfamiliar to the population of the United States, formed the largest and most visible freshly arriving “New Immigrant” communities. Natives of Japan and several other Asian nations also arrived, and their experiences will be treated in this block, as will those of the Chinese, who came to the United States during the era of the Old Immigration.

The later arrivals seemed “new” not only as cultural groups but also in terms of the economic and social roles they played as the U.S. entered an age of heavy industry. Contemporary commentators found the demographic characteristics and socioeconomic conditions associated with this second phase of nineteenth century immigration to be undesirable, and many blamed those features on the newcomers themselves. Historians, however, have rejected that judgment.

The United States took the first serious steps toward severely restricting the right of people to enter this nation when, in 1882, it “temporarily” blocked further immigration by unskilled Chinese laborers. Over the next four decades, a formidable

re-restrictionist movement developed and sought political mechanisms to identify and exclude undesirable immigrants. For some activists, the search gradually shifted from efforts to ferret out individually unfit applicants for admission to attempts to establish “scientifically” the unworthiness of whole nationalities and races.

A policy of sharply limited immigration, with access to entry tied to ethnic background, emerged as the law of the land after World War I. The impact of restriction helped shape labor recruitment policies during and after the Depression. It also affected the experiences of American racial minorities during World War II, even as that conflict began to undermine the ideology behind restriction.

#### *Weeks 11 to 15*

The restrictive immigration policies adopted in the 1920s remained in force until the 1960s. During that era, America’s immigrant populations did without the reinforcement of continuing arrivals from abroad, and the nation’s ethnic groups became increasingly composed of persons whose families had been in the United States for at least two generations. Those people spoke English, shed many of the outward styles that had underlined the alien status of their forebears, and increasingly shared in mainstream experiences. The socioeconomic and other gaps separating groups of white Americans from each other grew less wide, and the importance of ethnic and even of religious divisions in the population seemed to wane.

Due, in part, to the high level of “Americanization” that had been achieved, important shifts in American attitudes took place by the mid-1960s. Legislation removed the patently discriminatory ethnic features of immigration policy. Contrary to the prediction of the experts, immigration subsequently again, with nations in Asia and Latin America becoming the principal sources of the new influx.

Contemporary immigration to the United States has several components. Approximately 700,000 legal immigrants constitute the largest part of the permanent influx. Twice that number of people may enter the United States each year without proper documents, but probably only one out of five of them will stay indefinitely in the country. The number fluctuates with world conditions, but roughly 100,000 persons arrive annually as refugees. The criteria for admitting refugees differ from those for admitting immigrants, but the newcomers can usually quickly adjust their legal status to that of permanent residents.

Partly because of the Civil Rights Movement's effort to reduce prejudice and partly as a concession to the intractability of racial issues, commentators in the post-1965 era came to accept the idea that demographic and cultural diversity was an inevitable and perhaps even desirable feature of American life. Scholars, however, remain divided both on the actual nature of the "new ethnicity" celebrated by multiculturalists and on its implications for the future. Some see it as a permanent stop of the road to the complete assimilation of all groups, but others deem it a transient phenomenon that will end similarly to previous episodes in the integration of newcomers.

### **Learn@UW**

Learn@UW is the on-line courseware used to support History 403. The URL for the log-in page is <https://learnuw.wisc.edu>. Your "My UW" homepage also has a link to Learn@UW under the "Campus Resources" section of "Campus Quick Links."

Your user name for Learn@UW is your UW-Madison NetID, and your password is your UW-Madison NetID password. Once you have logged in, you will see a list of the courses you are taking that are using Learn@UW. If you do not see that list, click on the "+" next to the heading "2009 – Fall."

Click on "History 403" to go to the Learn@UW homepage for the course. That homepage is an enhanced version of the software's typical "Content" tool. At the top of the page you will also see links to several other tools, including News, Discussion, Chat, Quizzes, Grades, and Email. You will become familiar with those during the course.

