

**Introduction to Refugee Studies**  
**EUS 3930**  
**INR 4931**

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**Course Theme:**

This course is designed as a broad, interdisciplinary introduction to the field of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

One of the most pressing issues currently facing humanity concerns the conflict and disaster-driven displacement and forced movement of millions of people across the globe, and the geo-political, legal and humanitarian ramifications of these displacements. While it is the European refugee crisis that has the world's attention right now, the refugee crisis is a global phenomenon. According to the UNHCR's annual Global Trends Report in 2014, worldwide, the number of forcibly displaced people was at the highest level ever recorded, standing at 60 million at the end of 2014, compared to 51.2 million a year earlier and 37.5 million a decade ago. According to the UNHCR, globally, "one in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum.

Driving the increase in global displacement is a combination of intertwined factors, including civil war, risk of genocide, intrastate conflict, internal violence perpetrated either by organized crime or religious fundamentalists, ecological disaster due to climate change, and lack of security and opportunities for social and economic development. The EU response to the refugee crisis reveals severe limitations in its and its constituent countries' ability and willingness to receive mass flows of refugees, and in the legal protection and human rights frameworks theoretically in place to protect refugees. This again, is a phenomenon in which the EU is by no means unique. In fact, it appears that the global policy responses to the worlds' growing displaced population have three aspects in common, namely, the so-called illegalization of migration, the militarization of borders, and the erosion of asylum. In addition, the politicization of the refugee issue is seriously polarizing receiving societies.

This course will offer the intellectual, analytical and research tools to understand the history and complexities of forced migration and refugeehood and their centrality to political, social and economic change in global, regional and national contexts. It will introduce students with an interest in local, national, as well as international career opportunities in human rights, development, refugees, or migration to relevant topics and discussions in the academic literature, as well as develop an understanding of various research methods.

**Course objectives:**

This course aims to develop:

- 1) A broad understanding of the complexities and dynamics of forced migration on global, regional, and national scales, in specific in the context of conflict, environmental change, natural disaster, and development
- 2) An understanding of the centrality of forced migration to processes of political, social, economic and cultural change
- 3) An understanding of the varied (national and international) legal and political frameworks and provisions set up to respond to refugee flows
- 4) An understanding of the key themes in the academic discussion and literature on forced migration and refugees
- 5) An understanding and evaluation of various disciplinary tools and research methods relevant to the study of forced migration; development of original thinking, informed analytical and research skills

**Required Course Readings:**

Readings for the course will be posted on e-learning (CANVAS) before the due date.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION:**

This course will be conducted in seminar format. That means that each student is expected to come to each session prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that session. Reading of the assigned material and participating in class discussion is essential to the successful completion of the course!

Please note that class attendance is required for this course and constitutes 5% of your grade. You will be permitted 2 unexcused absences, after which you lose ALL your attendance points if you are absent without proper reason and documentation. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate documentation.

According to the Office of the Registrar, "acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty or subpoena) must be excused."

(<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>)

**READING LOG AND PARTICIPATION:**

Each class session you will come to class prepared, and you will keep a folder in which you collect your reading log which needs to be up to date with the assigned readings of that day. I should be able to call on you in class to share your notes. Your notes should include at minimum 3 main concepts introduced in the articles. I will collect the reading log 3 times during the semester. Your entries and your

contribution to class discussion will constitute 10% of your grade. I will grade the entries with V+ (92 and above); V (85-91); and V- (80-84). If your grade is lower, or if you are missing readings, I will ask you to revise.

The journal is meant to stimulate active reading. The reading log is not supposed to be a summary of the text. A good journal focuses NOT on reproducing the argument and information of the article in great detail, but selects the most important concepts, ideas and arguments that you think are central to the author's concerns- questions or argument. Of course you can elaborate and add your own commentary. The journal should be typed and kept in a separate folder.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Students will present on their research project on the last two days of class. This will be part of your presentation grade.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students will have to pass a (take home) midterm exam and hand in a research paper (7-8 pp.) on a topic of their own choice at the end of the term.

Students will hand in a first draft (with bibliography), and a final draft of the paper. Only the final draft will be graded; However, if you do **NOT** hand in a draft on time, I will deduct 5 points from your final grade.

Late assignments will only be accepted if agreed by the instructor prior to the due date.

