

Freshman Seminar: Undocumented Immigrants and the State

HITO 87, Fall 2007

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., H&SS 4025

Ev Meade, Department of History

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m.

H&SS 6044, emeade@ucsd.edu

Freshman Seminar: Undocumented Immigrants and the State

It has always been easier, it will always be easier, to think of someone as a non-citizen than to decide that he is a non-person.

– Alexander Bickel, “Citizenship and the American Constitution”

Do you think that after doing all that you have done, you still have a right to love? That life's law can be changed now so that with everything else you will have love too? You lost your innocence in one world, you can't reclaim it in another. Maybe you had your garden. I had mine, too, my little paradise. Now we have both lost. Try to remember, for you can't find in me what you have lost forever and by your own action. I don't know where you came from, or what you did. I only know that your life lost before I knew you what you made mine lose later: the dream, the innocence. We will neither of us ever be the same again.

–Carlos Fuentes, *The Death of Artemio Cruz*

Immigrants have endured kerosene baths and strip searches, tumultuous seas and searing deserts, prison camps and county jails in pursuit of the American dream. This seminar examines attempts to regulate and deter undocumented immigration through public health, border security, and large-scale detention over the last century. There are two basic requirements for this course: do the readings, and come to class ready to discuss the material. There are three required texts listed below and they are all located at the UCSD bookstore.

1. “*The Heathen Chinese*”: Race, Rights, and Immigration before the Border

Wednesday, October 24

Readings:

*Erika Lee, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 1-145.

Wednesday, October 31

Readings:

Erika Lee, *At America's Gates...*, 147-255

2. The Darkest Corner in America Society: The Detention of Immigrants and Asylum Seekers

Wednesday, November 7

Readings:

*Mark Dow, *American Gulag: Inside U.S. Immigration Prisons* (Berkeley: The University of California Press, 2005), 1-108.

Wednesday, November 14

Readings:

Mark Dow, *American Gulag...*, 110-205.

3. *The Devil's Highway*: Hope and Death on the U.S.-Mexico Border

Wednesday, November 28

Readings:

*Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil's Highway: A True Story* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 2004).