

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology 2283F/001
Refugees and the Displaced: An Anthropological Approach to Forced Migration
January - April 2012



Sahrawi Refugees, Auserd Camp, Algeria, June 2003 Photo by Randa Farah

Instructor: Randa Farah, Associate Professor
TA: Joanna Berry and Matthew McKarney
Office: SSC 3423A
Office hours: Mondays 12:20 pm - 2:20 pm
Class time: Mondays 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Bldg/Rm. #: B&GS-1056

In this course we focus on forced migration and deal with its diverse forms, its complexities, its causes, and the ways that people deal with its consequences in their everyday lives. We contextualize displacement within larger global processes, and critically examine the international humanitarian regime, and the relationship between humanitarian organizations and the recipients of aid. We examine and question definitions and categories of involuntary displacement, such as: asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). We learn about the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the main organization with a mandate to provide protection and assistance to refugees. We also examine the three durable solutions promoted by the international community and the contemporary emphasis on “repatriation” as the privileged solution. Drawing on anthropological literature, ethnographic material, case studies and documentaries we learn how social and cultural life is reshaped by displacement and vice versa. We also examine protracted cases of displacement and the diverse forms of countering exile, while reconstructing life away from home. The course is interactive and is based on lectures, documentaries, class and group presentations and discussions. It requires the active participation of students in the learning process.

Assignments and Evaluations		Date
1. Two exams 20% each	40%	Feb 13, March 19
2. Group Presentations	15%	
3. Essay Proposal	5%	March 12
4. Essay	30%	April 9
5. Attendance and Class Participation	10%	

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. You need to buy the course pack and the novel “Little Bee” from the book store. Additional complementary, relevant and interesting articles and references might be posted on WebCT as well.*
- 2. There may be slight modifications to this outline during the term (excluding assignments and evaluations), which will be announced in class, thus students have the responsibility to attend class and follow up on announcements by checking WebCT.*

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER AND BEST OF LUCK!

WEEK 1 January 9 *Introduction to the course and group assignments*

WEEK 2 January 16 *Definitions, Refugee law, the UNHCR*

Readings:

The articles of the Convention and general introduction to the UNHCR at:
<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49da0e466.html>

Group discussion

WEEK 3 January 23 *A Global Perspective*

Readings:

1. Chimni, B.S. 1998. "The Geopolitics of Refugee Studies: A View from the South," *Journal of Refugee Studies* 1998 11(4):350-374.
2. Marfleet, Philip. 2006. *Refugees in a Global Era* Marfleet. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Read: Chapter 9. Displacement, pp. 193 – 215.
3. Summerfield, Derek. 1999. "Sociocultural Dimensions of War, Conflict and Displacement" In *Refugees: Perspectives on the Experience of Forced Migration*, Alistair Ager, ed., London and New York: Pinter, pp. 1 – 13.

Group discussion: includes Little Bee pp. 1-85.

WEEK 4 January 30 *The Humanitarian Regime*

Readings:

1. Harrell-Bond, B.E. 1999. "The experience of refugees as recipients of aid." In *Refugees: Perspectives on the Experience of Forced Migration*, Alistair Ager, ed., London and New York: Pinter, pp. 93-104.
2. Malkki, Liisa. 1996. "Speechless Emissaries: Refugees, Humanitarianism, and Dehistoricization," *Cultural Anthropology*, 11:3, pp. 111-132.

Presentation 1: Summary presentation on the book "Saviours and Survivors: Darfur, politics, and the War on Terror" by Mahmood Mamdani.

Documentary

WEEK 5 February 6 *Protracted Refugee Cases*

Readings:

1. Abu Farha, Nasser. 2008. "Land of Symbols: Cactus, Poppies, Orange and Olive Trees in Palestine", *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, 15:343–368.

- Lippert, Anne. 1987. "The Sahrawi Refugees: Origins and Organization, 1975-85," in *War and Refugees: The Western Sahara Conflict*, Richard Lawless and Laila Monahan (eds.), London and New York: Pinter Publishers. Read pp. 187-193.
- Farah, Randa. 2010. "Sovereignty on Borrowed Territory: Sahrawi Identity in Algeria," *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Issue 2 - Summer/Fall 2010, pp. 59-66.

