Course description

This class examines a critical issue in contemporary societies: How do changes in technology affect the process of immigration and how immigrant identity is shaped? While some immigrants have chosen to maintain strong symbolic and material ties to their home countries throughout history, technology has greatly reduced the costs of doing so. Increasing and less expensive opportunities for the acquisition of information, communication, and travel mean that immigrants can choose different areas in which to settle without giving up access to their home culture. In addition, they frequently know much more about the new country, and they can develop transnational identities that give equal attention to the home and new country cultures. How do these changes affect patterns of immigrant settlement, political participation, and socialization?

While these questions are important and timely, research on the interaction of immigration and technology is still in its early stages. Therefore, in this class we will combine studies of immigration with studies of the social uses of technology, as well as research that directly addresses transnational identities and processes.

**Requirements:** Two short literature review papers of 5-7 pages, one on immigration topics and one on the social uses of technology, will be due during the semester. In addition, students will keep logs of their internet and field research activity. A 12-15 page paper that builds on these reviews and draws on the material gathered through your research will be due at the end of the semester.
The class will be structured as a seminar, so students are required to have done the readings beforehand and attendance is mandatory (students may miss one class without explanation or penalty).

**Literature reviews: 15% each**  
**Field research logs: 15%**  
**Attendance and participation: 15%**  
**Final paper: 40%**  

**Course Materials:** All course materials will be available on ERes. Those that cannot be on ERes due to copyright restrictions will be available via on-line access and marked in the syllabus accordingly. The ERes password is “sunita”.

**Class Schedule**

*August 30: Introductory class; no readings*

*September 1: Current findings on immigrant use of technology*


*September 6, 8: Immigration Overview*


*September 13, 15: Immigration in Comparative Perspective*


**September 20, 22: Ethnicity and Assimilation**


**September 27, 29: Immigration and Identity**


**October 4, 6: Transnationalism**


**October 11, 13: Immigration and new technology**


1st paper due in class October 13

October 18, 20: The Social Uses of the Internet


October 25, 27: New Technology in the Developing World


November 1, 3: Mechanisms of Transnational Ties


**November 8, 10: Ascriptive Characteristics and Immigration – Ethnicity I**


2nd paper due in class November 10.

**November 15, 17: Ascriptive Characteristics and Immigration – Ethnicity II**


**November 22: Turn in draft of Internet and field research log**

No assigned readings.
**November 24: Thanksgiving Break!!!**

**November 29, December 1: Ascriptive Characteristics and Immigration – Gender**


**December 6, 8: Project Discussion, Concluding Remarks and Student Feedback**

No assigned readings.

**Final Paper (with log/journal) is due on day of Final Exam (There is no final exam for this class)**