

# ANTH 4300.810/820

## Migrants and Refugees

### Fall 2013

**Course Instructor:** Rhonda Collins

**Course Designer:** Alicia Re Cruz

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**Office Hours:** 9:30-11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment

#### **Instructional Assistants:**

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#### **Course Description:**

The term **displacement**, which refers to the movement of individuals or groups, is an important concept in the discussion of current globalizing trends. Cross-border and internal population movements have assumed dimensions beyond the response capacity of any single governmental or international body.

This course focuses on the social groups of migrants and refugees who have significantly contributed to the development of human cultures and offers an anthropological understanding of these “uprooted” social groups, who voluntarily or involuntarily have to leave their country and culture of origin. It examines the migratory effects on enculturation, socialization and adaptation to the host society. Worldwide political, economic, and social issues are analyzed in order to examine the phenomenon of displacement holistically.

#### **Course Objectives:**

- To have students develop a cultural understanding of displacement, particularly focused on “the human experience.”
- To encourage students to have an open-minded approach regarding how different groups of people react and experience displacement in different ways.
- To have students exercise critical thinking in identifying the causes of displacement and in applying the basic models and theories of migration.
- To equip students with the academic and research skills to better analyze globalization through the phenomenon of displacement.

#### **Textbook:**

Mahler, Sarah (1995). *American Dreaming: Immigrant Life on the Margins*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press

## **Other Readings:**

Additional readings for this course will be available through BlackBoard. Some will be electronic copies of documents; others will be websites that you will need to read through completely and thoroughly.

## **General Instructions for Writing Assignments:**

1. Put a title, page numbers, your name and date on everything you hand in. All assignments should have 1-inch margins and 12 point font.
2. You will be graded on the following:
  - a. Grammar and spelling
  - b. Completeness
  - c. Coherence and organization
  - d. Degree of depth and thoughtfulness of expression in writing
  - e. Academic style of writing
3. Please read your writing out loud to yourself before handing it in. This will insure that it makes sense. Reading it out loud helps you to hear how your writing sounds and/or whether your ideas are clear or not.
4. All assignments are due Sunday at 11:30 pm of the lesson week. See the lesson for specific instructions. We will start with the Introduction of the course, on the week of August 25.

## **Student Evaluation:**

Assignments	50 points
Exam 1	25 points
Exam 2	25 points

Your final grade is based on the total points you receive during the semester.

A = 90 or more points

B = 80-89 points

C = 70-79 points

D = 60-69 points

F = fewer than 60 points

## **IMPORTANT FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THIS COURSE**

- Carefully read the lesson and any other assigned materials (BlackBoard lesson modules, book chapters, website text, etc.)
- Participate fully in the course. Your ideas, comments and feedback expressed in your assignments and shared by faculty and classmates are VERY important and valued.
- Log into the online course frequently during the week to check for updates, work on assignments and post them.
- Manage your time wisely in order to complete your assignments well before the last minute. WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON SUNDAYS AT 11:30 PM. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Seek assistance immediately if you are experiencing any difficulties. Your teaching assistant and/or instructor can help you!
- Given the interdisciplinary and broad nature of this course, you are encouraged to contribute your own particular interests and experiences to the general discussion throughout the semester.

## Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should be cited. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; if found guilty they can receive an automatic “F” in the course. In addition, I reserve the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in your dismissal from the university.

For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

## Office of Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking 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 an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 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 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.

*The Anthropology Department does not discriminate on the basis of an individual’s disability as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities in its programs and activities. Attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements.*

## Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

# **Tentative Schedule**

**NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or revise segments of the syllabus.

## **Introduction**

**August 25-31**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Mahler; American Dreaming (Chapter 1)

## **Lesson 1: Actors of Displacement**

**September 1-7**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Malkki; Refugees and Exile

## **Lesson 2: Beyond Borders: National and Global Boundaries**

**September 8-14**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Mahler; American Dreaming (Chapter 2 and 3)
2. Nye; Globalism Versus Globalization

## **Lesson 3: Root Causes: The Interplay Between Politics, Economics and Violence**

**September 15-21**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Messer; Anthropology and Human Rights
2. Nygren; Violent Conflicts and Threatened Lives: Nicaraguan Experiences of Wartime Displacement and Postwar Distress

## **Lesson 4: Theorizing Migration: Theoretical Approaches to Migration**

**September 22-28**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Brettell; Migration Theory
2. Zolberg; The Next Waves: Migration Theory for a Changing World

## **Lesson 5: Refugee Resettlement**

**September 29-October 5**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Keles; The Structural Negligence of US Refugee Resettlement Policy
2. Speed; At the Crossroads of Human Rights and Anthropology
3. Shandy; The Road to Refugee Resettlement

## **Exam 1 Review**

**October 6-11**

*Study guide will be provided in preparation for mid-term exam*

## **Exam 1: Oct 12 or 13**

## **Lesson 6: Displacement in Latin America**

**October 13-19**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Mahler; American Dreaming (Chapter 4 and 5)
2. Graham; Political Incorporation and Re-Incorporation: Simultaneity in the Dominican Migrant Experience

## **Lesson 7: Displacement in Africa**

**October 20-26**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Crisp; Mind the gap! UNHCR, humanitarian assistance and the development process

## **Lesson 8: Displacement in Asia**

**October 27-November 2**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Grundy-Warr; Geographies of Displacement: The Karenni and the Shan Across the Myanmar-Thailand Border

## **Lesson 9: Displacement and Migration in Europe**

**November 3-9**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Fassin; Compassion and Repression
2. Giordano; Practices of Translation

## **Lesson 10: Displacement in The Middle East and North Africa**

**November 10-16**

*Reading Assignment:*

1. Feldman; Difficult Distinctions: Refugee Law, Humanitarian Practice, and Political Identification in Gaza

## **Lesson 11: TBA**

**November 17-23**

*Reading Assignment: TBA*

## **THANKSGIVING WEEK**

**November 24-30**

## **Exam 2 Review**

**December 2-7**

*Study guide will be provided in preparation for mid-term exam*

## **Exam 2: December 8 or 9**