Syllabus
141A: Immigration and Multiculturalism
Spring 2018

Class meetings: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00am-10:20am
Location: 200-030

Instructor: Vicky Fouka
Office hours: Tuesday, 11:00am-1:00am
Office: Encina Hall West 311
Email: vfouka@stanford.edu

Teaching assistant: Salma Mousa
Email: smousa@stanford.edu

Course description
What are the economic effects of immigration? Do immigrants assimilate into local culture? What drives native attitudes towards immigrants? Is diversity bad for local economies and societies and which policies work for managing diversity and multiculturalism? We will address these and similar questions by synthesizing the conclusions of a number of empirical studies on immigration and multiculturalism. The emphasis of the course is on the use of research design and statistical techniques that allow us to move beyond correlations and towards causal assessments of the effects of immigration and immigration policy.

Goals
The course has three principal learning objectives:

1. Introduce students to a selection of the most important areas of research on the topics of immigration and immigrant integration.

2. Teach students how to critically evaluate empirical research on these topics, focusing in particular on the distinction between correlation and causality and the quality of evidence that underpins claims made by empirical studies.

3. Teach students the basics of conducting empirical research on immigration and integration-related topics using data and statistical software.

This course fulfills Social Inquiry (SI) and Applied Quantitative Reasoning (AQR) WAYS requirements.

Prerequisites
None. POLISCI 150A and POLISCI 150C are recommended, but not required.
Evaluation

The final grade consists of four components:

- **Class participation (10%)**: Students are expected to attend every class, to actively participate in class discussion and to have read all of the required readings in advance of class.

- **Four assignments (30%)**: Assignments will be distributed before class on the dates indicated below, and are due by 9am one week after distribution. Late assignments will not be accepted. Please send your answers to the instructor and the TA in .pdf format and include your annotated R code together with your written responses.

  Assignments will have two components. One will be data-based: you will use the statistical software R to analyze data and apply the methods used in the papers presented during lecture. The second one will be substantive: you will be asked to provide a critical answer to a question related to the data analysis task and to the content of previous lectures.

  - **Assignment 1**
    * Distributed: April 5
    * Due: April 12
  - **Assignment 2**
    * Distributed: April 19
    * Due: April 26
  - **Assignment 3**
    * Distributed: May 3
    * Due: May 10
  - **Assignment 4**
    * Distributed: May 17
    * Due: May 24

- **Midterm (25%)**: The midterm will take place on May 1.

- **Final exam (35%)**: The final exam will take place during the exam week June 11-15.

Required readings

There is no required textbook to purchase for the class. A useful technical (but very accessible) book on causal inference and applied econometrics is *Mastering Metrics*, by Joshua A. Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke (Princeton And Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2015). Relevant sections of this book, as well as all other required readings will be available on the course website.

Collaboration

Collaboration is encouraged as you work on your assignments. However, you should write up on your own any final answers that you submit and you are required to indicate on your assignment the names of classmates with whom you have collaborated. No collaboration is allowed on the midterm or the final exam.
**Students with Disabilities**

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk; phone: 723-1066; web site [http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae](http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae)

**Preliminary course outline and readings**

**Introduction**

April 3


April 5


**Immigration in American history**

April 10


April 12

Guest lecture by Ran Abramitzky, Associate Professor of Economics at Stanford University.

**Economic effects of immigration**

April 17

• Matthews, D. “The most important debate in immigration economics right now, explained,” Vox, 10/21/2015. [link]

• Frum, D. “The Great Immigration Data Debate,” The Atlantic, 1/19/2016. [link]

April 19


Do (all) immigrants assimilate?

April 24


April 26


May 1

Midterm

Native attitudes towards immigrants

May 3


May 8


Political effects of immigration

May 10


May 15


Effects of diversity

May 17


May 22


Effects of integration policies

May 24


May 29


May 31

Guest lecture by members of the Stanford Immigration Policy Lab.
June 5
Review section.