



DIASPORA LANDSCAPES: Mapping everyday spaces of (im)migrant communities

Instructor: Michael Rios (mxrios@ucdavis.edu)

**LDA 198-008 (CRN: 69067) Non LDA majors should contact instructor for enrollment
Wednesdays, 1:10 – 4:00 pm, Hunt Hall (room tba)**

Fueling California's growth is the increased migration of populations into regions such as the Central Valley and metropolitan areas such as Sacramento. Much of this growth will come from historical and new immigrants groups such as Latinos who now comprise over a third of the state's population and are projected to triple to over 31 million, or 52%, by 2050. For groups such as the Hmong, the Central Valley is the largest settlement region in the United States. More recently, Sacramento has become the top destination within the United States for immigrants from Fiji and Moldova, as well as the second or third destination for eight countries including Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Ukraine, Thailand, and Uzbekistan. The increasing diversity of California communities raises a concern about how citizen involvement should be constituted in public policy and planning decisions when individuals are part of diverse cultural traditions and whose spatial practices differ from dominant social groups. A key to addressing the challenge of regional change will be to incorporate the unique needs of these emerging communities.

The primary goal of this course is to study diaspora landscapes in the Sacramento region. Teams of students will develop case studies using mixed methods of mapping, site analysis, participant observations, interviews, and surveys. Case studies will focus on neighborhoods where there has been a significant increase as defined by 50% or more of the population born outside of the United States.

COURSE FORMAT & EVALUATION

3 hours of lecture, discussion, and group exercise per week.

Evaluation is based on in-class participation (20%), graphic assignment (40%), and final case study report (40%).

TOPIC OUTLINE

1. Theories of Migration and Diaspora
2. Mapping Mobilities
3. Case Studies of Diaspora Landscapes