

OLLI at DU Central Syllabus –Fall 2024

A World in Motion: A History of Immigration to America - Subject Area History and Economics

Tuesday Afternoons Online; 8 weeks

Instructor: Myra Rich

1. BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE ORGANIZED BY CLASS SESSION:

I hope OLLI members will learn about the major groups that have immigrated to the United States and what their different experiences have been. I hope they will also become aware of the various influences on immigration law and policy, such as economic need, as well as the ramifications of US foreign policy. We will also examine the concept of nativism which continues to be a factor in our attitudes towards new immigrants. We will do this through weekly discussions of the material presented by Roger Daniels. I expect we will investigate both the benefits and challenges/complications presented by constant immigration. Most of us have relatives who have immigrated and some of us will have immigrated ourselves – these personal experiences will help us flesh out the larger narrative. In addition, we all have some knowledge of migration within the US that will add to our understanding.

2. BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE ORGANIZED BY CLASS SESSION:

Week 1: Introduction: A World in Motion. We will talk about the earliest immigration, both slave and free, to the American colonies. Please read Roger Daniels, *Coming to America*, chapters 1-3, BEFORE our first meeting.

Week 2: 19th century immigration. Daniels, chapters 6-8

Week 3: Race, Ethnicity, and Nativism. Daniels, chapters 5 and 10.

Week 4: Early 20th century. chapters 11 and 12

Week 5: Changes after WWII: New immigration laws. Chapters 13 and 14

Week 6: Chapter 15: Later immigrants. The impact of the Immigration Act of 1965

Week 7: The 1980's and beyond: chapters 16 and 17

Week 8: The current waves of migrants/refugees/immigrants from Central America. Policies going forward.