IMMIGRATION ECONOMICS
ECONOMICS 980u, Fall 2014
Department of Economics
Harvard University

Time: Mondays 10:00-12:00 PM
Place: Lowell Lecture Hall, B14
Instructor: Professor George Borjas
Littauer 304 (Kennedy School)
617-495-1393
gborjas@harvard.edu (e-mail is the best way to contact me)

Teaching Fellow: Siddharth George
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Faculty assistant: Sarah Meléndez
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Sarah_Meleendez@hks.harvard.edu

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 AM, and by appointment

Class web site: http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k88129&pageid=icb.page511351

Prerequisites: Intermediate microeconomic theory, statistics, and econometrics (concurrent enrollment in econometrics is sufficient)

All additional course readings available online.

Overview: There has been a resurgence of large-scale international migration in the past few decades. This course explores the economic determinants and consequences of these population flows. Specific topics include the study of how immigrants are non-randomly selected from the population of the countries of origin, the measurement and implications of economic assimilation in the receiving country, the impact of the flows on the labor markets of both receiving and sending countries, and the calculation of the economic benefits from immigration. Note: A research paper will be required.
Grading:

Assignments: 30%
Paper milestones: 10%
Final paper: 40%
Class participation: 20%

Assignments: There will be 8 weekly assignments to facilitate classroom discussion of the weekly readings. These assignments will count towards your grade.

Paper milestones: There will be occasional short assignments to ensure that you are making progress on your final course paper. These including handing in a paper topic, handing in a bibliography, and a short presentation of your project during one of the last three weeks of class.

Paper topic due: October 13, 2014
Bibliography due: October 27, 2014

Final paper: The final paper is due on December 15, 2014.

Class participation: Students are required to provide feedback both on the material covered in the lectures and on the paper presentations made by your classmates. If I notice that a student has never participated in the class discussion, etc., that student will get 0 of the 20 participation points.
# ECONOMICS 980u
## Schedule of Course Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: 9/8</td>
<td>Introductory material</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: 9/15</td>
<td>Self-selection: Who moves?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3: 9/22</td>
<td>Economic assimilation: How do immigrants do in the receiving country?</td>
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<td>Week 4: 9/29</td>
<td>Labor market impact and benefits: Theory</td>
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<td>Week 5: 10/6</td>
<td>Estimating the labor market impact: Descriptive methods</td>
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<td>10/13</td>
<td>No class—Columbus Day</td>
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<td>Week 6: 10/20</td>
<td>Estimating the labor market impact: Structural methods</td>
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<td>Week 7: 10/27</td>
<td>The gains from open borders</td>
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<td>Week 8: 11/3</td>
<td>High-skill immigration and human capital externalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9: 11/10</td>
<td>Social mobility: The children of immigrants</td>
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<td>Week 10: 11/17</td>
<td>Class presentation of student projects</td>
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<td>Week 11: 11/24</td>
<td>Class presentation of student projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12: 12/1</td>
<td>Class presentation of student projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 17, 2012</td>
<td>Final paper due</td>
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READINGS

Week 1 (September 8)
Introduction to U.S. immigration: Policy and basic facts

Week 2 (September 15)
Self-selection: Who moves?


Week 3 (September 22)
Economic assimilation: How do immigrants do in the receiving country?


Week 4 (September 29)
Labor market impact and benefits: Theory

Borjas, George J. *Immigration Economics*, Chapter 3; Chapter 7, pp. 149-161.


**Week 5 (October 6)**  
**Estimating the labor market impact: Descriptive methods**


**October 13**  
**No Class, Columbus Day.**

**Week 6 (October 20)**  
**Estimating the labor market impact: Structural methods**


**Week 7 (October 27)**  
The Global Gains from Open Borders


**Week 8 (November 3)**  
High skill immigration and human capital externalities


**Week 9 (November 10)**  
Social mobility: The children of immigrants


**Week 10 (November 17)**  
Class presentations of student projects  
(and/or Fiscal impact of immigration, time permitting)

**Week 11 (November 24)**  
Class presentations of student projects

**Week 12 (December 1)**  
Class presentations of student projects