

Syllabus: Demography 145/History 139B

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Course Description

Although humans are not the only species to have evolved bipedalism, our success at exploiting it is singular. In approximately 150,000 years, humans have managed to populate all the continents except Antarctica and nearly every island of reasonable size. Over millions of years, natural selection has produced, in humans a creature for whom migration and adaptation are signature traits.

This course deals with migration and immigration (and adaptation) mainly in the post Columbian period and mainly in the context of American History. We define *immigrant* broadly enough to include the enslaved as well as those who walked across a land bridge from Asia perhaps 20,000 years ago. However, our main focus will be on Africans and Europeans during the 18th and 19th Centuries and Asians and Latin Americans during the 20th and 21st Centuries.

This course includes lab assignments which will be done in small groups. The labs will require the use of a spreadsheet program; groups may choose to use other software tools as well. The data for the labs are drawn from the US Census; each lab will require effort both in performing the required analysis and in interpreting the results. No computing experience – other than with a spreadsheet program – is expected. Labs are largely but not *entirely* group projects.

Reading List

The text books for this course are:

- *Coming To America* by Roger Daniels. This book presents a broad overview of the history of nearly every immigrant group. This book contains the factual background needed to understand the lectures.
- *Strangers Among US* by Roberto Suro. This book is about the experience of contemporary Latino immigrants and their children. Although, it deals with the big picture, it is mainly about individuals. This book also forms the basis of the third lab exercise.

In addition to the two text books, there are a dozen or so articles and short primary sources which will be available from the course website. <http://www.demog.berkeley.edu/145/calendar11.shtml>

Course Outline

Week 1: World Demographic History

Homo sapiens evolve and eventually develop agriculture. Differences in geography and luck lead to differences in the timing and character of agriculture in Eurasia and the Americas and thereafter to

differences in technology and disease pools. The consequences are momentous. We speculate about life in North America before 1492 and about the rapid depopulation of the Americas thereafter.

Weeks 2-4: England's Colonies in North America

Virginia

England in the early modern period, follows a different path from most of Continental Europe. While the former mostly embraces absolutism, England stumbles toward constitutional monarchy and world domination. Virginia becomes England's first "successful" colony. Its founding in the 17th Century reflects the weakness of English monarchs, England's perceived over population and several features of early capitalism. By the end of the 18th Century Virginia's planter elites support a radical egalitarian republicanism ... and slavery.

New England

The Protestant Reformation splits Europe. In England, Henry VIII launches the reformation somewhat less than purposefully. Though England's monarchs, after Henry, are *mostly* Protestant, they are not Protestant enough for the Puritans. The Massachusetts Bay Colony is founded by Puritans but economic and demographic forces lead to Puritanism's decline. The "Yankee" culture that develops in New England favors Federalism – the other prominent ideology in the post revolutionary era.

The Middle Colonies, the Deep South and the Frontier

There are other colonies worth comparing to New England (North) and Virginia (South). The Middle Colonies thrive on diversity and commerce. The Deep South "thrives" on slavery. All the colonies have deteriorating relations with Native Americans.

Weeks 5-7: The Pre-industrial Period

The Revolution and the Republic

Thomas Paine coins the term "asylum for mankind" and that spirit is reflected in remarkably generous (except for one thing) Naturalization Act of 1790. During the Post-Revolutionary decade, political and economic forces promote immigration until reverberations from the French Revolution result in America's first bout of *Anti-Radical Nativism*. The Alien and Sedition Acts are passed and Immigration becomes one of the key differences between America's first two political parties. Considering Jefferson and Hamilton's writings on the subject, however, the party alignment is not what one would expect.

The Demographic Transition

With modernity and industrialization, comes first a decline in mortality and subsequently a decline in fertility. The *Demographic Transition* begins in Europe and the US in the 19th Century. It leads to rapid population growth and the "Century of Immigration": an unprecedented wave of migration from Europe to various New World destinations. Immigration from each source follows certain patterns that follow from the Demographic Transition.

German and Irish Immigrants

German and Irish immigrants arrive in large numbers the early 19th Century. The Germans are rural-to-rural migrants ; the Irish are rural-to-urban. The Germans are mainly Protestant; the Irish are mainly Catholic. The Germans tend to see their migration as a “Radical Attempt to Conserve” a way of life that is threatened by industrialization. The Irish see their story as one of “Exile” from English oppression. Once in America, the two groups have quite different experiences.

Anti-Catholic Nativism

A long (English) history of anti-Catholicism and an upwelling of religious fervor known as the “Second Great Awakening” create a surprising political movement that links anti-catholic attitudes with abolitionism. The Democrats become the party of Southern slave holders *and* (poor) Irish (Catholic) immigrants. America’s first nativist political party, The Know Nothings rises on a tide of *anti-catholic nativism* and sinks with the schism over Slavery in the run up to the Civil War.

Weeks 8-12: The Industrial Period

Chinese Immigrants in the West

Chinese immigrants begin to arrive in California during the Gold Rush. After a short period of welcome, organized labor organizes against them. The Democratic Party joins organized labor; the Republican Party sells out; and the Chinese Exclusion Act is passed. The Chinese are the first but not the last group to be prohibited from immigration solely on the basis of race. These are the first stirrings of *racial nativism*.

