

# Coming to America: Immigrant, Exile, Refugee

## The U.S. Immigrant Experience in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries



This course will explore the novels, short stories, poems, and memoirs of American writers who are themselves immigrants to the United States from other parts of the world, or who are the children of parents who came here seeking a new, better and more secure life. We'll explore the forces at work in our contemporary world that make people decide to leave their homelands and to seek out new lives for themselves and their children in the United States. Our course will examine the causes of migration—political upheaval, violent discrimination against a particular ethnic group, famine, economic collapse, and often simply a desire to pursue the promises of the "American dream." Our readings will explore the experience of coming to a new land and making a new home for first generation immigrants. We'll also examine the experience of these immigrants' children: what is their relation to their parents' culture of origin? How does this parental culture shape their response to American culture and how does their navigation of American culture shape the way they view their heritage? How does this movement between cultures shape their identities?

**ENGL 487/587 Major World Authors**

**MW 11:00-12:15**

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