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

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/scr/process/student-conduct/honor-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/) 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:

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);

Thursday January 18:

Week Three:
Categorizations

Tuesday January 23:

Thursday January 25:

Week Four:
The Politics of Humanitarianism
Tuesday January 30:

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:

Thursday February 8:

**Week Six:**
**Accessing Asylum**

Tuesday February 13:

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;

**Thursday February 22:**
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:**

**Thursday March 1:**

**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)


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

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

Tuesday March 20:

Thursday March 22:


Week Twelve:
Gendering Refugees

Tuesday March 27:

Thursday March 29:
Week Thirteen:
Refugees and the Politics of Representation

Tuesday April 3:

Thursday April 5:

Week Fourteen:
Refugees and Political Agency

Tuesday April 10:
Nyers, “Evasive Maneuvers: Refugee Warrior Communities Recast the Political,” 97-122

Thursday April 12:

Week Fifteen:
Politics of Resettlement, Forced Return, and “Just” Return

Tuesday April 17:

Thursday April 19: Due Date First Draft Research Paper
Week Sixteen: Conclusion

Tuesday April 24:

Tuesday May 1
Final Research Paper DUE DATE