

Comparative Cold War Immigration and Racial Formations in the U.S.

History 901

Fall Semester 2015

Thursdays 11-1pm; Humanities 5255

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This course examines U.S. Cold War immigration policies as examples of governmentality that work to promote the U.S. as qualitatively distinct from other nations in its commitment to freedom, democracy, and equality. The Korean War, the Southeast Asian Wars, the Cuban Revolution, the CIA Tibetan Program, and the U.S. intervention in the affairs of El Salvador and Guatemala set the stage to chart the mass movement and displacement of people to the U.S. and to refugee camps around the world. Whereas the nation's admission of displaced people is popularly regarded as a "humanitarian" gesture, granting refuge to those fleeing persecution, this course examines U.S. Cold War immigration policies as extensions of U.S. Cold War politics such that refugee admission serves to showcase the superiority of U.S. democracy over communism. Outside of revealing state interests, this class considers how Cold War immigration policies shape racial formations that both exacerbate social divisions as well as create possibilities for collective political action in U.S. society.

Course Requirements and Grading

Active participation and listening are required in every seminar meeting. Additionally, you are required to write a two-page response paper to be turned in at the beginning of seminar each week on the assigned reading(s). The final critical thinking paper is a 10-15-page write-up that provides a more thoughtful and in-depth analysis of a theme developed in this course.

Response papers (50 points each, 13 total)	650 points	65%
Presentation	100 points	10%
Final Paper	250 points	25%
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TOTAL	1000 points	100%

Required Texts

- Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (London: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- Ali Behdad, *A Forgetful Nation: On Immigration and Cultural Identity in the U.S.* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005).

- Gil Loescher and John A. Scanlan, *Calculated Kindness: Refugees and America's Half-Open Door, 1945-Present* (New York: The Free Press, 1986).
- SooJin Pate, *From Orphan to Adoptee: U.S. Empire and Genealogies of Korean Adoption* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014).
- Yen Le Espiritu, *Body Counts: The Vietnam War and Militarized Refugees* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014).
- Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, *War, Genocide, and Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012).
- Julia Hess, *Immigrant Ambassadors: Citizenship and Belonging in the Tibetan Diaspora* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2009).
- María de los Angeles Torres, *In the Land of Mirrors: Cuban Exile Politics in the United States* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999).
- María Cristina García, *Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, The United States, and Canada* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006).
- Hilary Cunningham, *God and Caesar at the Rio Grande: Sanctuary and the Politics of Religion* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995).
- Robert S. Kahn, *Other People's Blood: U.S. Immigration Prisons in the Reagan Decade* (New York: Westview Press, 1996).
- Aristide R. Zolberg, Astri Suhrke, and Sergio Aguayo, *Escape from Violence: Conflict and Refugee Crisis in the Developing World* (Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1992).
- Jennifer Hyndman, *Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2000).

Course Schedule

Week 1

9.3 Introduction

Week 2

9.10 Response Paper #1 DUE

Reading:

- Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (London: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Week 3

9.17 Response Paper #2 DUE

Reading:

- Ali Behdad, *A Forgetful Nation: On Immigration and Cultural Identity in the U.S.* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005).

Week 4

9.24 Response Paper #3 DUE

Reading:

- Gil Loescher and John A. Scanlan, *Calculated Kindness: Refugees and America's Half-Open Door, 1945-Present* (New York: The Free Press, 1986).

Week 5

10.1 Response Paper #4 DUE

Reading:

- SooJin Pate, *From Orphan to Adoptee: U.S. Empire and Genealogies of Korean Adoption* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014).

Week 6

10.8 Response Paper #5 DUE

Reading:

- Yen Le Espiritu, *Body Counts: The Vietnam War and Militarized Refugees* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014).

Week 7

10.15 Response Paper #6 DUE

Reading:

- Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, *War, Genocide, and Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012).

Week 8

10.22 Response Paper #7 DUE

Reading:

- Julia Hess, *Immigrant Ambassadors: Citizenship and Belonging in the Tibetan Diaspora* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2009).

Week 9

10.29 Response Paper #8 DUE

Reading:

- María de los Angeles Torres, *In the Land of Mirrors: Cuban Exile Politics in the United States* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999).

Week 10

11.5 Response Paper #9 DUE

Reading:

- María Cristina García, *Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, The United States, and Canada* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006).

Week 11

11.12 Response Paper #10 DUE

Readings:

- Hilary Cunningham, *God and Caesar at the Rio Grande: Sanctuary and the Politics of Religion* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995).
- Susan Bibler Coutin, "From Refugees to Immigrants: The Legalization Strategies of Salvadoran Immigrants and Activities" in *International Migration Review* 32:4 (Winter 1998), 901-925.
- Esther E. Hernandez, "Relief Dollars: U.S. Policies towards Central Americans, 1980s to Present," in *Journal of Ethnic History* 25:2/3 (Winter-Spring 2006), 225-242.
- Cecilia Menjívar, "Liminal Legality: Salvadoran and Guatemalan Immigrants' Lives in the United States" in *American Journal of Sociology* 111:4 (Jan 2006), 999-1037.

Week 12

11.19 Response Paper #11 DUE

Reading:

- Robert S. Kahn, *Other People's Blood: U.S. Immigration Prisons in the Reagan Decade* (New York: Westview Press, 1996).

Week 13

11.26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING ☺

Week 14

12.3 Response Paper #12 DUE

Reading:

- Aristide R. Zolberg, Astri Suhrke, and Sergio Aguayo, *Escape from Violence: Conflict and Refugee Crisis in the Developing World* (Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1992).

Week 15

12.10 Response Paper #13 DUE

Reading:

- Jennifer Hyndman, *Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2000).

Final Paper DUE Monday, December 21, 2015 at NOON