The course homepage lists, by week, the lessons to be presented. Clicking on the title of a lesson will take you to a new homepage devoted to that lesson. The homepage also includes, after the listings for Week 15, a set of links to general resources you may find useful for studying immigration and ethnicity. A summary of the lessons listed on the homepage appears as *Appendix I* to this syllabus.

The separate homepages devoted to the individual lessons follow a standard format. Each will provide a brief description of the lesson. It will also provide links to the lecture and assignment page, to supplementary materials, and to discussion questions.

The lecture and assignment page for each lesson includes a link to a narrated PowerPoint presentation. The assignment section of the lecture and assignment page

provides links to copies of the lecture slides and of the narrations. For one lesson each week, that page will include a link to an assigned reading. The lecture and assignment page also has links to the homepage for the lesson, to supplementary materials, and to discussion questions.

The course has fourteen assigned readings – one for each of the first fourteen weeks of the course. Each is a scholarly article pertinent to the material for the week during which it should be read. A list of the readings appears as *Appendix II* to this syllabus.

Supplemental Resources include QuizImages, which highlight aspects of pictures shown on some of the slides, Glossary terms, which further discuss various topics raised in the lecture, and Optional Readings, which provide links to resources that may be of interest to you. Not every lesson will have entries under all three elements. The Discussion page lists questions that will help you identify important themes in the lecture. The Supplemental Resources and the Discussion pages also link to the other components of the lesson.

## **Examinations**

History 403 includes three equally weighted, non-cumulative examinations, including two mid-terms and a final. The first mid-term will cover Lessons 1 to 17, which take up the first five weeks of instruction. The second mid-term will cover Lessons 18 to 33, which take up the middle five weeks. The final exam will cover Lessons 34 to 52, which take up the final five weeks of the term.

The first exam will take place on Friday, October 9. The second will take place on Friday, November 20. The date for the third exam is that assigned by the University for the Final Exam, Friday, December 18.

The first two exams will have the same format. Parts I and II will be online. Part I consist of objective questions. Those will be based on the quiz questions at the end of each lesson. Part II will be an essay question derived from a list based on lecture themes and readings. You will receive lists of potential essay themes approximately one week before each exam. The third exam will have a longer Part I and no Part II.

The questions or question that a student sees in Parts I and II of the exams will be chosen randomly from a larger set of questions. Thus, the questions confronted will

vary among students. The questions, however, should be of approximately equal difficulty. Each student will be able to take the exam at any time during the day for which it is scheduled. To prevent inappropriate use of reference materials, students will be held to strict time limits for submitting answers.

Part III of the first two exams will be a long essay question. You will receive the long essay question approximately two weeks before each examination. Answering the question will require you to integrate information from the lectures and the assigned readings and to display an understanding of the broader themes connecting lessons. Organization, proper grammar, and correct spelling are also important. Your answer must be in the form of a printed essay of not more than 2,000 words to be submitted by 4 PM on the day of the test at a place to be specified. Persons away from Madison may submit their essays electronically.

## **Discussions**

Section meetings take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Class starts on a Wednesday this semester, and in order to keep all sections synchronized, **the first meetings will be delayed until the second week.** Both the teaching assistant and I plan to be present for all sections meetings during that second week. Those meetings will provide an opportunity for all participants in each section to be introduced to one another.

During most weeks, the teaching assistant and I shall each take two sections. We shall alternate between the Tuesday (303 and 304) and Wednesday (301 and 302) sections. When the teaching assistant is taking the Tuesday sections, I shall take the Wednesday ones, and vice-versa. *Appendix III* summarizes the division of responsibilities.

Discussion meetings will review the lectures, analyze the readings, and treat other matters pertinent to the course. Sections will not meet during Week 7 (October 11-17) and Week 12 (November 22-28) in order to facilitate the grading of the first and second exams. Week 12 also includes Thanksgiving. Attendance at section and participation in the discussion are mandatory for all other weeks. Unexcused absences beyond the first will lead to a reduction in your participation grade for the semester.

## **Grading**

Each examination will be scored on a 100-point scale. The average of a student's total scores over the three examinations will determine 75 percent of his or her final grade. Attendance at the section meetings and participation in discussions that take place there will determine the remaining 25 percent of each student's final grade.

