Immigrants, Citizenship, and Nationalism in Greece

SOC 240 (3 credits)
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Course Description
Immigration, Citizenship, and Nationalism have become central to social relations and political competition in contemporary societies. In this course we will explore immigration and patterns of immigrant incorporation in Greece. Since the early 1980s immigration has transformed Greece, and other Southern European countries, into multi-racial and multi-ethnic societies. The purpose of this course is to train undergraduates who are interested in European and Greek Studies, Sociology, Political Science and Economy, Psychology, Anthropology, Law, History, Pre-Med, Journalism, Cultural and Post-colonial Studies or Literature, among other majors, in approaches to research, and in the sources and uses of research materials on Europe. Immigration, citizenship, nationalism and multiculturalism will be examined at the level of the European Union and at the nation state level for Greece, as a typical southern European country. Topics to be explored include: the development of citizenship law in Greece and Europe; nationalism in the context of European integration; the politics of xenophobia and xenophilia; international law, social and psychological problems due to immigration, and immigrants as political actors. Analysis will focus on the role of divergent national traditions, rooted in the development of nationalisms and colonial histories, and the convergent pressures resulting from European integration. Class lectures will be divided between the discussion of assigned readings intended to introduce interesting methodological and substantive examples of research on a series of subjects within the literature on immigrants.

In the first part of the course we will critically examine the concepts of nationality and citizenship. We will then examine the ways in which nationality came to be defined in Greece and the European Union. In the middle part of the course we will focus on the contemporary politics of the "new" multicultural Europe. The central focus here will be on nationalism, immigrant and minority politics and the cultural impact of the changing face of European societies.

REQUIRED READINGS
1. A Class Pack (supplemental material compiled by the instructor; it can be purchased at QC. Please contact the instructor for more information)
Learning Objectives
In this course, you will:

- Learn the historic and contemporary circumstances that shape the immigrant experience in Greece
- Develop an appreciation for other cultures and their values
- Become more globally competent citizens
- Explore the political, social, economic and intellectual underpinnings that support various approaches/policies to immigrant/refugee services.
- We will examine the dynamics of a complex and vibrant culture, which creatively fuses myth and history, antiquity and Byzantium, the East and the West with the country’s contemporary European identity. A strong component of the course is the combination of its readings and class work with the organized visits to archaeological sites, places, museums, and art galleries.
- Using studying and living facilities - provided by the University – located at the Center of Athens, the heart of both the old and modern City, the students will have the opportunity to walk to countless restaurants, cafés, and shops and partake of the city’s lifestyle and the cultural activities that take place daily in the shadow of the Acropolis.

Expanded Educational Experience - I
A component of this course is to offer an opportunity to students to learn about and from the immigrant/refugee communities they study. Students will spend at least 6 hours in the field, discussing and/or working with Governmental (GO) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that aid refugees and economic immigrants, in Greece. It is a service-learning educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of the course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility.

Expanded Educational Experience – II
Educational Excursions - Visits
In order to enrich the students’ study abroad experience, a number of trips have been scheduled. However, the dates might be subjected to change.
1. Educational Visit to Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum
2. Three Day Trip (Delphi-Ancient Olympia- Mycenae-Epidavros)

II. PAPER:
There will be a formal essay (6-8 pages) requiring meta-reflection, which is, simply put, reflecting about reflecting. You will reread your journal entries generated during the course and write an essay about what you have learned and how your thinking has changed over time about Greece, immigration, nationalism, and the role of international service learning.

III. PARTICIPATION
Engagement through participation will be the most important piece of your learning experience in this course. For the purposes of this course, quality participation will entail:
• Being fully prepared for the day’s discussion and/or activities
• Engagement in discussion and/or activities

IV. PRESENTATIONS:
There will be a short oral presentation (max 10 min). There are several options for this assignment:
a. A specific issue regarding Greece and immigrants/refugees b. A special topic related to the course (immigration, citizenship, nationalism) c. A description of a GO or an NGO in Greece

FIRST READING ASSIGNMENT: (In course packet). Please read before arrival in Athens.

GRADES
The final grade will be based on:
1. Class participation and effort – 20%
2. Response paper (2nd week) – 15%
3. Workshop at GO or NGO – 30%
4. Oral Presentations – 10%
Final paper (take home) – 25%