



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Mini-Course—Spring/Summer, 2016

SW 799: Immigration enforcement, human rights, and social justice

Method Area: Social Policy and Evaluation, Community Organizing

Instructor: Laura Sanders

Schedule: Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21, 9:00-5:00

Location: SSW Building, rm. 2752

Course Description:

This mini-course focuses on the real community and personal impact of a public policy with sweeping national controversy, many deaths, and significant questions about social justice, racial discrimination, and even intent in the constitution. Because it is a mini-course, rather than a full course, this course will concentrate on one aspect of immigration policy—undocumented immigrants and the public policy strategy of enforcement for undocumented immigrants at the border and in the interior of the country. Along with discussion of the policies and practices of enforcement, we will bring local enforcement activities to the table and examine their impact on people, families, and Michigan communities. The discussion will have a national, state, and a local component. Students in this course will acquire the skills to analyze this aspect of immigration policy and its controversies. Students will also acquire the skills to develop community and organizational strategies to promote social justice.

Significance of the class and its relationship to social work goals:

This class is based on current policy and current strategies for enforcement and the impact of those actions on workers, families, and communities. Nearly all social workers, no matter what their concentration, will work with or have exposure to undocumented immigrants. The problems associated with being undocumented act as an overarching context to nearly every issue that social workers address and yet are often overlooked or misunderstood as they work with people. Documentation status impacts the experience of people in every system that interfaces with social work including, the schools, child welfare system, criminal justice system, the health system, etc. This class adds knowledge of immigration issues and effective community and organizational responses to enforcement policy to the social worker toolkit. It also provides a basic knowledge for students who may desire jobs that work with immigrants and immigrant communities.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- become conversant with the history, causes, and consequences of undocumented immigration
- be able to identify and assess the language, intent, and extent of enforcement policies, the strategies and tactics of enforcement, and government entities related to enforcement
- be able to analyze the economic, social, and health impact of enforcement on individuals, families and communities
- be able to use immigrant rights information effectively in community organizing and other activism
- be able to assess current immigration reform policy packages in relation to ethics related to social justice

Requirement for Academic Credit:

You can choose from these two assignments:

Option 1:

Students must turn in a completed paper by Saturday, June 4. **To complete the assignment, turn your paper as a Word attachment to my email address: lsander@umich.edu**

Write a five page, double spaced, paper reflecting on what you learned in this class and how you anticipate integrating this learning into your perspectives and practice as a social worker. Think about the questions you had and assumptions you were making about undocumented immigrant populations and immigration enforcement before you came into the course, and what has shifted for you over the week. What course content had the most impact on your learning and why? What, if anything, has surprised or inspired you? What would you like to know more about? Incorporate at least three required readings or those from the list of optional readings, into the reflection, referencing specific quotes, and include a list of sources at the end.

Option 2: (this option is subject to change depending on what WICIR is working on at the moment)

Get involved in a current project of WICIR – in particular, the campaign to stop the deportation of Alex and fundraising efforts to raise money for his legal funds associated with applying for asylum. This is an active project in community organizing. This might involve planning and/or attending a meeting or community event on behalf of Mr. M., helping to promote the campaign over social media, making phone calls networking with local supports, and/or getting involved in other activities associated with the campaign. You will be required to keep a log of your

activities and experience in the campaign, ending with a brief reflection on what you have learned.

Biographical Sketch of the Instructors: The Spring/Summer course will be instructed by Laura Sanders alone.

Note: *Professor Kossoudji will not be co-teaching the course this term but has helped to develop it and will be co-teaching it again in the fall, 2015*

Sherrie A. Kossoudji is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Economics. Her principal research area is immigration. In particular, she has written numerous articles on the legal status of immigrant workers in the United States, the incentives to cross the border illegally, and the wages and jobs of undocumented immigrants. Much of her work attempts to discern the link between legal status in the United States and economic outcomes.

With a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan, Laura Sanders has been an instructor in U of M's graduate School of Social Work for 17 years, and has practiced for over 25 years as a family therapist in the area. She is a long-time community activist for human rights including those of children, women, TGLB people and immigrants. Her work with people is eclectic and creative including advocacy and community organizing. Most recently, she is the co-founder of the *Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*, a current and active grassroots organization responding to local ICE raids, detentions and deportations of our immigrant community members, and advocating for immigration reform.

Mini-Course Readings and Organization

We only have two days for this course so there are a limited number of required readings. Supplementary readings are included on the CTools site in Resources under Optional readings.

Required Readings

Required Readings before class and Friday June 5:

Passel, Jeffrey S. and D'Vera Cohn. 2009. *A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States*. Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, April. Read the required Executive Summary (pp. i-v) and any other sections that interest you.

