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 2024
COURSE OUTLINE

Version Date: January 15, 2024

Instructor and course information:
Instructor: Dr. Randa Farah
Email: rfarah2@uwo.ca
Credit Value: 0.5
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. 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”, as well as capital, labor (when needed), and commodities. Despite the hardening of borders, the poor and the marginal continue to take perilous journeys to seek safety and a better life. Many people 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. We will draw on case studies and ethnographies such as the US-Mexico border, Fortress Europe, and other
examples from around the world to examine how migrants experience restrictive borders. We will read/hear through stories and documentaries, the voices of refugees as we follow their precarious journeys, which 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.
- Analyze the use of new border technologies and their effects on migrants.
- Identify and distinguish among various types of borders and what these tell us about political, socio-economic, and cultural contexts.
- 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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight/Percentage</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Short Test 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Wk 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Short Paper 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Wk 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Short Test 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Wk 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Short Paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Wk 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Final Exam Period</td>
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Total 100%

**Short Tests**

The first short test will cover lectures, readings and documentaries from Week 2 – 6 (includes week 2 but excludes week 7). The second short test will cover lectures, readings and documentaries from week 7 – 10 (includes week 7 but excludes week 11). The format will be mixed: multiple choice, true and false, short answers, and definitions. To accommodate
students who need a bit more time to complete the test, it will be a one-hour test although it should not take more 40 min to complete.

**Short Papers**

The first short paper (Times New Roman, 3-4 pages double-spaced) 20% is due week 8. Using ideas from lectures, course readings, and library sources (peer-reviewed) select a border (not covered in class) and discuss the experiences of migrants and asylum seekers attempting to cross.

In the second paper, use examples to discuss why the use of biometrics is detrimental to migrants including asylum seekers. Analyze why you think in the cases you chose the state(s) have hardened their borders.

Please note: You may choose another topic as long as it relates to course themes, but please discuss it with me before you start writing.

**References/Citation:** Use scholarly sources. (Do not use Wikipedia- it is not a scholarly source). Internet sources are also not allowed, unless they are articles from scholarly journals, such as American Anthropologist, Refuge, Journal of Refugee Studies, Journal of Borderlands Studies, Journal of African Studies, etc.

Chicago Style or APA, make sure that you use *in-text citation*. 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. Unless the quote is particularly appropriate, paraphrasing is more effective. Failure to cite the original source of ideas that are not yours leads to plagiarism with serious consequences for your academic life (see paragraph on plagiarism).

Examples Chicago Style, (you may use another style as long as it allows for entering citation that includes author, year and page number, and be consistent in the style you use.

A citation for a book appearing in the text as: (Nader 2020, 26-28).

In the Bibliography:


A citation for a journal article appearing in the text as (Smith and Gupta 2020, 243).

In the Bibliography:

**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. The format will be mixed and may include: multiple choice, true and false, definitions, and short and long answers.

**Late Policy for Assignments**

Late Assignments: I will accept late assignments two days after the deadline without penalty, after that and unless accommodation is granted, 2% of your paper 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.

**Academic Statements and Policies:**

**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.

**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”.

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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1 Jan 09 Introduction
Introduction to the course, assignments, and expectations

Week 2 Jan 16 Borders: Historical, Social and Geopolitical

Week 3 Jan 23 Biopolitics, Surveillance, and Borders of Exclusion


Week 4 Jan 30 Fortress Europe

Week 5 Feb 6  Extending Territorial Sovereignty and Detention in Islands
Mountz, Alison. 2011. The enforcement archipelago: Detention, haunting, and asylum on islands A Political Geography (30), 118-128.


Week 6 Feb 13 Borders: Trauma and Resilience


Feb 19 – 25 Reading Week

Week 7 Feb 27  Humanitarianism and its Dilemmas  First Test 1 15%


Week 8 Mar 5 Detention at Borders  First Paper 2 (3-4 pages) 20%


Week 9 March 12  Walls, Power and Resistance

Week 10 March 19 Crossing Boundaries in the Neoliberal Age  GUEST LECTURE


Week 11 March 26 – Remembering the Victims  Second Test 15%

Video/documentary: “Witness –Photographing the Exodus – Part 1 and 2”
Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eNcj7BRGfY&feature=relmfu
Part 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKbEENRTuZ4&feature=relmfu

Week 12 April 2 Class Discussion and Review  Second Paper 2 (3-4 pages) 20%

Final Exam: Exam Period