

HI/PO 320 Response Paper #6 prompt – due Tuesday, Dec 4

The American immigration debate is often a fight of extreme views, with little middle ground. People, policies, think tanks, and laws position themselves as “pro-immigrant” or “anti-immigrant.” Yet immigration, as we’ve explored in this unit, is a complex system with a long history. It’s not one single thing to be either “for or against” and to fix it actually doesn’t have a simple policy solution. Hopefully a closer study of US immigration and naturalization policy this term has given you a more nuanced and informed perspective.

In this response paper, please do the following:

Briefly describe the evolution of American immigration law and/or naturalization policy. What are the long-term trends, major milestones, and basics of the current system? What works well, and what’s broken?

Choose an example from one of our course readings in this unit that has stood out to you or has helped shaped your thinking about immigration. What does this example illustrate to you?

3-4 double-spaced pages, due Dec 4 in class.