Documentary

WEEK 6 February 13 *Exam 1*

Exam 1

Documentary

WEEK 7 February 20-24

- Reading Week -

WEEK 8 February 27 *Complex Forced Migration*

Readings:

- Van Hear, Nicholas and Christopher McDowell, eds. 2006. *Catching fire: containing forced migration in a volatile world*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. Introduction pp.1 14; and "Afghanistan's Complex Forced Migration" pp. 115 - 139.
- Monsutti, Alessandro. 2008. "Afghan Migratory Strategies and the Three Solutions to the Refugee Problem." *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 27:1, pp. 77-92.

Presentation 2: Internally displaced Palestinians within Israel (including on-going Bedouin displacement in the Negev), refugees in Gaza and the West Bank. See me for references.

Presentation 3: Somali Refugees.

Group discussion: includes Little Bee pp. 88 - 178

WEEK 9 March 5 *Gender and displacement*

Readings:

- Sugiman, Pamela. 2008 "'Days you Remember': Japanese Canadian Women and the Violence of Internment" in *Not Born A Refugee Woman: Contesting Identities, Rethinking Practices*, Maroussia Hajdukowski et al., eds. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books pp. 113-134.

2. Razack, Sherene. "The Perils of Storytelling for Refugee Women" in Giles, Wenona, et al. 1996. *Development & Diaspora: Gender and the Refugee Experience*, pp. 157- 162.

Presentation 4: Iraqi Refugees

Presentation 5: Conflict, displacement and gender. (see for example FMR Dec 2000 issue 9).

WEEK 10 March 12 *Urban Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons*

Readings:

1. Agier, Michel, 2002 *Between war and city: Towards an urban anthropology of refugee camps*. *Ethnography*. 3:3, pp. 239-259.
2. de Montclos, Marc-Antoine Perouse and Peter Mwangi Kagwanja. 2000. "Refugee Camps or Cities? The Socio-economic Dynamics of the Dadaab and Kakuma Camps in Northern Kenya." *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 13:2, pp. 221-236.
3. Cusano, Chris.2001. "Burma: Displaced Karens. Like Water on the *Khu* leaf." In *Caught Between Borders: Response Strategies of the Internally Displaced*, Vincent, Mark and Brigitte Refslund Sorensen, eds. London: Pluto Press. Pp. 138-171.

Presentation 6: The Japanese Internment Camps in Canada (you may use an additional case).

Presentation 7: Chinese Refugees/Migrants in Canada

Essay Proposal Due

WEEK 11 March 19 *Exam 2*

Exam 2

Documentary

WEEK 12 March 26 *Refugee Children*

Readings:

1. Denov, Myrian and Kathryn Campbell. 2002. "Casualties of Aboriginal displacement in Canada: children at risk among the Innu of Labrador." *Refuge*, 20:2, pp. 197 – 207.
2. Ali, Mehrunnisa Ahmed. 2006. "Children Alone, Seeking Refuge in Canada", *Refuge*, 23(2):68-80.

Presentation 8: The Effects of Forced Migration on Children (use Jo Boyden and Joanna de Berry's book entitled: *Children and youth on the front line: ethnography, armed conflict and displacement*)

Presentation 9: Development Induced Displacement.

Group discussion: includes Little Bee pp. 179-end.

WEEK 13 April 2 *Trafficking*

Readings:

1. Duong, Le Bach, Daniele Belanger and Hong Khuat. 2008. "Female Migration and Trafficking from Vietnam."(Ch VI) in *Market Transformation , Migration and Social Protection in a Transitioning Vietnam*, Duong, Le Bach and Thuat Khu Tong (eds.). Hanoi: The Gioi Publisher, pp. 194-226.

Presentation 10: Human Trafficking/Smuggling.

Presentation 11: Environmental Refugees.

Presentation 12: The contemporary securitization of borders and the new policies of states in North America and Europe to link asylum-seekers/refugees with terrorism and/or national security.

