Immigration Exam Questions

Fall 2017

1. MOTIVATION, MECHANISM, AND HISTORY OF MIGRATION
   1. What are the main theoretical approaches used to explain why people migrate? What are their key components? What are some of their contributions to the field of immigration studies? What are some of the limitations of these theories discussed by both supporters and critics? What is the role of sending and receiving states in encouraging migration? How have political, economic, and social conditions encouraged or discouraged migration to the United States?
2. ASSIMILATION SECTION
   1. How has assimilation theory developed and changed? What are the strengths and limitations of this framework? To what extent does assimilation theory, as now conceived, address the experience of today’s immigrants and their descendants?
3. CITIZENSHIP AND BELONGING
   1. What are the major theories of citizenship? How does the concept of citizenship vary by country and, consequently, include and exclude people? Within exclusionary laws, how do people negotiate a sense of belonging? How is legal status (undocumented, refugee, and citizenship) a new axis of social inequality?
4. TRANSNATIONALISM
   1. How have scholars studied transnationalism? How do these transnational movements change family, gender, and local relations, both in the country of origin and in the host country? What are contributions and critiques of transnationalism? What are the primary methodological approaches? What are the benefits and limitations to these approaches?
5. IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND ENFORCEMENT (Personal subarea)
   1. How have state institutions used their power to create a system of “state control?” What are the impacts of the threat of deportation and the act of deportation on individuals, families, and communities? How does immigration law criminalize immigrants through detention and deportation?