

THE ECONOMICS OF IMMIGRATION (ECON 4559), SPRING 2020
>>>>PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS<<<<

John McLaren (Office: 226 Monroe Hall; jmclaren@virginia.edu; x4-3994).
Office hours: Tuesday 4:00-5:00pm.
Class: Monroe 116, Tuesday and Thursday 2:00pm-3:15pm.
TA: TBA.
TA Office hours: Tuesday 5:30 - 7:00pm, Monroe basement.

This course offers an introduction to the economics of immigration, with an emphasis on the effects of immigrants on receiving countries. This is a new course, so the syllabus is still in preparation, and all of the information below is subject to change. The text for the course is:

The Economics of Immigration (1st Edition), by Cynthia Bansak, Nicole B. Simpson, and Madeline Zavodny (Routledge, 2019).

This will be available at the bookstore. There will also be supplemental materials available on the class collab page. The pre-requisite is Econ 3010 and Econ 3720 (or equivalents).

There will be a mid-term exam in class on Thursday, February 27 and a final exam 9:00am-12:00pm on Friday, May 1. The final grade will be based on the mid-term (30%), a series of problem sets (20%), a written assignment due on Tuesday, April 28 (15%), class participation (5%), and the final exam (30%). ***These weights are final, so plan ahead!***

I will use the Top Hat app to facilitate class participation, so everyone will need to get the app and create an account.

The list below is a preliminary list of topics. The readings will be fleshed out as the syllabus is developed into its final version.

Topics.

1. Patterns and stylized facts in the immigration data: Who moves where?
2. Immigration law through history, in the US and abroad.
3. Effects on the labor market in receiving countries: Theory.
 - (i) The model when immigrants and non-immigrants are perfect substitutes.
 - (ii) The case of complements.
 - (iii) Effects on labor demand.
 - (iv) Effects on Capital.
 - (v) Agglomeration effects.
 - (vi) Models with trade.
4. Empirical work on labor market effects.
 - (i) Approaches based on local labor markets.
 - (ii) Approaches based on ‘natural experiments.’

(iii) The 'skill cell' approach.

5. Other effects of immigration.

(i) Housing markets.

(ii) Product variety.

(iii) Income inequality.

(iv) Crime.

(v) Innovation.

6. Current debates and controversies on immigration policy.