WEEK 14 April 9 *Review*

Essay due today

REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Prerequisites

Any full or half Social Science essay course and registration in any module in the Faculty of Social Science. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the Dean to enrol in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Assignments and Evaluations		Date
6. Two exams 20% each	40%	Feb 13, March 19
7. Group Presentations	15%	
8. Essay Proposal	5%	March 12
9. Essay	30%	April 9
10. Attendance and Class Participation	10%	

Details

- Exams:** Exam 1 covers lectures, readings, and documentaries from Week 2 – 5 (readings from week 5 are included). Exam 2 incorporates lectures, readings and documentaries from Week 6 – 10. The exams will include multiple choice, true and false, definitions and short answers.
- Presentations:** Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes, followed by a 10 minute class discussion. All members will receive the same grade unless absent or there is an obvious inconsistency, for example, if a group member does not show up he or she will get a zero, unless they have a valid excuse, but they have to submit an alternative assignment. Upon completing the presentation, the group is expected to raise 2 questions for class discussion. Submit a hard copy of your presentations to your TAs in class.

Approach the presentation as you would scholarly research for essays. Good presentations pay attention to:

- Content:* The presentation is focused on the most important and relevant issues, shows thorough research, and presenters are able to answer questions from the class.
 - Background:* The group provides sufficient background so the class is able to locate the topic in a historical period, a particular region, and/or within larger debates.
 - Organization:* The presentation has an introduction, a body, and a conclusion and is coherent.
 - Cooperation:* The presentation shows the group rehearsed the presentation and responsibilities were evenly distributed.
 - Clarity:* The class is able to understand and follow the presentation.
 - Delivery:* Presenters speak clearly and capture the interest of the class. The slides are easy to follow, and photos or short videos are used efficiently and appropriately.
 - Time:* The group completes the presentation within 20 minutes, leaving time for discussion.
- Essay Proposal:** Write a paragraph outlining the focus of your research paper and the references you reviewed at the library (provide a minimum of 4 references (the minimum for the essay is 6).

4. **Essay:** Write a paper **2500** words (marks will be deducted if student exceeds maximum number of words or falls short of the minimum). The topic should be related to the course themes. Use only scholarly references - (Wikipedia is NOT a scholarly reference, marks will be deducted if used). Please note that all papers should be handed in class and on time.

Your essay should begin by stating the question you will discuss in the paper and your main argument. In the body of the paper, present your main arguments, separated by paragraphs that are coherent, logical and related to each other and to your main question or problematic. Finally, briefly summarize the points you discussed showing how they supported your main proposition or question. Use direct quotes sparingly, it is always much more effective to paraphrase.

Additional helpful notes for essays: six scholarly references for each paper (books and articles) - you may use articles and chapters in the reading list, but no more than two.

- Submit in class and on time.
- Enter title, student name and number, course number, instructor's name and date.
- Do not leave space between paragraphs.
- Use subtitles but do not fragment your paper by too many subheadings.
- Double-space, use 12 point Times New Roman, number your pages.
- One inch margins on all sides and double space your paper.
- Please do NOT bind your paper, but make sure it is stapled.
- Read, revise, edit, spell-check and proofread
- **Late Assignments:** 2% of your essay grade will be deducted for each day you are late in submitting the paper, no assignments will be accepted five days (including weekends) after the due date.

Do not confuse: it's and its; here and hear; expect, except and accept; there and their; effect (name) and affect (verb); cannot (one word); twentieth-century (hyphenate); do not use slang like 'ain't' or 'gotta;' avoid rambling and repetition; do NOT rely on extensive direct quotes, paraphrasing is more effective.

An 'A' paper is focused, creative and analytical. It has a clearly defined question and proposal (it is not a descriptive paper). It demonstrates excellent use of the literature and available resources to support arguments. The essay has paragraphs that flow: they are relevant and connected to each other and to the main topic. It uses proper citation; writing skills (no jargon or repetition); there are no grammatical or proofreading mistakes and typos; adheres to word or page numbers.

In-text citation and bibliographic references are required. Make sure you cite the author when an idea is not yours, and include the reference in the bibliography at the end of the essay.. Failure to cite the original source of ideas that are not yours leads to **plagiarism** with serious consequences to your academic life (see paragraph on plagiarism).

