

U.S. Immigration

A legal/historical/comparative approach

Course #	20FUS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Bennett Jaffee
Date and Time:	Thursday, 9:30-11:30 10 weeks, starting September 24
Location:	Smith College Campus Center, CC102
Maximum number of participants:	16
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: The purpose of the seminar is to give participants an understanding of the current U.S. immigration system, how it evolved and what the future might hold.

Description: Immigration will be a hot button topic in the upcoming Presidential election, but in fact has been controversial since the 1850s. It has been a major theme in U.S. history, from the founding to the present.

What is the structure of the current immigration system? How does it operate? How did we end up with this system? Why has it been so controversial? The moderator will present an overview of the system based on his twenty years' experience as a former immigration attorney. This will include the historical background and a discussion of key concepts such as asylum, lawful permanent residency, removal (deportation), visas and the court system. He will provide a brief introduction to the different immigration systems of Canada, Australia and the European Union.

Role of participants: Participants will further investigate specific aspects of the current U.S. system or choose to present on subjects from the history of U.S. immigration, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act. Topics on the Canadian, Australian or EU systems are also welcome.

Resources: The websites of The American Immigration Lawyers' Association, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society are important. *American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction* by David Gerber is recommended. An annotated bibliography will be provided

About the Moderator: Ben Jaffee is a recent transplant to the Pioneer Valley. Previously, he worked as an immigration attorney for twenty years at a legal aid office in Brockton, MA.