Progressivism

After the Civil War, immigration rebounds quickly. By the 1880s immigrants are arriving in huge numbers from new places most notably, Italy and the Russian Empire. With massive (though fitful) economic growth, nativism subsides but reemerges in the 1890s with the founding of the Immigration Restriction League, an organization that embodied many characteristics of the Progressive Era. Scientific racism and eugenics capture the imagination of many – including an embarrassing number of academics.

Nationalities Act of 1924

Although World War I spelled the end of a vibrant German-American ethnic community, the sense of shared purpose also briefly undermined the immigration restriction movement and nativism in general. But with the war’s end came depression and hysterical fear of foreign ideas like Bolshevism. The Nationalities Act of 1924 set quotas on the number of immigrants that the US would accept from each country – except for Asian ones which it barred completely.

Depression and World War II

Immigration declines in the wake of the Nationalities Act – but also because of the onset of The Great Depression. Racial categories shift. Distinctions between people of various European ancestries lose their racial quality. A single kind of whiteness develops. The idea of mixed race also fades as the Census stops recognizing the category “mulatto”.

Anti anti-semitism remains strong and thwarts all attempts to offer asylum to refugees from Hitler’s Germany.

Asian Americans and World War II

Like the Emancipation Proclamation, the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act is justified as a war measure. Since the Chinese were allies against the Japanese, barring their immigration to America sent the wrong message. Naturalization, however, remained out of the question, and China's immigration quota was set very low.

Filipinos and Asian Indians also benefit from legal changes at the end of World War II

Weeks 12-14: The Post-Industrial Period

The Cold War

With Nationalities Act in place and widely popular, immigration does not rebound after WWII. During the Cold War, immigration becomes a political football kicked between Presidents who saw it as a foreign policy tool and Congress which generally feared it on security grounds.

Conservatives pass the McCarran-Walter Act over Truman's veto. Though meant to protect the quota system, immigration legislation does not work out as planned.

Civil Rights and the Liberalization of Immigration Law

The Civil Rights Movement and the propaganda needs of the Cold War combined to undermine support for the nationality quota system. The 1964 Immigration Act replaces quota's with preferences. Though not expected to change immigration levels, the 1964 Law unleashed a new wave of immigration which continues to change America today. Immigration legislation does not always work out as planned.

Labs

What we call "labs" in the class are significant data driven exercises which students do in groups of three. Labs consist of a reading, a broad question, and a data set with which to address it. Your job will be to redefine the question more narrowly so as to be able to answer it with the available data. There are many ways in which to do this. As the course progresses, our expectations will increase. In the first lab, we provide lots of instructions; in the last lab you will be much more on your own. Students will be called upon to present their results to the class in a gentle low stress sort of way.

1 Slave Migration

With the invention of the cotton gin in 1793, "short staple" cotton became a vital highly lucrative input to the for the industrial revolution. The forced removal of the Cherokee, Muscogee, Seminole, Choctaw and Chickasaw from the South Eastern United States opened huge tracts of land and vast opportunities for slave agriculture.

That slave owners in the "Old South" rushed to take advantage of this opportunity by starting new plantation in Alabama, Mississippi, Western Georgia, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas is not in dispute. The conditions under which their slaves traveled to these new plantations is.

In a much publicized book in 1974, Robert Fogel (winner of the Nobel Prize in 1993) and Stanley Engerann asserted that slaves traveled with their owners as entire plantations thus keeping their kinship networks in tact. This account is at odds with that of (Escaped Slave) Frederick Douglass, and others, who describe a slave system that was at best indifferent to the kinship ties of slaves.

Fogel and Engermann rely on data and economics, Douglass on personal experience. In this lab, you will fortunately follow Fogel and Engermann and use data – from the 1850 and 1860 US Census to adjudicate this argument.

2 Chinese Isolation

Shortly after the Chinese began to arrive in California, during the Gold Rush, white miners and organized labor – who were often immigrants themselves – became hostile toward them. By 1880, on the eve of the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, there were about 75,000 Chinese immigrants in California – roughly 7.5 percent of California’s population – but since they were virtually all working age and male, they comprise a much larger share of California’s work force.

In this lab you will use Census data to measure degree of isolation suffered by Chinese immigrants. There are many different questions which you might pursue with these data—it will be up to you to find an interesting one.

3 Suro’s Latino Underclass?

In *Strangers Among Us* Roberto Suro tells a somewhat discouraging story about Latino immigrants and their childrens prospects for successfully joining the American mainstream. Considering the similarities between todays Latino immigrants and for example, Italian immigrants of the earlier period, this is a pessimistic view.

Yet, Suro advances a long list of arguments economic, social, political and historical that point toward the possibility of a permanent Latino underclass. Suro believes it is possible, perhaps even likely that todays Latino immigrants and their children are on economic and social trajectories that are distinctly worse than those experienced by European groups who arrived primarily during 19th and early 20th Centuries. Suro does not argue that all or even a majority of todays Latino immigrants and their descendants will wind up excluded from the mainstream, but he suggests that enough will for it to become a serious social problem.

In this lab you will use the IPUMS on line data analysis system –and 21st Century Census data to investigate whether or not, nearly 15 years after *Strangers Among Us* was published, Suro’s fears have been realized.

In this lab, you will not only form your own hypothesis, but you also have a great deal of latitude as to the data that you will bring to bear on the question.