

Department of Anthropology

ANTH 3389B-001

ADVANCED SPECIAL TOPICS IN REFUGEE AND MIGRANT STUDIES

TOPIC: RISKY PASSAGES AND RESTRICTIVE BORDERS

REFUGEES AND THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

WINTER 2023

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Version Date: Dec. 2, 2022

Classes

Thursdays 1:30-3:30 pm, Classroom SH-3305

Instructor

Dr. Randa Farah

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Office Hours: TBA

Requisites

Prerequisite: Registration in third year or above.

Antirequisite: None.

Course Description

Airports, harbors, and militarized borders furnished with cameras and detectors are symbols of an era of increasing fear, discrimination, and dehumanization of migrants and refugees. Some scholars use terms such as “Global Apartheid” and “Fortress Europe” to describe restrictive borders as mechanisms of power that prevent most of the poor and those considered undesirable from entering rich industrial countries, especially North America, Europe, and Australia. In this geopolitical landscape, place of origin, class, race, national/ethnic identity, religion, or a combination thereof are markers for inclusion or exclusion, acceptance or rejection, and mobility or immobility. In contrast, borders-as-bridges facilitate the movement of people deemed “risk-free”, also capital, labor (when needed), and commodities. This skewed cartography is reproduced by instilling fear of ‘others’ who are increasingly recast as potential criminals, security threats, or queue-jumpers. Despite the hardening of borders, the poor and the marginal continue to take perilous journeys to seek safety and a better life. Many risk death and indeed drown as they sail high seas in flimsy boats, or cross harsh deserts to avoid guards

and sophisticated technologies. Others remain trapped at borders in detention centers, miserable camps, or dangerous zones, living in limbo and unable to seek any form of protection or safety from any state. Drawing on readings, lectures, class discussions, documentary films, and a guest speaker, the course engages students to critically examine changing and complex borders and what they tell us about the global order, and the effects of these on migrants and their journeys. In the first part, the focus is historical and global, dealing with the fall of empires, and the emergence of the international refugee regime. In another segment, we trace the emergence of restrictive and complex borders accompanied by the erosion of refugee rights, especially international protection. We will draw on case studies and ethnographies such as the US-Mexico border, Fortress Europe, and other examples from around the world. We will discuss how refugees strategize to adapt to changing border regimes. We will read/hear through stories and documentaries, the voices of refugees as we follow their precarious journeys, which do not necessarily turn out to be to the “promised land” they imagined and do not always have happy endings.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Analyze the historical emergence of borders and increasing state control over border crossings.
- Identify and distinguish among various types of borders and what these tell us about political, socio-economic, and cultural contexts.
- Analyze the changing priorities and discourse of the international refugee regime to discourage people from the global south from seeking refuge in rich industrial states.
- Analyze contemporary borders as refracting the political order based on the nation-state and territorial sovereignty.
- Examine borders and borderlands as dynamic zones of social and cultural exchanges.
- Apply the knowledge acquired in order to better comprehend refugee experiences.
- Apply what was learned to analyze other cases for comparative purposes.

Course Materials

Students will be able to access readings through OWL’s “Course Reading”.

Evaluation

Assignment	Weight/Percentage	Date
1. Short Test 1	15%	Wk 4 - Feb 2
2. Short Test 2	15%	Wk 6 - Feb 16
3. Short Test 3	15%	Wk 8 - March 9
4. Short Paper 1	25%	Wk 7 - March 2
5. Short Paper 2	25%	Wk 12 - April 6
6. <u>Quiz</u>	5%	Wk 10 – March 23
Total	100%	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

If you have missed any course work, you may be eligible for Academic Consideration to make up missed course work at a later time. Please consult Western's updated policy "[What is Academic Considerations?](#)"

Students should not provide individual instructors with documentation in support of consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences must be submitted to the student's home Faculty Counselling Office.

Any missed assessments require formal academic consideration from your Faculty of Registration Academic Counselling Office. Students who routinely miss class and course work will undoubtedly not meet the learning outcomes and thus not pass this course.

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical

illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

For more information, please refer to [Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students](#).

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