Immigrants, Citizenship, and Nationalism in Greece

SUMMER 2012

SOC 240 (4 credits)
M, T, W, Th: (3hrs/TBA)
Room: TBA

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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 a multi-racial and multi-ethnic societies. The purpose of this course is to train undergraduates who are interested in European studies, Sociology, Psychology, Law, Pre-Med, Journalism, and Literature, in approaches to research, and in the sources and uses of research materials on Europe. Immigration, citizenship, 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 xenophobic nationalism, immigrant and minority politics and the cultural impact of the changing face of European societies.
Community Service/Internship

A central component of this course is to offer an opportunity to students to learn about and from the communities in which they serve.

Students will spend at least 15 hours in the field, working with 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.

Learning Objectives
In this service-learning course, you will:

• Learn the historic and contemporary circumstances that shape[d] the immigrant experience in Greece
• Develop an appreciation for other cultures and their values
• Be self-reflexive about your biases
• Become more globally competent citizens
• Explore the philosophical, social, and intellectual underpinnings that support various approaches to service.

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, islands, museums, and art galleries. Using studying and living facilities - provided by the University – are located in Plaka, 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.

I. JOURNALS:

All students are expected to turn in to the instructor at least four (4) assigned journal entries linked to course readings and class discussions. (Of course students are highly encouraged to keep their own private, separate travel journals as well.)
Journal-entries will take a variety of forms: responses to specific questions about readings; responses to specific questions about field experiences; free-writes; dialogues; lists; concept mapping.

Journal-entries in this course rest on the following principles:
- develop one’s voice
- help one become a better writer and clearer thinker
- reflection translates experience into learning
- improve problem identification and problem-solving abilities
- is more flexible than formal writing.

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, race, religion, immigration, opportunity, 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
- reflection on service

IV. PRESENTATIONS:

There will be two (2)-short oral presentations (max 10 min).

There are several options for this assignment:
a. A specific issue regarding Greece and immigrants
b. A description of an NGP in Greece
c. A special topic related to the course (immigration, citizenship, nationalism)

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

FIRST JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT: Write at least a page or two about your expectations of this journey. (It is important to do this BEFORE arriving in Athens on June 22nd).
GRADES

The final grade will be based on:

1. Journal Assignments – 35%
2. Final paper – 20%
3. Class participation and effort – 35%
4. Two oral presentations – 10%

TRIPS
In order to enrich the students’ study abroad experience, a number of trips have been scheduled. However, the dates might be subjected to change.

Course Policies & Grading

Attendance & Participation: Students are required to participate in class analysis/discussion to facilitate mastery of the texts. Attendance will be taken and you are expected to complete reading and homework assignments prior to class. Each lesson builds upon topics taught in prior classes. We advise that you keep up with all assignments and come prepared with specific questions that will help you to resolve any difficulties before the next class session.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Students must do all their work within the boundaries of acceptable academic norms. See the Student Handbook regarding college policy on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Students found guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include reduction of grade, a failure in the course, suspension or expulsion.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. A Class Pack (supplemental material compiled by the instructor; it can be purchased at QC)