Each student will receive a letter grade reflecting his or her standing in the distribution of final averages. The grades for the class have generally reflected the overall distribution of undergraduate grades in the History Department. During the first semester of the previous academic year, 2008-2009, the top 25 percent received "A"; the next 32 percent, "AB"; and the next 26 percent, "B."

The requirements for the course are contained in the lectures and the assignments. Students who take advantage of at least some of the supplemental resources, however, will probably learn more than those who do the minimum amount of work. Differing levels of effort may affect the relative performances of students and, consequently, their final grades.

## **Office Hours and Beyond**

Electronic mail is the most reliable medium for reaching me on short notice. My email address is [tjarchde@wisc.edu](mailto:tjarchde@wisc.edu). I monitor it throughout the day and usually in the evening as well.

My scheduled office hours are on Tuesdays between 1:15 and 3:15 PM. I am often available at 4135 Humanities at other times as well, and you are free to stop by whenever I am present. I shall be ready to talk with you if pressing business is not pending. To make appointments for times other than the scheduled office hours, email me or call me at 263-1778 (4135 Humanities) or at 251-7264 (home). Both phones have answering machines; leave a message if necessary.

## Appendix I: Lessons

### Week 1 (Aug. 30 – Sept. 5)

1. Exploration and Encounter
2. The Fate of the Indigenous Peoples
3. Early English Settlement
4. Regional Variations in English Settlement

### Week 2 (Sept. 6-12)

5. Bound Labor
6. Migrant Groups, 1715-1815
7. American Nationalism

### Week 3 (Sept. 13-19)

8. The Roots of International Migration
9. The Irish Famine
10. German Immigration
11. Scandinavian Immigration

### Week 4 (Sept. 20 – Sept. 26)

12. Immigrants and Know-Nothings
13. Immigrants and Other Minorities
14. The Civil War Era

### Week 5 (Sept. 27 – Oct. 3)

15. Non-Immigrant Minorities in the Gilded Age
16. Immigrants and American Labor
17. Americanization

### Week 6 (Oct. 4-10)

18. Chinese Immigration
19. Early Controls on Immigration
20. The New Immigration

### Week 7 (Oct. 11-17)

21. Southern European Immigration
22. Jewish Immigration
23. Slavic Immigration
24. Japanese Immigration

### Week 8 (Oct. 18-24)

25. Labor's Concerns about the New Immigration
26. Eugenics and Immigration
27. Immigration and Naturalization Legislation

### Week 9 (Oct. 25-31)

28. World War I
29. Contested Meanings of "Assimilation"
30. Immigrants and Radicalism

### Week 10 (Nov. 1-7)

31. Restriction in the 1920s
32. American Ethnics: 1920s & 1930s
33. African-Americans in the Postwar Era

### Week 11 (Nov. 8-14)

34. The Jewish Issue: 1930s through World War II
35. American Japanese in World War II
36. Mexicans in the U.S. before Mid-Century
37. African-Americans in World War II

### Week 12 (Nov. 15-21)

38. Refugees and Immigrants in the Early Cold War
39. Ethnic Gains by Mid-Century
40. Protestant, Catholics, Jew
41. Immigration Act Amendments, 1965

### Week 13 (Nov. 22-28)

42. The Civil Rights Movement: To the March on Washington
43. Civil Rights Legislation
44. Black Power and White Backlash
45. Affirmative Action

### Week 14 (Nov. 29 – Dec. 5)

46. Refugees
47. Undocumented Immigration
48. Managing Undocumented Immigration

### Week 15 (Dec. 6-12)

49. Immigration Policy since 1990
50. Immigration and Economics
51. Current American Population Statistics
52. Assimilation and Ethnic Identity

## Appendix II: Readings

### Lesson 4

Grubb, Farley. "Babes in Bondage? Debt Shifting by German Immigrants in Early America." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 37, no. 1 (2006): 1-34.

