At the turn of the 21st century, “globalization” is the order of the day. With international migration bringing the alien “other” from third world to first, and worldwide trade and communications amplifying the feedbacks traveling in the opposite direction, the view that nation-state and society normally converge has waned. Instead, social scientists are looking for new ways to think about the connections between “here” and “there.” Observing that migration produces a plethora of connections spanning “home” and “host” societies, as well as linkages among migrants criss-crossing the globe, today’s scholarship emphasizes the limits (or possibly obsolescence) of assimilation, contending instead that a transnational or diasporic pattern offers the key to understanding the contemporary immigrant phenomenon.

This course seeks a critical encounter with the rapidly burgeoning literature on immigrant transnationalism and diasporas. We will seek to ask:

- Do immigrant loyalties, attachments, and behaviors remain home-country oriented? Or are immigrants instead turned into host-country nationals, committed to societies in which they have settled?
- How have immigrant long-distance attachments changed over the course of the past 100 years? How does the current age of mass migration differ from the age of mass migration at the turn of the 20th century?
- What are the impacts of home country attachments, whether “here” or “there”? What sorts of positive and negative effects do they produce?
- Can home country and host country attachments be reconciled? Or are they mutually exclusive (as so often argued)?

We will explore these questions through an ongoing encounter with an interdisciplinary social science literature, drawing readings from anthropology, history, political science, and sociology.

During weeks 3 and 4, the course will be co-taught with Professor Nancy Green, an eminent immigration historian, who is on the faculty of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris (http://crh.ehess.fr/index.php/?membres/120). In addition, students are invited to attend an international conference on “A Century of Transnationalism” that I have organized with Nancy Green, to be held at UCLA on April 26.

Week 8 will be co-taught with Professor Dana Diminescu, director of the eDiaspora project (http://www.e-diasporas.fr/index.html#top), a study of “diasporas on the web,”
and Associate Professor of Sociology at Paris-Telecom. During the week of May 13, Professor Diminescu will also lead a workshop on analyzing diaspora networks on the web.

**Readings:** There is no textbook: readings involve journal articles, online reports or papers, or selected chapters from individual books. Most readings are available on-line, via UCLA library. Some readings are directly available on the web: please use the on-line syllabus to access those readings. Other readings can be accessed via the course website.

**Requirements:**

**Week 1 (April 1): Introduction**


Peggy Levitt and S. Khagram, “Constructing transnational studies, “ 2008 (on course website)

Roger Waldinger, Foreign Detachment: Immigrants and their Homelands (manuscript in process), Chapters 2 & 3


**Week 2 (April 8): No class**

**Weeks 3 (April 15) & 4 (April 22): Historical Perspectives**

*Week 4: Long-term trends and historiographical issues*

*American Historical Review* “Conversation on Transnational History,” 2006

Deborah Cohen and Maura O’Connor, “Comparative History, Cross-National History, Transnational History - Definitions,” in Cohen and O’Connor, *Comparison and History*

Donna R. Gabaccia, *Italy’s Many Diasporas*, Introduction

Kevin Kenny, “Diaspora and comparison: The global Irish as a case study,” *Journal of American History*, 2003 (available on line via UCLA library)


Week 4: The last era of migration and its aftermath


Donna Gabaccia, *Italy’s Many Diasporas*, Chapters 1, 3, 5


Optional:
Leo Lucassen, “Is transnationalism compatible with assimilation: Examples from Western Europe since 1850,” *IMIS-Beitrage*, 2006: 15-36


Week 5 (April 29): Emigrant/Diaspora politics
Roger Waldinger, chapter 5

Devesh Kapur, *Diasporas and Development*, Chapters 7 & 8


Ruud Koopmans, et al., *Contested Citizenship: Immigration and Cultural Diversity in Europe*, chapter 3

**Week 6 (May 6): Diasporas and development**

Devesh Kapur, *Diasporas and Development*, Chapters 2, 4

Natasha Iskander, *The Creative State*, Chapters 2-6

**Week 7 (May 13): Communication and social ties across borders**


Sonia Cancian, *Families, lovers and their letters: Italian postwar migration to Canada*, 2010


**Week 8 (May 19): Diasporas and issue networks on the net**


Priya Kumar, « Palestinian Virtual Networks : Mapping Contemporary Linkages, », e-Diasporas Working Paper, April 2012 (on course website)

Anat Ben-David, « The Palestinian diaspora on the Web : Between de-territorialization and re-territorialization, » *Social Science Information*, V. 51, 4 (2012)


**May 27: No class – Memorial day**

**Week 9 (June 3): Communities and lives across borders: evidence from Mexico and Mexican immigrants in the U.S.**

Robert Smith, *Mexican New York*, chapter 4


Peri Fletcher, *La casa de mis sueños* chapter 3 (chapter 2 recommended)


Natasha Iskander, *The Creative State*, Chapters 7, 9

**Week 10 (to be scheduled for exam week): Second generation homeland connections**

TBA