

HIST-500.001
T 5:30-8:00 pm
Ward 302

Professor Alan M. Kraut
Autumn, 2002
Office: Battelle 143
Hrs: TF 3:30 - 5:00 PM
& by appt.

“ONE OUT OF MANY: IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND THEIR
INCORPORATION INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY
1798 - 2002

The dawn of a new century, the continuing movement of migrants back and forth across our national borders, the current debate over immigration restriction and immigrant rights, the harsh treatment of newcomers from the Middle East since 9/11, and the burst of patriotism, even xenophobia since last September's crisis, all encourage reassessment of what it means to become an American. Conflicts between Americans who see immigration as an alien invasion and others who view it as an opportunity for economic and cultural renewal persist. Equally tenacious are racial and religious tensions among groups who have been in the United States for centuries. Such contentiousness further emphasizes the complex and uneven pattern whereby migrants -- whether voluntary or forced -- and their descendants negotiate places in American life or don't.

This course explores obstacles and incentives to the incorporation of Irish, Italian, Eastern European, Asian, Caribbean, and Latino arrivals from the perspective of both newcomers and natives, respectively, during the past two centuries. Fiction, film, and immigrant autobiographies explore how racial, gender, and class identities have shaped newcomers' struggles to embrace American opportunity without relinquishing their pasts even as Americans have mused over how wide open to leave the "golden door."

TEXTS

John Blassingame	<i>The Slave Community</i>
Noel Ignatiev	<i>How the Irish Became White</i>
Alan M. Kraut	<i>Silent Travelers, Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace"</i>
Anzia Yezierska	<i>Breadgivers</i>
William Riordan, ed.	<i>Plunkitt of Tammany Hall</i>
Camille Guerin-Gonzalez	<i>Mexican Workers and American Dreams</i>
Robert Orsi	<i>The Madonna of 115th Street</i>
Ralph Ellison	<i>The Invisible Man</i>
Ian F. Haney Lopez	<i>White By Law</i>
Mary C. Waters	<i>Ethnic Options, Choosing Identities in America</i>
David K. Yoo	<i>Growing Up Nisei: Race, Generation, and Culture Among Japanese Americans of California, 1924-1949</i>
Marilyn Halter	<i>Shopping for Identity: The Marketing of Ethnicity</i>

Most of the texts are on reserve at the Bender Library in addition to being available at the

bookstore. There will also be several items of required reading on reserve in the History Lounge only. This material is not available in the bookstore and is marked with an asterisk (*).

REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

A. Each student will be responsible for one class discussion, two book reviews, and a 25 page research paper. There will be no mid-term exam and a written final examination on **Tuesday, December 17th.**

B. Class discussion. Each student will be responsible for one class discussion during the semester. The student will begin with a twenty-minute to half hour presentation of what the most important issues are that particular week and present the class with some questions for discussion derived from the reading.

C. Book reviews. Book reviews by individual students are designed to introduce an awareness and understanding of important works that time does not permit to be included among the core readings. For the benefit of all in the class, each review will be presented orally as well as in writing. Oral reports **MAY NOT BE READ** and should be no more than ten to fifteen minutes in length. A student who has a special interest in a topic may arrange to offer a book review the same week that he or she leads the class discussion. Written reports should be no more than five or six pages and include the following information (not necessarily in this order):

- a) Author, full title of book, publisher, date of original publication, number of pages.
- b) Brief summary of the book, with special attention to the author's thesis and sub-theses.
- c) Evaluation and critical commentary.
- d) Description and assessment of sources and methodology.

Reports must be word processed with care to organization, structure, punctuation, spelling, clarity, accuracy, and correctness of style. Even if you use spell check and grammar check, you must **PROOF READ!**

D. Research papers. Each student is required to write a 25 page term paper on a subject decided upon after consultation with the instructor. Three-page proposals are due on **Tuesday, September 25th.** It is suggested that those students who are thinking about dissertation topics or are engaged in dissertation research try to link their topic to their broader interests. Primary sources must be used and standard citation forms are required (either footnote or endnote). **PAPERS ARE DUE ON Tuesday, December 3rd.**

E. Grades: There will be a penalty of ½ grade per day for each day late papers are submitted

Class Presentation	10%
Book Reviews (2)	30%
Class Participation	10%
Paper	30%
Final Exam	20%

F. CLASSROOM PROTOCOL: Attendance is required at all class sessions. Students absent

more than twice during the semester must meet with the instructor. Lateness is discouraged because it disrupts the class. Chronic lateness will result in the student being asked to drop the course. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off before class begins. Students whose cell phones ring during class or who check E-mail during class will be asked to leave the room for the remainder of the class period. Coffee or soda may be brought to class, but no food of any kind. It is preferred that gentlemen remove their hats during class.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

All students are responsible for having read the assigned materials on schedule. Prompt completion of assignments should maximize the amount of informed discussion.

