

U.S. Immigration: A Legal/Historical/Comparative Approach

Immigration is a topic that arouses strong emotions. Reflecting a divided country, it has deadlocked Congresses for decades. In fact, pro-immigrant and anti-immigrant groups have battled each other since the 1850s, and each faction has attained legislative victories. Restrictive legislation in the 1920s was followed by significant liberalization in the 1960s. Why has one side, then the other, been able to achieve success? A better understanding of the current immigration system and history could lead to more effective and useful reforms in the future.



"What's our immigration policy?"

This seminar will attempt to give participants an understanding of the system by 1) examining the different roles of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches in setting immigration policy; 2) studying its historical evolution since the founding of the country; and 3) comparing our current system with those of other countries such as Canada and Australia.

Participants will be able to make presentations on a wide range of subjects. The moderator will provide a list of suggested topics and a bibliography.