**Description:** In this First-Year Research Seminar we will study the history of immigration in New York City, and examine the way that the experiences of immigrants in this city have helped to shape the concept of immigration throughout U.S. history. Our focus in this course will be on the early history of New York from its Native American, Dutch and British roots, on through its American era in the 19th and 20th centuries when New York became one of the most populous and important cities in the United States. We will consider how this history helps us to understand contemporary immigration debates, particularly when it comes to the question of assimilation. Immigrant groups have often been judged based on their perceived assimilability into the American body politic, and we will look at the various ways in which the assimilation question has been framed in New York City’s history. Together we will survey a few historical, sociological and literary works on immigration and discuss some different approaches to documenting the immigrant experience.

Completion of a research paper will be a major part of this course. Throughout the semester you will be carrying out a sustained research project related to the history and politics of immigration in New York. (Your individual research papers will allow us to explore some topics beyond our limited reading list.) It is my hope that by conducting this research and sharing your ongoing findings with the class you will gain valuable skills in research methodology, while also developing a greater appreciation for the rich history and culture of the city around you.

This will be a reading intensive and writing intensive course. You will write several short essays, and one major research essay. These projects will help you to develop research writing skills such as building an argument, referring to other texts, using secondary material effectively, and mastering the mechanics of quoting, citing, and documenting sources.

**Texts:**


**Absence/Tardiness:**
Your success in this class depends on your regular, punctual attendance and participation. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to check with a classmate for any missed information. Attendance is required. An excused absence is an illness with a doctor’s note, a family emergency, or a religious holiday. Please let me know in advance by e-mail or phone if you are going to absent for any of those reasons.

Please be on time. Arriving to class late is disruptive to everyone. Habitual lateness to class and more than two unexcused absences will seriously compromise your grade in the course.

**Classroom Decorum:**
Cell phones, smartphones and other personal communication devices are not to be used in class at all. Laptops and iPads are also not allowed in this course. For the purposes of this course we want to minimize digital distraction for the 1 hour and 15 minutes that we are together. There is a classroom computer that we will use to examine digital resources when needed. You will have ample opportunity to consult the Internet outside of class. In fact, online research will be a significant part of your take home assignments. To get the most out of our class time, however, we need to be attentive and focused on our classroom discussion. Please be sure to turn your ringer off before class begins. Students who text or leave the room to take phone calls during class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.

**Grading:**

*Participation: 15%*
- This includes active participation in class, completion of in-class assignments and response papers.

*Four Essays: 60%*
- I will handout assignment sheets for each essay detailing the specifications for each particular essay assignment. The topics for these essays will be related to our course readings.

*Research Paper: 25%*
- This portion represents your final research paper grade. This grade will be calculated including your prospectus, draft, research presentation and the final paper.

All essays must be turned in on time, and in print, to receive full credit. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per calendar day. No papers will be accepted three *calendar* days after the assignment is due.

Papers are taken up at the beginning of class. Any paper turned in after that is late (i.e. don’t show up in the middle or at the end of class and expect to turn it in “on time.” It will be

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Penalties:
This late policy also applies to “printer problems.” Print your documents out far enough in advance that you can make provisions if something goes wrong.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism will result in no credit for the assignment. The University’s code of academic and personal conduct applies in all instances of plagiarism. You may find this code in your NYU Gallatin Bulletin. You can download the bulletin at: http://www.nyu.edu/gallatin/pdf/GallatinBulletin.pdf. We will review some guidelines about plagiarism at the beginning of the course, and at several times throughout the semester.

Papers:
You will have four essay assignments throughout the course, each of which will be about four or five pages long. I will pass out assignment sheets that detail the parameters of each essay assignment.

The research essay will be on a topic of your choice that deals with some aspect of Immigrant New York. The research essay will be 8-10 pages long. We will select topics early in the course and work on research projects in workshops throughout the semester.

Citation Format:
We will be using the Modern Languages Association (MLA) format in this course. I will be giving you handouts and referring you to online resources for MLA citation. We will also spend time in class covering MLA citation, and just a little time looking at other forms of citation in other disciplines. One popular site which will help you get acquainted with MLA format is: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Writing Center: For additional help with your writing, you may contact the Gallatin Writing Center at 1 Washington Place, room 423. See www.nyu.edu/gallatin/writing for instructions on how to make an appointment with a Peer Writing Assistant.

COURSE SCHEDULE
(Readings will be covered in class on the day listed here.)

WEEK ONE
1/23  Introduction - Background on NYC history.

1/25  Reading Due: Historical Atlas of New York, Chapters 1-2; Film screening, The Cruise

WEEK TWO

2/1   Reading due: New York Burning Preface and Prologue (pp. xi – 14) and Appendices (233-277). Tour of Lower Manhattan. Meet at U.S. Custom House, 3:30pm.

WEEK THREE

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2/6  Reading Due: *New York Burning*, Chapters 1-4

2/8  Reading Due: *New York Burning*, Chapters 5-7. Review handouts on research essays and MLA Citation format.

**WEEK FOUR**
2/13  Essay #1 Due; Clips from *New York: A Documentary Film* on Irish Immigration, New York Draft Riots.

2/15  Readings Due: *Historical Atlas of New York*, Chapters 5, 6 and 7; Excerpts from Herbert Asbury’s *Gangs of New York*.

**WEEK FIVE**
2/20  NO CLASS—PRESIDENTS' DAY

2/22  Reading Due: Excerpts from Herbert Asbury’s *Gangs of New York*. Walking tour of the Five Points (pending weather.) Meet: Corner of Chambers and Broadway, 3:30pm

**WEEK SIX**
2/27  Reading Due: Abraham Cahan’s *Yekl* (Complete text)

2/29  Film Screening: *Hester Street*

**WEEK SEVEN**
3/5  Complete viewing of *Hester Street*.

3/7  Prospectus Due (see Research Paper schedule for details): Discussion of *Yekl* and *Hester Street*.

**WEEK EIGHT**
3/12 & 3/14  SPRING BREAK – Note: St. Patrick’s Day Parade is on Saturday, March 17.

**WEEK NINE**
3/19  Essay #3 Due. Reading Due: Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (Full Book. Get started over Spring Break!)

3/21  Continue discussion of Riis *How the Other Half Lives*.

**WEEK TEN**
3/26  Reading due: Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*.

3/28  Continue with *Bread Givers*.

**WEEK ELEVEN**
4/2  Tour of the Lower East Side (Meeting place, TBA)

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