

## **ETHN 129 Asian and Latina Immigrant Workers in the Global Economy**

(Dr. Randall Williams)

Office location: SSB 249

Office hours: Tuesday 2-330/Thursday 2-330 and by appointment

Office phone: 858-534-6645

### **Course Description**

In this course we will analyze select histories of migration from Asia and Latin America to the United States as a global phenomenon. This requires examining both the conditions which cause large-scale migration (colonialism, war, etc.) and the conditions encountered after migration (issues of citizenship, racism, etc.). In particular we will focus on the role of U.S. imperialism from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present in facilitating migration and in regulating the reception and life opportunities of migrants in this country. We will consider many different forms of migration, from military brides and adoptees to labor migrants (professional and unskilled) and political exiles, with an emphasis on how these forms are gendered. We will want to attend to the reigning mythology of the U.S. as the land of democracy and freedom through a careful engagement with the realities of war-making abroad and racism/classism at home. In addition to the analytical accounts of migration that we will read, we will also watch three films that dramatize some of the political issues and life stakes involved for recent migrants.

### **Course Requirements**

Students must do all assigned readings and attend lectures. More than two absences will lower your participation grade (one letter grade per additional absence). Some of the readings can be difficult, but I will provide the historical and conceptual background necessary to help you understand the texts. We will have a mid-term, a final exam and one short paper (4-5 pages). The exam formats will be discussed in class prior to the exam. The paper topics will be handed out.

### **Course Materials**

Mike Davis and Justin Akers Chacón, *No One is Illegal: Fighting Racism and State Violence on the U.S.-Mexico Border* (available at Groundwork Books)

Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, *Servants of Globalization* (available at Groundwork Books)

Course Reader [**R**] (available at Soft Reserves in the old Student Union building)

### **Grading**

Participation 10% (attendance, quizzes, discussion)

Mid-Term 25%

Paper 30%

Final 35%

**Syllabus** (subject to changes which will be announced in class)

Week 0

Th 9/27 Introduction

Week 1

Tu 10/2 Mike Davis and Justin Akers Chacón, *No One is Illegal*, pp. 11-52

Th 10/4 Davis and Chacón, *No One is Illegal*, pp. 53-86

Week 2

Tu 10/9 Davis and Chacón, *No One is Illegal*, pp. 89-122

Th 10/11 Ben Ehrenreich, "The Guerilla War against Cheap Lettuce" [handout]

Guest Speaker: Ben Ehrenreich

Week 3

Tu 10/16 Catherine Ceniza Choy, "Nursing Matters: Women and U.S. Colonialism in the Phillipines," pp. 17-40 and "'The Usual Subjects': The Preconditions of Professional Migration" [R]

Th 10/18 Ji-Yeon Yuh, "Moved By War: Migration, Diaspora and the Korean War" [R]

Week 4

Tu 10/23 Film: "First Person Plural" (dir. Deann Borshay Liem, 2000)

Th 10/25 Yen Le Espiritu, "The 'We-Win-Even-When-We-Lose' Syndrome: U.S. Press Coverage of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the 'Fall of Saigon'" [R]

Week 5

Tu 10/30 Aihwa Ong, "Flexible Citizenship" [R]

Th 11/1 **Mid-Term**

Week 6

Tu 11/6 María Patricia Fernández-Kelly, "Maquiladoras and the International Division of Labor" [R]

Th 11/8 Film: "Maquilapolis" (dirs. Vicky Funari and Sergio de la Torre, 2006)

Week 7

Tu 11/13 Rhacel Parrenas, *Servants of Globalization*

Th 11/15 Parrenas, *Servants of Globalization*

Week 8

Tu 11/20 Film: “Kelly Loves Tony” (dir. Spence Nakasano, 1998)

**Paper due** (4-5 pages)

Th 11/22 **No Class** (Official Holiday)

Week 9

Tu 11/27 Parrenas, *Servants of Globalization*

Th 11/29 Aihwa Ong, “The Gender and Labor Politics of Postmodernity” [R]

Week 10

Tu 12/4 Davis & Chacón, *No One is Illegal*, pp. 155-213

Th 12/6 Davis & Chacón, *No One is Illegal*, pp. 215-247

**Final Exam.** Monday, December 10, 3-6pm.

**Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of “interest” yet have no information about the major or minor and don’t realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, public policy, government and politics, journalism, education, public health, social work, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor at UCSD, please contact Yolanda Escamilla, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor, at 858-534-3277 or [yescamilla@ucsd.edu](mailto:yescamilla@ucsd.edu).