

Professor Carolyn Pinedo Turnovsky
Department of American Ethnic Studies &
Law, Societies and Justice Program
Office: A-517 Padelford
Email: cpt4@uw.edu

Fall 2015
Tues/Thurs 11:30-1:20pm
Art Building, Room 6
Off Hrs: Thursday 2:00-4:00pm &
by appointment

LSJ 422 – Working Immigrants, Labor, & Legality

This class looks at the relationship between work, legality and rights to examine the work experiences of immigrants in the US. We will consider the following: What are the different laws that shape the work experiences of immigrants in the U.S.? What more should we examine to better understand their experiences? What are the different rights a worker can claim in her/his place of work? How do we see claims-making? After being presented with some theoretical and conceptual perspectives about work and immigration, we will discuss the effects of law, as well as social locations, such as migrant status, race, gender, ethnicity, and nation, on labor market participation and outcomes. What does the context of work look like: type of workers, codes of conduct, workplace practices, laws (labor, criminal and immigration), location etc.? How do these shape the status of the work, the worker, and access to rights? In what ways do we see vulnerability and power manifest in work? Our course material and meetings will concentrate on specific areas of labor: maquila/factory work in on-shore/off-shore production, street work, agricultural fieldwork, and hi-tech industry work.

However, I encourage you to incorporate, when possible, your interests in different worlds of work, too. I highly recommend, especially during your class facilitations, that you identify material – books, journal articles, news reports, statistical analyses – as well as current events or legislation pertinent to the topic of discussion. Together, I would like our seminar to engage us in a comprehensive examination of the intersections of labor and legality in shaping the working experiences of immigrants.

LSJ 422 is an upper-division seminar that fulfills the LSJ Rights subfield. As this course is a seminar, class participation is very important. Students should be prepared to conduct independent work and research, contribute to class discussions, and write a final research paper. A basic familiarity with discourses in race, ethnicity, gender as well as studies in labor, inequality and globalization is indeed helpful, though not required.

As you are encouraged to share your insights, at all times you must do so in a respectful tone and conscientious manner in class.

Course Webpage: At present, all information regarding this course will be posted on “LSJ 422_F2015_ImmLaborLegality” on Catalyst. Please note readings may change during the quarter as deemed appropriate. It is your responsibility to consult the course webpage regularly for updates about readings, assignments, lectures, relevant events, and the like.

Class Email: All emails concerning this course will only be sent to the assigned class email list or directly to you via your UW email address. Please consult your UW inbox regularly.

Requirements

Participation: Class participation is critical in this seminar. At times, you will complete short in-class individual or group writing assignments to assist with discussion. Thus, absences may impact your overall performance and grade. The use of laptops, iPads and the like may assist in note-taking and review of material but these should not distract you or others in class. Please be conscientious towards your peers and your professor and do not multi-task during class.

Readings: Required readings will be available in the “Readings” folder on the webpage.

Readings may change as deemed appropriate during the quarter. Also, I may post additional readings marked as “supplementary”; these are recommended, but are not required.

Discussion Facilitator: Students will help facilitate our class meetings. A schedule of dates and instructions will be posted on course webpage.

Your responsibility is to assess readings and engage your peers in discussion by a. preparing 2-3 specific questions or an exercise, i.e. debate. Including one material item as an aide (newspaper, photo, music, etc.) can be effective. Your group is also responsible for viewing GoPost entries for your session.

GoPosts – Reading & Work: You will write one brief, reflective statement in answer to a question or topic that I assign in six assigned weeks. These should be about 150-200 words, but no more than one typed-written page. You must submit a Word document by 8pm on the day prior to class. Please refer to the webpage for instructions and to the schedule for due dates.

The first three Reading GoPosts consider more closely assigned readings and the remaining three Work GoPosts ask you to observe your workplace and think more carefully about your work experiences in light of a reading. You must commit to one site: your current workplace, different work setting or recent one from your work history. You should view each other’s entries, which will enhance dialogue. Missed, late or inadequate entries will not be counted.

Exam: You will have one exam on Tuesday, October 27. The format will be short essays on readings, lectures, films, etc. covered in class. Additional instructions will be posted on webpage.

Final Paper Memo: You will write a memo that outlines the plan for your final paper (2pgs).

The memo will be due in Week 5 on Thursday, October 29. I will meet with students on Thursday-Oct 30, Monday-Nov 2 and Tuesday-Nov 3 to discuss their memos. I will post a sign-up sheet for scheduling appointments.