August 27: Introduction -- How Do You Become American? What is an American?

September 3: Theories of Assimilation and Ethnicity

*Excerpts from Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, "What is an American?" from *Letters From An American Farmer* (1782).

*Frederick Jackson Turner. "Significance of the Frontier in American History" (1893).

* Russell A. Kazal, "Revisiting Assimilation: The Rise, Fall, and Reappraisal of a Concept in American Ethnic History," *American Historical Review* 100(April 1995): 437-471.

* Eric Hobsbawm, "Introduction: Inventing Traditions" in *The Invention of Tradition*, ed. Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger (Cambridge: Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge, 1983), pp.1-14.

September 10: Africa in America: Slave and Free

John Blassingame, *The Slave Community*

Alan Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, chap.1

Reports: 1) Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made*

2) Lawrence Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom*

3) Sterling Stuckey, *Slave Culture: Nationalist Theory and the Foundation of Black America*

4) Todd Savitt, *Medicine and Slavery: The Diseases and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia*

September 17: The Irish [and others] Are Coming: Race, Religion, and Acceptance

Noel Ignatiev *How the Irish Became White*
Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, chap.2
Film: *Out of Ireland* (VHS 3028)

Reports: 4) Hasia Diner, *Erin's Daughters*
5) Dale T. Knobel, *Paddy and the Republic, Ethnicity and Nationality in Antebellum America*
6) Jon Gjerde, *The Minds of the West: Ethnocultural Evolution in the Rural Midwest, 1830-1917*
7) Kathleen Neils Conzen, *Immigrant Milwaukee, Accommodation and Community in a Frontier City, 1836-1860*
8) Sucheng Chan, *This Bitter-Sweet Soil, The Chinese in California Agriculture, 1860-1910*

September 24: A New Immigration and New Issues

Kraut, *Silent Travelers*, chaps. 4-9.
Film: *The Immigrant* (VHS 30)
Journey to America (VHS 1039)

Reports: 9) John Bodnar, *The Transplanted*
10) Moses Rischin, *The Promised City, New York's Jews, 1870-1914*
11) John J. Bukowczyk, *And My Children Did Not Know Me*
12) Virginia Yans-McLaughlin, *Family and Community: Italian Immigrants in Buffalo, 1880-1930*
13) Orm Øverland, *Immigrant Minds, American Identities*
14) Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues, The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917*
Or Whiteness of a Different Color, European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race

October 1: Women and the Issue of Integration

Anzia Yeziarska, *Breadgivers*
Film: *Hester Street* (VHS 38)

Reports: 15) Judy Yung, *Unbound Feet, A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*
16) George Anthony Pepper, *If They Don't Bring Their Women Here, Chinese Female Immigration Before Exclusion*
18) Susan A. Glenn, *Daughters of the Shtetl, Life and Labor in the Immigrant Generation*
19) Miriam Cohen, *Workshop to Office, Two Generations of Italian Women in New York City, 1900-1950*
20) Donna Gabaccia, *From the Other Side: Women, Gender, and Immigrant Life in the U.S., 1820-1990*
21) Evelyn Shakir, *Arab and Arab-American Women in the United States*
22) Ruth Jacknow Markowitz, *My Daughter, the Teacher, Jewish Teachers*

In New York City Schools

October 8: FALL BREAK -- NO CLASS

October 15: Labor, Ethnicity and Incorporation

Camille Guerin-Gonzalez, *Mexican Workers and American Dreams*

Reports: 23) Gary Mormino and George E. Pozzetta, *The Immigrant World of Ybor City, Italians and Their Latin Neighbors*

24) Vicki L. Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women Unionization and the California Food Processing Industry, 1930-1950*

24a) Lizbeth Cohen, *Making a New Deal, Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939*

25) David Emmons, *The Butte Irish: Class and Ethnicity in an American Mining Town, 1875-1925*

26) Zaragosa Vargas, *Proletarians of the North: Mexican Industrial Workers in Detroit and the Midwest, 1917-1933*

