Transnational Migration has been an increasingly visible phenomenon both globally and locally. The course examines the ways studies of migration challenge and also contribute to existing social and cultural theory: first, by going beyond the rooted definition of culture; second, situating studies of migration in the contemporary context of globalization and transnationalism; and finally, the role of agency among the migrants themselves. Through empirical studies and ethnographies of migration (including many case studies of immigration to the U.S.); the class discussion will focus on major arenas of anthropological contributions to this issue: theories of incorporation and nativism as well as theories of culture, ethnicity, and identity. We will end with the question of power and resistance as it affects migrant workers.

Requirements/Grading:
In addition to participating in class discussions, each student will introduce a reading by presenting a position paper on it. The position paper should be an informed critique of the material. The write-up of this position paper is one of the two written assignments for the class. The second written assignment is the final paper. This paper combines research and theoretical analysis. In the last week, students will present their research in class in conjunction with a discussant. Each presentation will be followed by open discussion.

Readings:
The following texts are available at the bookstore.

The course reader will be available at Course Reader Material, 1141 Westwood Blvd. (310) 443-3303.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1: Introduction to Migration Theory

Video, Oaxacalifornia

Optional:

Week 2: Transnationalism from Below
- Kearney, Michael, Borders and Boundaries of State and Self at the End of Empire. Journal of Historical Sociology 4: 52-74, 1991
• Chow, Rey, II. Where Have all the Natives Gone? In Writing Diaspora: Tactics of Intervention in Contemporary Cultural Studies, 27-54. Indiana University Press, 1993

Video, America Becoming (Part I)

Optional:
Spitzer, Leo, Invisible Baggage in a Refuge from Nazism. Diaspora 2(3): 305-336, 1993

Week 3: Transnationalism from Below (II)
• Levitt, Peggy, The Transnational Villagers.
• Li, Wei, Building Ethnoburbia: The Emergence and Manifestation of the Chinese Ethnoburb in Los Angeles’ San Gabriel Valley. JAAS: 1-28, February, 1999

Video, America Becoming (Part II)

Optional

Week 4: Social Organization of Migration: Kinship, Networks and Gender/Sexuality
• Puar, J., Transnational Sexualities: South Asian (Trans)nation(alism)s and Queer Diasporas. In Q & A: Queer in Asian America, ed. by Eng, David L. and Alice Y. Hom, 405-422. Temple Univ. P., 1998

Optional;

Week 5: Incorporation or Marginality?
• Mahler, S., American Dreaming (Intro, 5-9)
• Goode, Judith, Jo Anne Schneider, and Suzane Blanc, Transcending Boundaries and Closing Ranks: How Schools Shape Interrelations. In Structuring Diversity; Ethnographic Perspectives on the New Immigration, ed. by Louise Lamphere, 173-214. Univ. of Chicago P., 1992
Video, In the Shadow of Law

Optional:
Week 6: Belongingness?


*Video, Voices in exile: Immigrants and the First Amendment*

Optional:

Week 7: Migrating Cultures & Politics

- Fadiman, Anne, *Do Doctors Eat Brains? In The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997*

*Video, Tales from Arab Detroit*

Optional

Week 8: Migrations & Subjectivities

Optional
Park, K., “I Really Do Feel I’m 1.5!”: The Construction of Self and Community by Young Korean Americans. Amerasia Journal 25(1):139-64, 1999
Espiritu, Yen Le, “We Don’t Sleep Around Like White Girls Do”: Family, Culture, and Gender in Filipina American Lives. Signs 26 (2): 415-440

Week 9: Power and Agency
Ong, Aihwa, Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, the New America. Video, Bread and Roses

Optional
Constable, N., Maid to Order in Hong Kong (Chs 1, 4-9)
Week 10: Student Presentations