ANTH 2283F-200
Refugees and the Displaced: An Anthropological Approach to Forced Migration
Department of Anthropology
Preliminary Course Outline
Fall 2021

Class time: Wednesdays 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Classroom: SSC-2020

Instructor: Dr. Randa Farah
Office: SSC 3423
Email: rfarah2@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBA

TA: TBA
Office:
Email:
Office hours:

Credit Value: 0.5
Prerequisite(s): Any Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.
Antirequisite: none

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enroll in it, you may 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 that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

In this course, we contextualize refugees and displacement within global processes and identify larger structural causes which force people to flee their homes and homelands. In most cases, especially during mass flight from armed conflict or natural disasters, the international humanitarian regime springs to action. However, humanitarian assistance is underpinned by power relationships and worldviews that operate to reproduce the bureaucracies or organizations and maintain control over the recipients of aid or the “beneficiaries”. Using a critical approach, we examine refugee cases from around the world, including Canada, as well as the humanitarian regime, as well as definitions and classifications of uprooted peoples. Categories we study include asylum seekers, stateless populations, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). We also discuss the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, as well
as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is the primary institution with a mandate to provide protection and assistance to refugees. Drawing on scholarly works, lectures, documentaries, as well as invited speakers we take a deeper look at individual and collective experiences of displacement, and what these tell us about power structures and relationships.

It is critical that students come prepared to class in order discuss the readings assigned each week. Attendance and active participation in class discussions will create a lively environment and promotes learning through the exchange of ideas and in-class debates.

Course Materials

Readings will be posted on the course website on OWL.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define a refugee in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, and be able to examine the gap between laws and regulations and refugee experiences.

- Situate the discourse and practices of large humanitarian organizations within global power structures.

- Analyze the status of a ‘refugee’ within a geopolitical order wherein the nation-state is the basic unit.

- Differentiate between a "refugee" and other categories such as economic migration, while problematizing such definitions and legal statuses by juxtaposing these with real life experiences.

- Examine the effects of displacement on sociocultural dynamics.

- Evaluate the strategies and coping mechanisms of refugees who encounter adverse conditions before, during and following their displacement.
• Analyze imperial wars and capitalist expansion as major causes of displacement.

• Interpret how restrictive borders and laws affect asylum seekers.

• Assess ethical conduct and principles in the study of refugees and other vulnerable populations.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Short test</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Short paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 100%

There may be slight modifications but not assignments and weight percentages or evaluations. Students have the responsibility to attend class and follow up on announcements by checking the course website on OWL.