Final Paper: Topics and guidelines will be posted on course webpage during Week 2. We will have one short workshop in class on Thursday, November 19 so that you may address remaining questions and concerns about your paper. Working in groups, you will receive feedback from your peers about how you can develop and improve your final papers. Information such as reading material, clarification of question(s), narrowing subject matter, persons to interview, data to consult and the like are some items that can be addressed. Additional details about the workshop will be provided in class and posted on course webpage. *Your final paper is due during finals week by Wednesday, December 16 at 6pm.*

Assignment Guidelines

Format: Assignments must be typewritten, using 12pt Times New Roman font with 1” margins, unless directed otherwise.

Extensions: There are no extensions or make-ups for exams/assignments, unless you provide: 1. a letter requesting a make-up that explains absence or 2. a doctor’s note explaining an absence or late submission. These documents will be part of your class record and grades on an assignment may incur a decrease in point value/letter grade. Missing a deadline because you do not have a copy of your work is not an acceptable excuse.

Submissions: Email submissions are not accepted, unless requested by me. Students must not leave papers with administrative staff or in my mailbox in the main offices of Law, Societies and Justice or the Department of American Ethnic Studies, unless I request you to do so. Please note it is your responsibility to save copies of your work and verify that they successfully uploaded.

Notes: Some abbreviated notes from seminar may be available on webpage –these will not fully cover readings and material discussed in class. As a result, class attendance is important.

Plagiarism: All students are held to a high standard of academic integrity and expected to abide by the UW’s policy on academic honesty and code of conduct. If you present someone else’s ideas or writing as your own, *without appropriate citation*, you will be reported to University Administration. Please see your student handbooks and the following for more information:

UW Student Conduct Code: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=478-120>
Academic honesty: please see information on course webpage for details.

Disability Resources for Students: The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. For information, please see <http://disability.uw.edu> call 206-543-8924 or email uwdrs@uw.edu.

Conferences: The University of Washington is a Research 1 and flagship university in Washington State. Faculty are expected to build a research profile, fulfill instructional responsibilities as well as service to the community and profession. Meeting these duties may overlap or conflict with seminar. Please see “Schedule of Meetings” and “Assignments” for details about modified assignments in times when our class will not formally meet.

Grading

1. Class Participation	15%
2. GoPosts (3 readings and 3 work observations)	10%
3. Discussion Facilitation (group work)	10%
4. Exam (short essays)	20%
5. Final Paper Workshops and Memo (group work/ 2pg memo)	10%
6. Final Paper (10-12 pgs)	35%

Schedule of Meetings

Week 1: Course Overview

- 10.1 Thurs: Course introduction and seminar meet & greet
Hoffman Plastics vs. NLRB
Discussion of Congressional proposals for immigration reform

Week 2: Labor and Productivity

- 10.6 Tues: Gordon Hanson, "Immigration and Economic Growth"
Roberto Gonzales, "Two Years and Counting: Assessing the Growing Power of DACA"
Miriam Jordan, "Immigrants Benefit From White House Initiative"
Supplementary: Guzman and Jara, "The Economic Benefits of Passing the DREAM Act"
- 10.8 Thurs: George Borjas, "The Economic Benefits of Immigrants."
Giovanni Peri, "The Effect of Immigrants on U.S. Employment and Productivity."
Daniel Kuehn, "Immigration: Low-Skilled Workers Need Not Apply?"

Week 3: Defining Labor and Skill

- 10.12 Mon: **GoPost 1** – Tuesday Readings
- 10.13 Tues: Karl Marx, "Alienated Labour"
Harry Braverman, "The Division of Labor"
Maria Gutierrez Soldatenko, "Berta's Story: Journey from Sweatshop to Showroom"
Supplementary: Tom Fritzsche, "Unsafe at these Speeds"
- 10.15 Thurs: Nancy Green, "Fashion, Flexible Specialization, and Sweatshop: A Historical Problem"
Xiaolan Bao, "Sweatshops in Sunset Park: A Variation of the Late 20th Century Chinese Garment Shops in New York City"
Supplementary: Charles Kernaghan, "Unprecedented Changes in Bangladesh"

Week 4: Ideology, Labor Control and Violence in the Global Factory

- 10.19 Mon: **GoPost 2** – Tuesday Readings
- 10.20 Tues: Edna Bonacich and Richard P. Appelbaum et. al., "Offshore Production"
Aihwa Ong, "The Gender and Labor Politics of Post-Modernity"
- 10.22 Thurs: Leslie Salzinger, "From High Heels to Swathed Bodies: Gendered Meanings under Production in Mexico's Export-Processing Industry".
Melissa Wright, "Dialectics of Still Life: Murder, Women and Maquiladoras"