Citation Examples

In-text citation: The refugees of Western Sahara have been living in the camps since 1976 (San Martin 2010:23), (author year: page).

If you begin the sentence with the name of the author, you do not need to mention the author's name again within the in-text citation. For example: "According to San Martin (2011:23).

Bibliography:

(Book) San Martin, Pablo. 2010 Western Sahara: The Refugee Nation. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.

(Journal) Rehaag, Sean. 2009 *Bordering on Legality: Canadian Church Sanctuary and the Rule of Law*. *Refuge* 26(1):43-56.

5. **Attendance and Participation:** An attendance sheet will be circulated every week. It is important that you attend every class, unless you have medical or exceptional reasons, especially the last three weeks of the term. Participation involves in-class group work including writing short commentaries on Little Bee and submitting a group report on your discussion. Participation also requires that you read the assigned material for the week and engage in class discussions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Undergraduate Chair: Prof. Sherrie Larkin, SSC 3328, Tel: 519-661-2111 x85084
Department Chair: Prof. Dan Jorgensen, SSC 3323 Tel: 519-661-3430 (Dpt tel. number)

For students requiring special accommodation

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Medical Absences: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. (See UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading].

If for medical reasons you are unable to submit an assignment that is worth less than 10% of your total course grade on time, you need to see me during my office hours to discuss the problem and if warranted to arrange for an alternative date. Failure to submit or fulfil assignments for non-medical reasons will result in a zero grade for that particular assignment.

Make-up Exams: One make-up test will be given for all students with a written note and permission from the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to contact the TAs who will organize the make-up test to ensure all can attend. No second make-up test will be given for students who miss it.

Scholastic offences: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. **Plagiarism is a major academic offence** (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Absence from Class: If you miss class three times for non-medical reasons 1% of your final grade will be deducted, 5% will be deducted from your final grade if you miss more than five classes and it will affect your participation grade.

Class environment: The class is structured in a way that encourages you to present your ideas freely and critically. Disagreement over ideas is healthy and I expect you to express these freely, to differ and engage in debates, but with respect. By showing how and why you disagree with a person from an academic point of view, you contribute to a friendly and lively class environment. Disrespect and obstruction of the learning process will not be tolerated. In short, focus on the issues and learn how to conduct a discussion with scholarly and clear arguments.

Websites

- Libraries: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>
- Office of the Registrar: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
- Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
- Accommodated Exams: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm/examinations/accommodated-exams/>
- Scholastic Offences:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- Anthropology Department: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/uprog.html>

ENJOY THE COURSE!

SUMMARY TABLE

WeekDate	Topic	Films	Group Presentation	Exams Written Assign's	Little Bee; Class discussions
W 1 Jan 9	<i>Introduction and organization</i>	X	X	X	Discussion
W 2 Jan 16	<i>Definitions, law, the UNHCR</i>	X	X	Group exercise	Discussion
W 3 Jan 23	<i>A Global Perspective</i>	X	X	Group Little Bee	Discussion
W 4 Jan 30	<i>Humanitarianism</i>	Yes	Pre. 1	X	Discussion
W 5 Feb 6	<i>Protracted Refugee Cases</i>	Yes	X	X	Discussion
W 6 Feb 13	<i>Test 1 and Documentary</i>	Yes	X	Exam 1	X
W 7 Feb 20	<i>Reading Week</i>	X	X	X	X
W 8 Feb 27	<i>Complex Forced Migration</i>	X	Pre.2,3	Group Little Bee	Discussion
W 9 Mar 5	<i>Gender and displacement</i>	X	Pre. 4,5	X	Discussion
W 10 Mar 12	<i>Urban Refugees and IDPs</i>	X	Pre. 6,7	Essay Proposal	Discussion
W 11 Mar 19	<i>Exam 2</i>	Yes	X	Exam 2	X
W 12 Mar 26	<i>Refugee Children</i>	X	Pre. 8,9	Group Little Bee	Discussion
W 13 Apr 2	<i>Trafficking</i>	X	Pre.10,11,12	X	Discussion
W 14 Apr 9	<i>Review</i>	X	X	Essay due	Discussion