

ANTH 5300.810/820: Migrants and Refugees

Fall 2018

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Office Hours: By appointment, virtual or in-office

“... the novelty of our era, which threatens the very foundations of the nation-state, is that growing portions of humanity can no longer be represented within it. For this reason – that is, inasmuch as the refugee unhinges the old trinity of state/nation/territory – this apparently marginal figure deserves rather to be considered the central figure of our political history.”

- Giorgio Agamben

Course Description

While the current migration and refugee “crises” might garner constant media attention across the globe, rarely does the reporting go beyond a surface understanding and why and how people are moving. In this course, we will approach migration from a structural perspective that connects global politics and economics to individual narratives of movement. First, we will address the root causes of displacement that have forced millions of people to flee their homes. Then, we will cover the creation, maintenance, and enforcement of borders with a comparative focus on the frontiers of Mexico-U.S. and Europe-Africa. Finally, we will discuss the strategies and processes by which migrants create a sense of place, emplacement, amid their dislocation from the familiar.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will gain a foundational understanding of key terms and theories of migration studies.
2. Students will identify the larger structural causes of displacement and forced migration.
3. Students will become experts of (at least) one case study of a displaced population.
4. Students will compare the historical construction and current functioning of the US/Mexico and Europe/Africa borders.
5. Students will conduct an ethnographic interview with a migrant/displaced person and use the course material to analyze it.

Required Materials

1. Students will be expected to obtain the following three books:

- a) Andersson, Ruben. 2014. *Illegality, Inc.: Clandestine Migration and the Business of Bordering Europe*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- b) de León, Jason. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- c) Besteman, Catherine. *Making Refuge: Somali Bantu Refugees and Lewiston, Maine*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

2. All other readings and materials will be made available to students via the course’s Canvas website.

Technical Support

Student Helpdesk:

UIT Helpdesk
 Sage Hall 130
 940-565-2324
helpdesk@unt.edu

Technical Skill Requirements

To be successful in this class, students will need to be able to: download and upload files, send and receive emails and navigate Canvas.

Netiquette

Virtual Classroom Citizenship: The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper *netiquette* when interacting with class members and the professor.

How the Course is Organized

The course is divided into 3 units: displacement, crossing borders, and emplacement. In each unit, students will be required to participate in 2-3 discussions, create one vlog (10-minute video presentation), and write one paper.

Grading

Grades will be determined according to the following weighted categories

Category	% of Final Grade
Discussions (8)	30
Vlogs (3)	30
Papers (3)	40

1. Discussion Posts

For each discussion, students will be expected to submit one original post, and two responses to classmates. The first post should answer each question in the prompt in 400-600 words. In order to ensure adequate time for students to respond to each other, the first posts will be due Thursday before midnight on the week assigned. The two responses should contribute to the discussion with substantial additions, not simple expressions of agreement or disagreement. Generally, I would expect them to be at least 100 words in length. They will be due Sunday before midnight on the weeks assigned.

Original posts will be graded out of 6 points, while the two responses will be out of 2 points for a total of 10 points per discussion.

2. Vlogs

Students will be expected to create three video blogs throughout the course. These vlogs will be based on research conducted by the student in reference to a given question or topic. Students may submit the videos as files or as links to websites (youtube, dropbox). They should last 10 minutes. Vlogs will be graded out of 20 points (a rubric will be provided).

3. Paper Assignments

Students will be expected to write three “term” papers throughout the course. These papers will be the culminating exercise of each unit and will ask students to develop an argument in response to the key questions and topics of each unit. Papers will be approximately 5 pages in length (or 1250 words). Papers will be graded out of 100 points.

Course Policies

1. Late assignments: If a deadline has passed, students will be allowed to submit late assignments if, and only if, they submit documentation signed by a medical professional that attests to student’s inability to have submitted the work on time.
2. Assignment extensions: The professor will be much more likely to grant an extension if a student requests it prior to the deadline – *earlier the better*.
3. Withdrawal: If you are unable to complete this course you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate.
4. Course Communication: I expect you to check your UNT email on a regular basis as this will be the only format for all course communication outside of the classroom. I require 24 hours to respond to any emails sent between Monday and Friday. Over the weekends and on holidays I require 48 hours to respond.
5. Academic Honesty Policy: The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. For

information on the University's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

6. ADA Policy: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

7. Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://www.ecfr.gov/>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (a) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (b) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.