Week 5: Social Organization of In/Formal Labor

- 10.27 Tues: **Exam**
- 10.29 Thurs: Manuel Castells and Alejandro Portes, "World Underneath: The Origins, Dynamics, and Effects of the Informal Economy"
Paul Stoller, "Spaces, Places, and Fields: The Politics of West African Trading in New York City's Informal Economy"
Email Final Paper Memo to me by 5pm.

Week 5: Continued...

10.30 Fri: **Schedule Office Visits to discuss Final Paper Memos**

Week 6: Street Work and Entrepreneurship

11.2 Mon: **GoPost 3** – Tuesday Readings

Schedule Office Visits to discuss Final Paper Memos

11.3 Tues: Abel Valenzuela Jr., “Day Laborers as Entrepreneurs?”
Kenny Cupers, “The Mobile Urbanism of Los Angeles Street Vending”
Supplementary: Michael Mastman, “Undocumented Entrepreneurs: Are Business Owners “Employees” under the Immigration Laws?”

11.5 Thurs: **Class will not formally meet.**

Week 7: Street Work and Consciousness

11.10 Tues: Lorena Munoz, “From Street Child Care to Drive-Throughs”
Emir Estrada and Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, “Intersectional Dignities: Latino Immigrant Street Vendor Youth in Los Angeles”

11.11 Wed: **GoPost 4** – Work

11.12 Thurs: Shannon Gleeson, Labor Rights for All? The Role of Undocumented Immigrant Status for Worker Claims-Making”
Carolyn Pinedo Turnovsky “A la parada. The social practices of men on a street corner”
Supplementary: Jennifer Gordon, “Rights Talk”

Week 8: Temporary Workers and Structural Vulnerability

11.16 Mon: **Submit workshop material to your assigned group and me by 5pm.**

11.17 Tues: Kitty Calavita, “Let’s Make a Deal”
“The Harvest/La Cosecha. The Story of Children who Feed America.”

11.18 Wed: **GoPost 5** - Work

11.19 Thurs: Seth Holmes, "Structural Vulnerability and Hierarchies of Ethnicity and Citizenship on the Farm."

Supplementary: Margaret Wurth, “Tobacco’s Hidden Children”

In-class workshop on Final Papers

Week 9: Temporary Workers and Structural Vulnerability

11.24 Tues: Xóchitl Castañeda and Patricia Zavella, “Changing Constructions of Sexuality and Risk: Migrant Mexican Women Farmworkers in California.”
Frontline “Rape in the Field”

11.26 Thurs: **University Holiday**

Week 10: Hi-Tech Braceros and Immigration Reform

- 12.1 Tues: John S.W. Park, “Temporary Workers” in American Law and Society since 1990” and “Engineering the Model Minority”.
Salzman et al., “Guestworkers in the High-Skill U.S. Labor Market”
- 12.2 Wed: **GoPost 6 - Work**
- 12.3 Thurs: Stewart Chang, “Dreams of My Father, Prison for My Mother: The H-4 Nonimmigrant Visa Dilemma and the Need for an “Immigration-Status Spousal Support”
Shivali Shah, “Middle Class, Documented and Helpless. The H-4 Visa Bind”
Supplementary: Lynn Thompson, The Seattle Times. Pacific NW Magazine, “Identity crisis: Wives of Immigrant Tech Workers Struggle to Find Purpose”

Week 11: Immigration and Labor Reform Work Together?

- 12.7 Mon: **Make-up GoPost** – Tuesday reading
- 12.8 Tues: Jennifer Hill, “Can Unions Use Worker Center Strategies?”
Maria Vincenza Desiderio, “Policies to Support Immigrant Entrepreneurship”
Supplementary: Robert Warren and Donald Kerwin, “Beyond DAPA and DACA: Revisiting Legislative Reform in Light of Long-Term Trends in Unauthorized Immigration to the United States”
- 12.10 Thurs: Concluding remarks

Week 12: Finals week

- 12.16 Wed: **Final papers are due by 6pm.**

****All final papers must be submitted by (and no later than) Wednesday, December 16 by 6pm.****
You may submit papers before the deadline, i.e. last class. However, the due date is December 16.
No extensions will be given!