

HPCH 343 Fall 2023
Forced Migration (3 Credits)
Wednesday 5:30-8 pm (Beirut time)
Virtual

INSTRUCTOR

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Office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides: 1) an introduction to key legal, social, and political frameworks on forced migration (internal and cross-border) and the meaning of the term refugee as a political and social construct; 2) a survey of forms of forced migration and their continuities; and 3) a critical approach to the international refugee humanitarian and protection system. The course addresses forced migration as a global phenomenon but synthesizes conceptual and legal writings on the subject with refugee experiences in the global south particularly the Arab region. It incorporates readings from multiple disciplines (including literature), documentaries, and invited talks by scholar-activists. The course's thematic focus is health, broadly conceived, and its philosophical orientation is embedded in demands for human rights and justice for all refugees.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (LOS)

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of legal, social, and political frameworks in the field of forced migration and refugee studies
2. Describe and critique the main international players that provide humanitarian relief and protection to refugees
3. Engage in theoretical debates on forced migration (internal and cross-border), drawing on historical and current refugee experiences in the Arab region and the global south
4. Analyze, through a critical lens, the impact of legal, social, and economic factors on the wellbeing of refugees and internally displaced populations

COURSE FORMAT

- Class will meet virtually on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82534774094?pwd=UE9aczhpG1HU3dYTEJ1NS9Xdz09>
- Most course sessions will be run as a seminar whereby students will be expected to co-facilitate class discussion.

READINGS

Required readings are posted on *Moodle*. Optional & background readings are also posted on *Moodle* for your reference during the semester and beyond.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Participation: 20% (*LOs 1-4*)

Student commitment to reading and participation in class discussions is critical to the success of the course as a learning experience. Every week, one student will select a current news article relevant to forced migration, share it on Moodle, and facilitate a 10–15-minute discussion.

- Assignment 1; 35% (*LOs 1 & 2*)

Guidelines for this assignment will be shared. It will be designed to feed into the final paper.

- Final paper: 45% (*LOs 1-4*)

This assignment counts for a large proportion of the grade because it involves carrying out in-depth research on a topic related to forced migration and writing a critical review paper. This is an individual assignment; each student will select a topic of interest and commence the research and writing early in the semester. The paper ought to be of high quality and display good research and synthesis of theoretical writings.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

The conduct of a master's level student in this course and in the Faculty of Health Sciences in general should be consistent with that of a public health professional. This includes committing to learning and exhibiting honesty and respect toward faculty, guest speakers, administrative staff, and classmates. Students should also expect faculty to treat them fairly and respectfully and to support and guide them in the learning process.

In this course, it is expected that students prioritize rights and justice over other practical considerations irrespective of the issue under discussion. All students are encouraged to voice their views and to feel free to disagree with the instructor, a classmate, or a reading. You are strongly discouraged from agreeing with everything the instructor says and/or holding back out of fear that this may affect your grade in the course. However, know that the instructor will challenge remarks that stigmatize or dehumanize a particular social group, or that deny refugees rights and normalize injustice.

The goal in this course is to help you learn as much as you can/want by the end of the semester. You are expected to submit work that reflects your own effort and learning process and to void short cuts at all costs as, oftentimes, there is a thin line between a short cut and plagiarism.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Students with special needs who anticipate difficulties with the content or format of the course due to physical or learning disabilities should contact the instructor and/or their academic advisor, as well as the Counseling Center in the Office of Student Affairs (Ext. 3196) as soon as possible to discuss their learning needs.