October 22: Politics and Incorporation

William Riordan, ed. *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*

Film: *Free Voice of Labor* (VHS 5354)

Reports: 27) Gerald Sorin, *The Prophetic Minority, American Jewish Radicals, 1880-1920*

28) Ronald Bayor, *Fiorello LaGuardia, Ethnicity and Reform*

29) James J. Connolly, *The Triumph of Ethnic Progressivism, Urban Political Culture in Boston, 1900-1925*

30) Kenneth Finegold, *Experts and Politicians: Reform Challenges to Machine Politics in New York, Cleveland and Chicago*

October 29: Religion and Incorporation

Robert Orsi, *The Madonna of 115th Street*

Reports: 31) Colleen McDannell, *Material Christianity, Religion and Popular Culture in America*

32) Andrew Heinze, *Adapting to Abundance, Jewish Immigrants, Mass Consumption and the Search for American Identity*

33) Nabeel Abraham, *Arab Detroit: From Margin to Mainstream*

34) Daniel Soyer, *Jewish Immigrant Associations and American Identity in New York, 1880-1939*

35) Hasia Diner, *Italian, Irish, and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration*

November 5: African-Americans and Mexican-Americans in the Mid-Twentieth Century

Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*

Reports: 36) James Grossman, *Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and*

the Great Migration

37) Nicholas Lemanns, *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America*

38) Jervis Anderson, *This Was Harlem: A Cultural Portrait, 1900-1950*

39) Marilyn Halter, *Between Race and Ethnicity, Cape Verdean American Immigrants, 1860-1965*

40) Joel Williamson, *New People, Miscegenation and Mulattoes in the United States*

40a) Irma Watkins-Owens, *Blood Relations, Caribbean Immigrants and the Harlem Community, 1900-1930*

41) George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*

42) Ricardo Romo, *History of a Barrio, East Los Angeles*

43) Mario T. Garcia, *Desert Immigrants, The Mexicans of El Paso, 1880-1920*

44) Neil Foley, *The White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks, and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture*

November 12: The Search for American Identity During and After World War II

David K. Yoo, *Growing up Nisei: Race, Generation, and Culture Among Japanese Americans*

Guest Speaker: Dr. Alan Mandel, Department of Performing Arts

Film: *Street Scene* (instructor copy)

Reports: 45) Victor Greene, *A Passion for Polka*

46) Ronald H. Bayor, *Neighbors in Conflict, The Irish, Germans, Jews and Italians of New York City, 1929-1941*

47) Peter Levine, *Ellis Island to Ebbet's Field, Sport and the American Jewish Experience*

48) Roger Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II*

49) Donna Gabaccia, *We Are What We Eat, Ethnic Foods and The Making of Americans*

November 19: Post-War Immigration and Integration

Ian F. Haney Lopez, *White By Law, The Legal Construction of Race*

* Elizabeth Haiken, "The Michael Jackson Factor," from

Venus Envy, A History of Cosmetic Surgery.

Film: *A Gentleman's Agreement* (VHS 2428)

Reports: 50) Stefano Luconi, *From Paesani to White Ethnics*

51) Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible, Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*

52) Roberto Suro, *Strangers Among Us, How Latino Immigration is Transforming America*

53) Roger D. Waldinger, *Through the Eye of the Needle, Immigrants and Enterprise in New York's Garment Trades*

54) Deborah Dash Moore, *To the Golden Cities, Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.*

November 26: Ethnicity and Identification Today

Mary C. Waters, *Ethnic Options, Choosing Identities in America*

Film: *My America . . . Or Honk If You Love Buddha* VHS 5159

Reports: 55) Peter Brimelow, *Alien Nation*

56) Peter D. Salins, *Assimilation American Style*

57) Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, a Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*

58) Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbaut, *Legacies, The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*

58a) Mary C. Waters, *Black Identitie, West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realitiess*

December 3: Multiculturalism and the debate over American identity

Marilyn Halter, *Shopping For Identity: The Marketing of Ethnicity*

Film: *The Americans: Latin American and Caribbean Presence in the U.S.*

(VHS 2130 no.10)

Reports: 59) Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Disuniting of America, Reflections on a Multicultural Society*

60) John J. Miller, *The Unmaking of Americans, How Multiculturalism Has Undermined America's Assimilation Ethic*

61) Cornel West, *Race Matters*

62) David Hollinger, *Postethnic America*

63) Nathan Glazer, *We Are All Multiculturalists Now*

December 17: Final Examination (5:30-8:00 pm).