

Syllabus for ECN 190: Economics of International Immigrations

Instructor: Santiago Pérez
E-mail: seperez@ucdavis.edu
Office: 1116 Social Sciences and Humanities
Office hours: Mondays 2 to 4 PM

Teaching assistant: Camila Saez **E-mail:** cfsaez@ucdavis.edu
Office hours: Thursdays 10AM to 12PM (SSH 118)

Course Description:

Immigration is a highly contentious and divisive issue. The goal of the course is to provide a deeper understanding of immigration issues using tools from economics. The course will be organized around four main questions on the economics of immigrations:

1. Who migrates and why?
2. How do immigrants do in the receiving country?
3. How do immigrants affect natives?
4. How do immigrants influence those left behind?

In the last part of the course, we will study how migration policy is conducted in the US and other countries.

Readings

Textbook: *The economics of immigration*. Bansak, Cynthia, Nicole B. Simpson, and Madeline Zavodny. Routledge, 2015. (BSZ)

Articles: We will also read some academic articles. These articles are listed in the course schedule section. All articles will be available for download in Canvas.

Exams

There will be three exams that will determine your final course grade; two midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam.

Midterm 1: In class on Friday (10/20)

Midterm 2: In class on Friday (11/17)

Final exam: (12/11)

Your final grade in the course will be determined by one of the following distributions, whichever yields you the higher score:

1. 60% Final Exam and 40% Midterms (2 × 20% each)
2. 40% Final Exam and 60% Midterms (2 × 30% each)

Economics department grading policy To ensure fairness and consistency in grading, the Department expects that the GPA in all undergraduate economics courses will average 2.7.

<http://economics.ucdavis.edu/undergrad-program/advising/courses/grading-policy>

Exam and Re-grade Policy:

I will not reschedule exams. If you are unable to take the exams on the dates assigned, please enroll in another class. If you miss an exam for any reason, you must contact me prior to the examination time and provide a legitimate university excuse before we will be able to discuss an alternative grade weighting.

If an administrative error has been made in calculating your exam grade (such as an arithmetic error in adding up your score) no re-grade request need be submitted. Merely bring the error to my attention so that I can correct it.

Regrades will be allowed only if the exam is written in *pen*. Exams written in pencil will not be regraded.

If you desire an exam re-grade, please adhere to the following procedure:

1. Submit, in person, a written request for the re-grade within one week of receiving your graded exam.
2. In your written request, enumerate questions deserving special attention in my second reading of your exam and why such questions deserve special attention.
3. Attach the original version of your exam to this written statement.

Please note that your entire exam will be reviewed. That is, if some of your answers are revealed lacking (in content, in clarity, etc.) upon my second reading, you may end up losing points.

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. I expect strict adherence to the Code of Academic Conduct at all times. Be sure you read it and understand it (<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.htm>). My policy is to refer all violations of the Academic Code to Student Judicial Affairs for discipline.

Additional Note. If you have a physical disability, any difficulty with the English language, or other special needs that are relevant to your success in this class please see me early in the quarter. I will help you get access to resources that may help you deal with any special problems you might have in the course.

Tentative course schedule

- **Class 1 (9/27/17) Course overview**
- **Class 2 (9/29/17) Overview of international migrations**
 - Chapters 1 to 3 BSZ
- **Class 3 (10/2/17) Overview of US immigration**
 - Chapters 1 to 3 BSZ
- **Class 4 (10/4/17) Economic history of migrations**
 - Chiswick, Barry, and Timothy J. Hatton. "International migration and the integration of labor markets." Globalization in historical perspective. University of Chicago Press, 2003. 65-120.
- **Class 5 (10/6/17) Economic history of migrations**
 - Chiswick, Barry, and Timothy J. Hatton. "International migration and the integration of labor markets." Globalization in historical perspective. University of Chicago Press, 2003. 65-120.
- **Class 6 (10/9/17) Selection of immigrants. Who moves? Theory**
 - Chapter 4 BSZ
- **Class 7 (10/(11/17) Selection of immigrants. Who moves? Empirics**
 - Feliciano "Educational selectivity in US immigration: How do immigrants compare to those left behind?." Demography 42.1 (2005): 131-152.
- **Class 8 (10/13/17) Selection of immigrants. Who moves? Return migration**
 - Chapter 4 BSZ
- **Class 9 (10/16/17) Labor market assimilation**
 - Chapter 5 BSZ

- **Class 10 (10/18/17) Midterm review**
- **Class 11 (10/20/17) Midterm 1**
- **Class 12 (10/23/17) Labor market assimilation**
 - Chapter 5 BSZ
- **Class 13 (10/25/17) Assimilation beyond the labor market**
 - Chapter 5 BSZ
- **Class 14 (10/27/17) The second generation**
 - Chapter 6 BSZ
- **Class 15 (10/30/17) Effects of immigration on the labor market of the host country (theory 1)**
 - Chapter 7 BSZ
- **Class 16 (11/1/17) Effects of immigration on the labor market of the host country (theory 2)**
 - Chapter 7 BSZ
- **Class 17 (11/3/17) Effects of immigration on the labor market of the host country (empirics 1)**
 - Chapter 8 BSZ
 - Card, David. "The impact of the Mariel boatlift on the Miami labor market." *ILR Review* 43.2 (1990): 245-257.
- **Class 18 (11/6/17) Effects of immigration on the labor market of the host country (empirics 2)**
 - Chapter 8 BSZ
- **Class 19 (11/8/17) Other effects of immigration (Entrepreneurship)**
 - Fairlie, Robert W., and Magnus Lofstrom. "Immigration and Entrepreneurship." IZA DP No. 7669 (2013).
- **11/10/17 No class (Veteran's day)**
- **Class 20 (11/13/17) Other effects of immigration (Innovation)**
 - Chapter 9 BSZ
- **Class 21 (11/15/17) Midterm review**
- **Class 22 (11/17/17) Midterm 2**
- **Class 23 (11/20/17) High-skilled emigration and brain drain**
 - Chapter 11 BSZ
 - Gibson, John, and David McKenzie. "Eight questions about brain drain." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 25.3 (2011): 107-128.
- **Class 24 (11/22/17) Remittances**
 - Chapter 11 BSZ
 - "How Remittances Help Migrant Families" Dean Yang (2004) <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/how-remittances-help-migrant-families>
- **11/24/17 No class (Thanksgiving break)**
- **Class 25 (11/27/17) US Immigration policy**
 - Chapter 13 BSZ
- **Class 26 (11/29/17) Immigration policy around the world**
 - Chapter 14 BSZ
- **Class 27 (12/1/17) Unauthorized immigration in the US**

– Hanson, Gordon Howard. The economics and policy of illegal immigration in the United States. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2010.

• **Class 28 (12/4/17) Refugee migration**

– Dustmann, Christian, et al. "On the economics and politics of refugee migration." *Economic Policy* 32.91 (2017): 497-550.

• **Class 29 (12/6/17) The economic assimilation of refugees**

– Cortes "Are refugees different from economic immigrants? Some empirical evidence on the heterogeneity of immigrant groups in the United States." *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 86.2 (2004): 465-480.

• **Class 30 (12/8/17) Final review**

• **FINAL EXAM (12/11/17) 3:30PM to 6:30PM**