

Department of Anthropology
ANTH 2283A-001 - Refugees and the Displaced
PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2023



Jenin refugee camp after the Israeli army incursion. (Wafa Images / Ayman Noubani) July 2023
[source](#)

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Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Randa Farah

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Credit Value: 0.5

Antirequisites: The former Anthropology 2283F/G.

Course Description:

In this course, we draw on case studies from around the world to examine the underlying causes that compel millions of people to flee their countries of habitual residence, or their homes, lands, and homelands. We also examine some of the challenges they encounter upon displacement, and how they cope with their new habitats, including living in refugee camps. There are many factors that lead to displacement, and these include armed conflicts and violence, statelessness,

environmental disasters, and development-induced displacement. Undoubtedly, power differentials and structural inequalities, are fundamental in explaining why the majority of refugees and the displaced are from the global South, are poor and/or belong to marginalized populations. We also examine the international humanitarian regime also underpinned by power relationships between benefactors/donors and beneficiaries. We will read scholarly articles and literature, listen to lectures, watch documentaries, and engage in presentations and discussions to gain a deeper understanding of refugee experiences, and to analyze the processes and histories that lead to displacement and their consequences. Attendance and active participation in class discussions will create a lively environment and promotes learning through the exchange of ideas and in-class debates.

More information on the dates and specific activities will be provided at the beginning of the term.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Analyze the status of a 'refugee' within a geopolitical order in which the nation-state is the basic political unit.
- Differentiate between different forms of displacement and the designations conferred by the international community juxtaposing these categories with real-life experiences.
- Analyze the relationship between imperialism and displacement.
- Analyze the humanitarian regime and the related power structures that shape refugee experiences.
- Examine refugee camps as spaces of domination and resistance.
- Assess ethical conduct in the study of refugees and other vulnerable populations.

Course Materials:

You need to buy the following novel, it is probably cheaper to purchase the ebook:

Abulhawa. Susan. 2010. *Mornings in Jenin: A Novel*. Bloomsbury Publisher, Bloomsbury, USA.

All other reading materials will be posted on OWL (Course Readings) by the first class.

Evaluation:

First Short Test	10%	Oct 10
First Reflection Paper	15%	Oct 24 (2-3 pages)
Second Short Test	15%	Nov 21
Second Reflection Paper	15%	Nov 28 (2-3 pages)
Group presentations:	15%	(in lieu of may choose a paper) Weeks 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13.
Final exam	30%	(December 10-22)

Short Tests 10% + 15%= 25%

There will be two in-class short tests that will cover the lectures, readings, and documentaries.

The first, October 10th, will cover materials from the beginning of the term to week 4 (inclusive of material covered in week 4).

The second, November 21st, will cover lectures, readings, and documentaries from week 5 to week 10 (inclusive of week 10). No make-ups will be permitted for missed tests, except in cases where

academic accommodation has been granted. The format will be mixed: multiple choice, true and false, definitions, short answers.

Reflection Papers – 15% x 2

The number of pages for each paper is 3-4 pages or 750-1000 words (1000 words is the maximum) double-spaced pages (Times New Roman 12). Use three scholarly references for each.

The short papers should be submitted online using the Assignment tab on Owl. More details will be provided on the first day of class.

For your **first reflection paper due October 24**: choose one of the following, drawing on a specific case or refugee population: Use three scholarly sources for each paper (minimum).

- a) the role of environmental and/or development-induced displacement (e.g. Horn of Africa).
- b) select a case study to write about the effects of violence and displacement on women, and whether you believe this is a universal condition or context-specific (that is, are women always more victimized than men by displacement or does displacement affect men, women and children differently?). Select one or more case studies to develop your argument.

The **second reflection paper due November 28** will be about the historical novel *Mornings in Jenin* (the name of a town and a refugee camp in Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories), in the paper:

- a) discuss how the novel was helpful or not in understanding refugee experiences in general and the Palestinian refugees in particular. Has the novel shed light on the realities of Palestinian refugees today?

All required papers will 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).

Group Presentations – 15%

Four to five students will present on a refugee case or theme not covered in class. Individual students may opt for a reflection paper in lieu of participating in a group. The duration of the presentation will be half an hour, followed by a 15-minute class discussion. To encourage debate, the group is required to prepare one to two questions related to the presentation for the class to discuss. Each student in the group will submit to the instructor a brief outline of their contribution to the group presentation, such as which literature they looked at, whether they participated in preparing the PowerPoint, and the main ideas that they learned from their research. These individual written outlines should not exceed one double-spaced page. The PowerPoint presentation and the text should be submitted to the instructor on the day of the presentation. More details will be discussed in class and made available on the course OWL site.

Final Exam – 30%

The final exam (two hours) will cover all lectures, readings, and documentaries covered during the term that is from week 1 to the last class. Group presentations are **NOT** included in the final exam. The format will be mixed and may include: multiple choice, true and false, definitions, and short and long answers.

Late Policy for Assignments

There will be a 3% reduction of the assignment grade for each day that an assignment is late (including weekends and holidays). Unless accommodation is granted, assignments that are not handed in within 7 days of the due date (including weekends and holidays) may receive a grade of zero.

Academic Statements and Policies:

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.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:

In order to pass this course students must complete the final exam.

Use of OWL

Western's online course management program, will be used for providing the final course outline using the Syllabus page, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communicating with the class (using the Announcements tool). Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available on OWL. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

Academic Consideration for Student Absences:

For students who have missed, or will miss, any course work, whether it be for medical related or non-medical related, please read the details and instructions on "[What is Academic Consideration](#)".

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.

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students with disabilities, religious holidays, consideration for medical illness, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

Weekly Topics and Readings:

Weekly topics and readings will be provided in OWL by the first day of class.

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