The required text for this course is ALENIKOFF, ET AL., IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP: PROCESS AND POLICY (7th ed. 2012).

For the first class, please read Chapter One, “Immigration and Citizenship Law in Historical Context,” pp. 1-36.

In addition, please select one ancestor and come prepared to describe the law under which that individual immigrated to the United States, as well as that immigrant’s personal circumstances (country of origin, age, journey, destination, and so on). If your ancestors were brought to this country against their will, select one ancestor who was enslaved and later became free and find out as much as you can about the individual’s past (state of residence at the time of freedom, migration patterns, employment opportunities, age, family status, and so on). If your ancestors are indigenous to North America, trace the story of one ancestor. Finally, if you are not a U.S. Citizen, describe the process that allowed you to come to this country. Class members will be asked to present their research to the class.

Please also consider these questions as you read the material and prepare for class:

1. What milestones and trends in the history of U.S. immigration and citizenship law do you find most surprising? Most disturbing? Most encouraging?
2. What factors have most shaped the immigration policy of the United States? Of these factors, which are less influential than they were a century ago? Which have become more influential in recent years? See Note 1 on p. 34.
3. Susan Martin poses three models of American immigration: the Pennsylvania model, the Virginia model, and the Massachusetts model. What are the key characteristics of each model and do you think that they have relevance to today?
4. What do you think should go into our immigration laws? Would you advocate for an “open borders” policy, which would leave the issue of immigration largely unregulated? Why or why not?

I will also post the syllabus on TWEN before the first day of class.