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

Date	Topic & Readings	LOs
Aug 30	Introductions -Nguyen, VT. (2018). <i>The Displaced</i> . New York: Abrams Press.	1
Sep 6	The Refugee Convention, UNHCR, & Non-Refoulement -Readings from: Betts, A., Loescher, G., Milner, J. (2012). <i>UNHCR: The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection</i> . Routledge. -Carciotto, S. & Ferraro, F. (2020). Building Blocks and Challenges for the Implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees in Africa. <i>Journal on Migration and Human Security</i> , 8(1):83-95.	1, 2, 3
Sep 13	Refugee or Migrant? Labeling, Classification, and Categorization of Refugees -Readings from: Hamlin, R. (2021). <i>Crossing: How We Label and React to People on the Move</i> . Stanford University Press. -Erdal, M. B. and Oeppen, C. (2018). Forced to leave? The discursive and analytical significance of describing migration as forced and voluntary. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> , 44(6): 981-998. <i>-Guest Speaker</i> <i>Rima Rassi, doctoral researcher in development studies at the International Institute of Social Studies – Erasmus University Rotterdam and instructor in sociology at AUB.</i> <i>“UNCHR in Lebanon (2011-present): Negotiating Refugee Response in a Non-Signatory Country”</i>	1, 2, 3, 4
Sep 20	Exceptional Refugees? Palestinians & UNRWA -Readings from Irfan, A. (2023). <i>Refuge and Resistance: Palestinians and the International Refugee System</i> . Columbia University Press. -Feldman, I. (2012). The challenge of categories: UNRWA and the Definition of a ‘Palestine Refugee’. <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i> , 25(3): 387-406. <i>-Begin reading Kanafani, G. Men in the Sun.</i>	1, 2, 3, 4
Sep 27	<i>Prophet’s Birthday Holiday</i>	
Oct 4	Internal Displacement & Climate Refugees -Cantor, DJ. & Apollo, JO. (2020). Internal Displacement, Internal Migration, and Refugee Flows: Connecting the Dots. <i>Refugee Survey Quarterly</i> , 39(4): 647-664.	1, 2, 3, 4

	<p>-Piguet, E. (2013). From “Primitive Migration” to “Climate Refugees”: The Curious Fate of the Natural Environment in Migration Studies. <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i>, 103(1): 148-162.</p> <p><i>-Documentary</i> <i>Struggle over the Nile, Masters no More.</i></p>	
Oct 11	<p>The “Humanitarian-Refugee-Development Nexus”</p> <p>-Zetter, R. (2019). Theorizing the Refugee Humanitarian-Development Nexus: A Political Economy Analysis. <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i>, 34(2): 1766-1786.</p> <p>-Brun, C. (2023). Subtracting Development through the Production of Il/legality of Young Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. <i>Refugee Survey Quarterly</i>.</p> <p><i>-Guest Speaker</i> <i>Cathrine Brun, Deputy Director of Research, Centre for Lebanese Studies.</i></p>	1, 3, 4
Oct 18	<p>Smuggling, Trafficking, Forced or Voluntary Migration</p> <p>-Readings from: Tinti, P & Reitano, T. (2018). <i>Migrant, Refugee, Smuggler, Saviour</i>. Hurst Publishers.</p> <p>-Maher, S. (2018). Out of West Africa: Human Smuggling as a Social Enterprise. <i>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i>, 676(1): 36-56.</p> <p><i>-Discuss Men in the Sun.</i></p>	1, 2, 3, 4
Oct 25	<p>Refugee Children & Unaccompanied Minors</p> <p>-Rodriguez, N., Urrutia-Rojas, X., Gonzalez, LR. (2019). Unaccompanied Minors from the Northern Central American Countries in the Migrant Stream: social Differential and Institutional Contexts. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i>, 45(2):</p> <p>-Maioli, SC., et al. (2021). International Migration of Unaccompanied Minors: Trends, Health, Risks, and Legal Protection. <i>The Lancet</i>, 5(12): 882-894.</p> <p><i>-Documentary</i> <i>Which Way Home?</i></p>	1, 3
Nov 1	<p>Colonialism, Racism, and Forced Displacement</p> <p>-Readings from: Mayblin, L. & Turner, J. (2021). <i>Migration Studies and Colonialism</i>. Polity Press.</p> <p>-Collyer, M. & Shahani, U. (2023). Offshoring Refugees: Colonial Echoes of the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership. <i>Social Sciences</i>, 12:451.</p> <p><i>-Documentary</i> <i>The Great Migration.</i></p>	1, 2, 3, 4

Nov 8	Refugees versus Refugee Agencies -Janmyr, M. (2018). UNHCR and the Syrian refugee response: negotiating status and registration in Lebanon. <i>The International Journal of Human Rights</i> , 22(3): 393-419. <i>-Guest Speaker</i> <i>Anne Irfan, Lecturer in interdisciplinary race, gender, and postcolonial studies at University College London.</i>	1, 3, 4
Nov 15	Session TBD	
Nov 22	<i>Independence Day Holiday</i>	
Nov 29	Meetings Final paper	
Date TBD	***Final papers due ***	