Class meetings: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:20am PST
Section: Thursday 8:30-9:30am PST, Thursday 12:30-1:30pm PST

Instructor: Vicky Fouka
Office hours: Wednesday, 1:00-2.30pm PST. Schedule a meeting here.
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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 section, and to participate in section discussion.
- Four assignments (30%): Assignments will be distributed before class, and are due by 9am one week after distribution. Late assignments will not be accepted. Please send your answers to 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: January 20
  * Due: January 27
- **Assignment 2**
  * Distributed: February 1
  * Due: February 8
- **Assignment 3**
  * Distributed: February 17
  * Due: February 24
- **Assignment 4**
  * Distributed: March 3
  * Due: March 10

- Midterm (25%): The midterm will be distributed on February 10 and you will have 24 hours to complete it.
- Final paper (35%): The final paper will be a critical review of a research question, that draws from the readings discussed in class, as well as additional papers proposed by the instructor. A list of research questions to choose from will be distributed during the second or third week of class. Students can also propose their own question, in consultation with the instructor (deadline for choosing a research question not on the syllabus: February 10).

Required readings

There is no required textbook to purchase for the class. Assigned papers and book chapters will be available on Canvas. Additional material will be included in the instructor’s slides, which will be posted on Canvas after each lecture.

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

Course outline and readings

Introduction

January 11


January 13


Historical roots of immigration in the US and Western Europe

January 18

No class. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January 20

Guest lecture by Marco Tabellini, Assistant Professor at Harvard Business School.


January 25


Economic effects of immigration

January 27


February 1


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


Native attitudes towards immigrants

February 3


February 8


February 10

Guest lecture by Salma Mousa, Post-doctoral Fellow at Stanford CDDRL. Midterm distributed.

Immigrant assimilation

February 15
No class. Presidents’ Day.

February 17

February 22

February 24
Guest lecture by Nazita Lajevardi, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

Effects of integration policies

March 1

March 3

March 8
Guest lecture by Duncan Lawrence, Executive Director of the Stanford Immigration Policy Lab.
Diversity and its challenges

March 10


March 15


March 17