**DUE DATES:**

Midterm Exam: March 14

Draft Research Paper: April 19

Final Research Paper: May 1

**GRADE COMPOSITION:**

Class attendance:	5%
Participation, including presentations:	5%
Midterm take home:	40%
Final research paper:	40%

**GRADING SCALE:**

GRADING SCALE:	
A:	92-100
A-:	88-91
B+:	84-87
B:	80-83
B-:	77-79
C+:	74-76
C:	70-74
C-:	70-73

D+:	64-66
D:	60-63
E:	59 % or below

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

### **UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICTY**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conductiononor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

### **STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CENTER**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

### **Week One:**

# **The history of asylum: refugees, asylum and historical memory**

## **Tuesday January 9: Welcome, Syllabus**

### **Thursday January 11:**

Phil Orchard, "The Dawn of International Refugee Protection: States, Tacit Cooperation and Non-Extradition," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 30, Issue 2, 1 June 2017, 282-300;

Holian Anne, and Cohen Daniel, Introduction Refugees in Postwar World *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 25, No. 3, 313-325.

## **Week Two:**

### **Citizenship rights, human rights and the "bare human"**

### **Tuesday January 16:**

Hannah Arendt, "We, the Refugees," *Menorah Journal* 31, 1 (1943);

Giorgio Agamben, "We refugees" (1994);

Giorgio Agamben, "Beyond Human Rights" in *Means without Ends. Notes on Politics*, (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000), pp. 15-28

### **Thursday January 18:**

Peter Nyers (2006) "Refugeeness": "Emerging or Emergency Identities," 1-24;

Seyla Benhabib, "Borders, boundaries and Citizenship. *PSOnline* www.apsanet.org October 2005, 673-677

## **Week Three:**

### **Categorizations**

### **Tuesday January 23:**

Zetter, R. (2007) "More Labels, Fewer Refugees: Remaking the Refugee Label in an Era of Globalization. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 20(2).

### **Thursday January 25:**

Agier, "Refugees, Displaced, Rejected: The Itinerary of the Stateless," pp 11-35, in *Managing the Undesirables: Refugee Camps and Humanitarian Government*.

Michael Kagan, *The Beleaguered Gatekeeper*, *International Journal of refugee Law*, 2006. 1-29

## **Week Four:**

### **The Politics of Humanitarianism**

**Tuesday January 30:**

Chimni, B. S. (2000) "Globalization, Humanitarianism, and the Erosion of Refugee Protection." *Journal of Refugee Studies* 13(3).

**Thursday February 1:**

Peter Nyers, "On Humanitarian Violence," in *Rethinking Refugees*, pp. 25-42; Michel

**Week Five:**

**Borders and bordering practices: Securitization**

**Tuesday February 6:**

Truong, The Governmentality of Transnational Migration and Security: The Making of a New Subaltern", in T.-D. Truong and D. Gasper (eds.), *Transnational Migration and Human Security*, Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental 23 Security and Peace 6, 2011, pp. 23-37

**Thursday February 8:**

Gibney, M.J. (2006) "A Thousand Little Guantanos': Western States and Measures to Prevent the Arrival of Refugees". In Tunstall, K. (ed.) *Displacement, Asylum, Migration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 137-169;

Nethery, et al *Exporting Detention : Australia Funded Immigrant detention in Indonesia* *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 26, No. 1 2012, 88-109

**Week Six:**

**Accessing Asylum**

**Tuesday February 13:**

Katy Long, "In Search of Sanctuary: Border Closures, 'Safe' Zones and Refugee Protection," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 26, Issue 3, 1 September 2013, Pages 458–476

**Thursday February 15:**

Allison Mountz, *Seeking Asylum: Human Smuggling and Bureaucracy at the Border* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), Chapter One "human smuggling and refugee protection

**Week Seven:**

**Spatializing the Refugee**

**Tuesday February 20:**

Agamben, "What is a Camp?," in *Means Without Ends*, pp. 37-45;

Simon Turner, "What Is a Refugee Camp? Explorations of the Limits and Effects of the Camp," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 29, Issue 2, 1 June 2016, Pages 139–148

**Thursday February 22:**

Allison Mountz, "In/visibility and the securitization of migration: shaping publics through border enforcement on islands" (2015) 11(2): 184-200;  
Carl Levy, Refugees, Europe, Camps/State of Exception: the EU and the Extra Territorial Processing of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers  
Goldsmiths Online 2010

**Week Eight:**

**Asylum as Domestic politics: emergency/crisis and sovereignty**

**Tuesday February 27:**

J. Darling, "Domopolitics, governmentality and the regulation of asylum accommodation" *Political Geography* 30 (5) (2011), pp. 263-271