### Lesson 7

Totten, Robbie. "National Security and U.S. Immigration Policy, 1776-1790." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 39, no. 1 (2008): 37-64.

### Lesson 9

Bessen, James. "Technology and Learning by Factory Workers: The Stretch-out at Lowell, 1842." *The Journal of Economic History* 63, no. 1 (2003): 33-64.

### Lesson 13

Pinheiro, John C. "'Extending the Light and Blessing of Our Purer Faith': Anti-Catholic Sentiment among American Soldiers in the U.S.-Mexican War." *Journal of Popular Culture* 35, no. 2 (2001): 129-152.

### Lesson 15

Stremlau, Rose. "'To Domesticate and Civilize Wild Indians': Allotment and the Campaign to Reform Indian Families, 1875-1887." *Journal of Family History* 30, no. 3 (2005): 265-86.

### Lesson 19

Jung, Moon-Ho. "Outlawing 'Coolies': Race, Nation, and Empire in the Age of Emancipation." *American Quarterly* 57, no. 3 (2005): 677-701.

### Lesson 21

Webb, Clive. "The Lynching of Sicilian Immigrants in the American South, 1886-1910." *American Nineteenth Century History* 3, no. 1 (2002): 45-76.

### Lesson 26

Fairchild, Amy L. "The Rise and Fall of the Medical Gaze: The Political Economy of Immigrant Medical Inspection in Modern America." *Science in Context* 19, no. 3 (2006): 337-56.

*Lesson 29*

Hodges, Adam. "‘Enemy Aliens’ and ‘Silk Stocking Girls’: The Class Politics of Internment in the Drive for Urban Order during World War I." *Journal of the Gilded Age & Progressive Era* 6, no. 4 (2007): 431-58.

*Lesson 32*

Zimmerman, Jonathan. "Ethnics against Ethnicity: European Immigrants and Foreign-Language Instruction, 1890-1940." *Journal of American History* 88, no. 4 (2002): 1383-404.

*Lesson 36*

Hernández, Kelly Lytle. "The Crimes and Consequences of Illegal Immigration: A Cross-Border Examination of Operation Wetback, 1943 to 1954." *Western Historical Quarterly* 37, no. 4 (2006): 421-44.

*Lesson 40*

Mart, Michelle. "The ‘Christianization’ of Israel and Jews in 1950s America." *Religion and American Culture-a Journal of Interpretation* 14, no. 1 (2004): 109-46.

*Lesson 44*

Hollinger, David A. "Amalgamation and Hypodescent: The Question of Ethnoracial Mixture in the History of the United States." *American Historical Review* 108, no. 5 (2003): 1363-90.

*Lesson 47*

Kandel, William and Emilio A. Parrado. "Restructuring of the US Meat Processing Industry and New Hispanic Migrant Destinations." *Population & Development Review* 31, no. 3 (2005): 447-71.

*Appendix III*

<b>Discussion Assignments</b>		
<i>Weeks</i>	<i>Tuesday Sections</i> 303: 3:30 PM, 2619Hum. 304: 4:35 PM, 2631 Hum.	<i>Wednesday Sections</i> 301: 1:20 2261 Hum. 302: 2:25, 2241 Hum.
1. Aug. 30 – Sept. 5	Off	Off
2. Sept. 6-12	Archdeacon/Lee	Archdeacon/Lee
3. Sept. 13-19	Archdeacon	Lee
4. Sept. 20-26	Lee	Archdeacon
5. Sept. 27 – Oct. 3	Archdeacon	Lee
6. Oct. 4-10	Lee	Archdeacon
7. Oct. 11-17	Off	Off
8. Oct. 18-24	Archdeacon	Lee
9. Oct. 25-31	Lee	Archdeacon
10. Nov. 1-7	Archdeacon	Lee
11. Nov. 8-14	Lee	Archdeacon
12. Nov. 15-21	Archdeacon	Lee
13. Nov. 22-28	Off	Off
14. Nov. 29 – Dec. 5	Lee	Archdeacon
15. Dec. 5-12	Archdeacon	Lee