Regan, Margaret. 2010. *The Death of Joseline*. Immigration Stories from Arizona's Heartland. Beacon press. Prologue.

Orner, Peter (ed.). 2008. *Underground America. Narratives of Undocumented Lives.* McSweeney's Books. Abel's story or Lorena's story.

Chaudry, Ajay, Randy Capps, Juan Manuel Padroza, Rosa Maria Casteneda, Robert Santos, Molly M. Scott. 2010. *Facing Our Future: Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement.* Washington, D. C. The Urban Institute. Executive Summary, Introduction and chapter 1, pp iii- pg 12.

Required Readings before class on Saturday, June 6:

Chaudry, Ajay, et al. 2010. *Facing Our Future: Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement.* Washington, D.C. The Urban Institute. Chapters 2-6, pp 12-80. Browse this report.

Rosenblum, Marc R. 2011. *US Immigration Policy Since 9/11: Understanding the Stalemate over Comprehensive Immigration Reform.* Washington D.C. the Migration Policy Institute.

Bipartisan Framework for Immigration Reform, 5 pg. summary

Optional Readings:

A Proposal for Alternative Immigration Reform Bases on Human, Civil and Labor Rights for All, The Dignity Campaign.

Costello, Maureen, (2026) The Trump Effect. Southern Poverty Law Center.

Summary of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act. 17-pg summary of current immigration reform package.

Bipartisan Framework for Immigration Reform, 5 pg. summary

After Ruling, Hispanics Flee an Alabama Town. The New York Times, October 4, 2011.

Part of Alabama Immigration Law Blocked. The New York Times, October 13, 2011.

The text of Alabama's HB 56 (Alabama legislature).

Rosenblum, Marc R. 2011. *US Immigration Policy Since 9/11: Understanding the Stalemate over Comprehensive Immigration Reform.* Washington D.C. the Migration Policy Institute.

Sanders, Laura, Ramiro Martinez, Margaret Harner, Melanie Harner, Pilar Horner, and Jorge Delva. 2013. *Grassroots Responsiveness to Human Rights Abuse: History of the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*, Social Work.

Daily Class Topics and Organization

Day 1— Friday, June 5

Organizing – Interactive experiences that introduce issues associated with immigration. What do you assume about undocumented immigration? What do you assume about immigration enforcement efforts? What do you know? What do you think? How do you feel? What questions do you have?

Policy—A brief history of undocumented migration and immigration to the United States, the body of immigration law (The Immigration and Nationality Act, The INA), the laws that are broken by undocumented immigrants, and who is in the United States as an undocumented immigrant.

Policy— Explore the process of crossing and apprehension at the U.S. border and enforcement strategies, efforts and organizations. We will examine the missions, activities, and human rights violations of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (Customs and Border Protection). We will compare enforcement at the border with enforcement in the interior and explore border rights organizations.

Lunch from 12:00 to 1:00

Organizing — A brief history of immigration raids and the rise of immigrant rights and anti-raid organizations will be presented from the community organizing viewpoint. In particular we will look specifically at the history and development of a local organization called *Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*, that has responded to over 430 raid-related calls in the local community.

2:30-5:00:

Policy and Organizing—We will view **abUSed**, a documentary of the largest ICE raid in U.S. history, followed by a discussion of enforcement and human rights and community organizing.

Day 2— Saturday, June 6

Policy— Discuss the post 9/11 entanglement of immigration policy and national security and explore border enforcement and deterrence strategies more specifically. We will have a general conversation about federal/local immigration enforcement initiatives and their consequences including how the states and

localities have gotten involved with enforcement and immigration policy using examples of Maricopa County, state laws in Arizona, Georgia, and Alabama. Finally, we will talk about demonizing undocumented immigrants and the making of public perception and public policy.

Organizing –Through the exploration of the work of WICIR, we will explore the effect of immigration enforcement on children, families and neighborhoods including cases that intersect with local law enforcement and the child welfare system. A pattern of human rights violations associated with raids, detainments and deportations will be explored as well as education efforts that focus on Know Your Rights education for targeted groups and information building for ally communities. Political actions targeting local policies and special projects will be highlighted. Discussion of counseling and advocacy with refugees and immigrant people.

Lunch: 12:00-1:00

Guest Speakers: 1:00-3:00

Ramiro's Story of Crossing the Border

Maher's Pre-migration, Migration and Post-Migration Story

Policy— Explore fundamental principles of humane immigration reform in a social justice context and then analyze the current proposed bi-partisan immigration reform bill from that perspective that passed in the Senate, but has failed in the house of representative. .

Organizing - Explore efforts in organizing toward reform on the local, state and national levels, with a focus on critical analysis of current reforms and the impact of the US presidential campaign.