**Thursday March 1:**

Imogen Tyler, "Welcome to Britain: The Cultural Politics of Asylum," *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 9 (2) (2009), pp. 185-202

**Week Nine: SPRING BREAK March 5-9**

**Week Ten:**

**Cultures of Disbelief**

**Tuesday March 13:**

Jessica Anderson et al. (2014), "Cultures of Disbelief"

**Thursday March 15:**

EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE (EASO)

2014 *EASO Practical Guide: Personal Interview*. EASO Practical Guides Series, December, <https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/public/EASO-Practical-Guide-Personal-Interview-EN.pdf>

2015 *EASO Practical Guide: Evidence Assessment*, EASO Practical Guides Series, [https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/public/EASO-Practical-Guide\\_-Evidence-Assessment.pdf](https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/public/EASO-Practical-Guide_-Evidence-Assessment.pdf)

2017 *EASO Practical Guide: Evidence Assessment*, EASO Practical Guides Series, Exclusion

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO%20Practical%20Guide%20-%20Exclusion%20%28final%20for%20web%29.pdf>

## **Week Eleven: The Making of the European Refugee “Crisis”**

### **Tuesday March 20:**

Karamanidou and Schuster, “Realizing One’s Right under the 1951 Convention 60 Years On.” *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 25, No. 2 , 169-192

### **Thursday March 22:**

Tara Zahra, “The Return of No-Mans’ Land: Europe’s Asylum Crisis and Historical Memory,” *Foreign Affairs*, September 22, 2015

Bojadžijev M and Mezzadra S 2015 “Refugee crisis” or crisis of European migration policies?” (Nov 12) <http://www.focaaiblog.com/2015/11/12/manuela-bojadzije-and-sandro-mezzadra-refugee-crisis-or-crisis-of-european-migration-policies/>

Carrera, S, Blockmans S, Gros, Guild E. 2015. “The EU”s response to the Refugee Crisis: Taking Stock“ CEPS 20 16 December  
[https://www.ceps.eu/system/files/EU%20Response%20to%20the%202015%20Refugee%20Crisis\\_0.pdf](https://www.ceps.eu/system/files/EU%20Response%20to%20the%202015%20Refugee%20Crisis_0.pdf)

Rajaram P. K 2015 “Beyond crisis: Rethinking population movements at Europe’s border (oct 19) <http://www.focaaiblog.com/2015/10/19/prem-kumar-rajaram-beyond-crisis/>

## **Week Twelve: Gendering Refugees**

### **Tuesday March 27:**

Jane Freedman, “Engendering Security at the Borders of Europe: Women Migrants and the Mediterranean ‘Crisis,’ *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 29, Issue 4, 1 December 2016, Pages 568–582

### **Thursday March 29:**

Alison Gerard, Sharon Pickering, “Gender, Securitization and Transit: Refugee Women and the Journey to the EU,” *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 27, Issue 3, 1 September 2014, Pages 338–359

## **Week Thirteen: Refugees and the Politics of Representation**

### **Tuesday April 3:**

Wright, T. (2014) "Media, Refugees and other Forced Migrants." In Fiddian-Qismeyeh, E., Loescher, G., Long, K. and Sigona, N. (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*;

Rajaram, P. (2002) "Humanitarianism and Representations of the Refugee". *Journal of Refugee Studies* 15(3)

### **Thursday April 5:**

Romeyn (2014), "Asylum seekers, citizenship and reality TV in the Netherlands: quizzing refugees in jeopardy," *Citizenship Studies*, 18:6-7, 741-757;

Arnold Zable, "From Manus to London: how two strangers made a landmark movie together"

## **Week Fourteen: Refugees and Political Agency**

### **Tuesday April 10:**

Nyers, "Evasive Maneuvers: Refugee Warrior Communities Recast the Political," 97-122

### **Thursday April 12:**

Lecadet, "Refugee Politics : Self Organized Government and Protest." *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 29, No. 2 , 187-107;

Ilana Feldman, Refusing Invisibility: Documentation and memorialization in Palestinian Refugee Claims, *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 21, No. 4 2008, 498-516

## **Week Fifteen: Politics of Resettlement, Forced Return, and "Just" Return**

### **Tuesday April 17:**

Megan Bradley, "Back to Basics: The Conditions of Just Refugee Returns" *Journal of Refugee Studies* Vol. 21, No. 3, 285-304

### **Thursday April 19: Due Date First Draft Research Paper**

## **Week Sixteen: Conclusion**

**Tuesday April 24:**

**Tuesday May 1**

**Final Research Paper DUE DATE**