

THE ECONOMICS OF IMMIGRATION (ECON 4559)

Instructor: John McLaren (Office: 226 Monroe Hall; jmclaren@virginia.edu).

This course offers an introduction to the economics of immigration, with an emphasis on the effects of immigrants on receiving countries. The pre-requisite is Econ 3010 and Econ 3720 (or equivalents), since the course will heavily use theory from intermediate micro and will do close readings of empirical studies. The text for the course is:

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

This is available at the bookstore. There will also be supplemental materials available on the class collab page.

There will be a mid-term exam in class and a final exam. The final grade will be based on the mid-term (30%), a series of problem sets (30%), class participation (10%), 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 topics and readings are as follows. The additional readings are on the collab site, and they are all required for the course.

Topics.

1. Patterns and stylized facts in the immigration data: Who moves where?

Bansak et al., Ch. 2-4.

Additional reading:

Peri, Giovanni (2006). "Immigrants, Skills, And Wages: Measuring the Economic Gains from Immigration." Immigration Policy Center, *Immigration Policy in Focus*, 5:3 (March 2006). pp. 1-5.

Krogstad, Jens Manuel, Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn (2019). "5 facts about illegal immigration in the U.S." *Pew Research Center*.

Da Silva, Chantal (2019). "The Coffee You Drink Could Be Connected to Why Many Hondurans Are Fleeing to the U.S. Border." *Newsweek*.

2. Immigration law through history, in the US and abroad.

Bansak et al., Ch. 13 and 14.

Additional reading:

Baldoz, Richard (2015). "The 1965 Immigration Act: Its Legacy and Lessons." Truthout.org.

Martin Kahanec Lucia Kureková (2011). “European Union Expansion and Migration.” IZA Policy Paper No. 36.

BBC News (2018). “Windrush generation: Who are they and why are they facing problems?” April 18, 2018.

3. Effects on the labor market in receiving countries: Theory.

Bansak et al., Ch. 7, plus handouts.

4. Empirical work on labor market effects.

Bansak et. al, Ch. 8.

Card, David (1990). “The Impact of the Mariel Boatlift on the Miami Labor Market.” *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 43:2 (January), pp. 245-57.

Clemens, Michael (2017). “There's no evidence that immigrants hurt any American workers: The debate over the Mariel boatlift, a crucial immigration case study, explained.” Vox.com.

Borjas, George J. (2003). “The Labor Demand Curve Is Downward Sloping: Reexamining the Impact of Immigration on the Labor Market.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 118:4 (November), pp. 1335-74.

Clemens, Michael A., Ethan G. Lewis, and Hannah M. Postel (2018). “Immigration Restrictions as Active Labor Market Policy: Evidence from the Mexican Bracero Exclusion.” *American Economic Review* 108:6 (June), pp. 1468-87.

Olney, Will and Dario Pozzoli (forthcoming). “Impact of Immigration on Firm-Level Offshoring.” *The Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Abramitzky, Ran, Philipp Ager, Leah Platt Boustan, Elior Cohen, and Casper W. Hansen (2019). “The Effects Of Immigration On The Economy: Lessons From The 1920's Border Closure.” NBER Working Paper #26536 (December).

5. Other effects of immigration: Housing, inequality, crime, fiscal effects, and the like.

Bansak et al., Ch. 9 and 10.

Baker, Scott R. (2015). “Effects of Immigrant Legalization on Crime.” *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings* 2015, 105:5, pp. 210-13.

Badger, Emily and Quoc Trung Bui (2019). “The Immigrants Trump Denounces Have Helped Revive the Cities He Scorns.” *New York Times* (October 14, 2019).

6. *Current debates and controversies on immigration policy.*

Alex Nowrasteh (2017). “Cutting Legal Immigration Won’t Help Low-Skilled American Workers.” Cato.org.

Huang, Cindy, Michael A. Clemens, Jimmy Graham, and Kate Gough (2018). “Migration Is What You Make It: Seven Policy Decisions that Turned Challenges into Opportunities.” Center for Global Development Note, May 30.

Nazario, Sonia (2018). “I’m a Child of Immigrants. And I Have a Plan to Fix Immigration.” *New York Times*, October 26, 2018.

Bier, David (2019). “Legal Immigration Will Resolve America’s Real Border Problems.” Cato Institute Policy Analysis No. 879.