

SPRING 2017 HISTORY SEMINAR
IMMIGRANTS IN THE AMERICAS (01:506:402:06)



Tuesday 4:30-7:30pm
Scott Hall 215 (CAC)
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Join this seminar to begin the journey to better understanding the history of immigration to the Americas, whether through your own family's migration story or a case study from the past!

Most of us are familiar with Chinese laborers in gold mines and on the transcontinental railroad in the American West during the mid-nineteenth century, Irish and Italians who settled New York City, and more recent immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States. But people circulated throughout the Americas, North and South. Some Chinese headed for “Gold Mountain” in California ended up toiling on Cuban sugar plantations or Peruvian guano pits. Half a million people from India settled in the British Caribbean, eventually making *roti* the ultimate fast food in Trinidad. And today well over one million people of Japanese descent live in Brazil. Immigration to the United States has been equally as complex, with Jewish and Chinese Cubans among those arriving in Miami and Union City after the Cuban Revolution.

In the first part of this seminar students will learn about global migrations to the Americas from the nineteenth century on. We will address the extent to which Asian indentured laborers in the Caribbean represented a continuation of African slavery or the beginning of a system of free wage labor; women and families; official exclusion and immigration laws; Japanese internment during World War II; stereotypes and “model minorities”; cross-ethnic alliances; second-generation immigrant children and multiracial identities; and cultural production and foodways. In the second part of the seminar students will choose an area of interest and research the historical traces that immigrants left behind, ranging from documents, letters, newspapers, oral history, memoirs, and music.