

ANTH 4300.810
MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
Fall 2015

Course Designer: Dr. Alicia Re Cruz

Instructor: Melissa Nelson
e-mail: melissa.nelson@unt.edu
Office Hours: By appointment.

Please request an appointment via email at least 24hrs. in advance.

Instructional Assistants

1st IA: David McRae
Email: davidmcr@my.unt.edu

2nd IA: Luis Machado
Email: luismachado1291@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The term **displacement**, which refers to the movement of individuals or groups, is becoming 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 societies. Worldwide political, economic, and social issues are analyzed in order to examine the phenomenon of displacement holistically.

Given the interdisciplinary and broad nature of this course, I encourage you to contribute your own particular interests and experiences in your assignments throughout the semester.

Course Objectives:

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

REQUIRED READINGS

The readings for this course will be available online, though there are also several websites that you will need to read through completely and thoroughly. You will find the readings for each week at Course Content/Content/Lesson/Assignments file.

How to Navigate the Course Each Week:

1. Look for any new announcements
2. Open the Lesson that corresponds with the week
3. Read each file within the lesson as well as linked websites
4. Read the attached pdf files in the Assignments folder at the bottom of each lesson
5. Do the assignment

General Instructions for Writing Assignments:

1. Note that you will choose one prompt (of two) to write for each assignment. Each prompt can be found in the Assignments folder at the bottom of each Lesson. For instance, for Assignment #1, you will answer ONE of the (NOT BOTH) two prompts found in the Introduction Lesson and Lesson 1. For Assignment #2, you will answer the prompt from Lesson #2 or Lesson #3, and so on.
2. Put a title, page numbers, your name and date on everything you hand in. All assignments should be 1" margins, and 12 point font.
3. 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
4. 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 where your writing sounds and/or your ideas are not clear.
5. All assignments are due at midnight at the end of the second lesson in the pair. See the lesson for specific due dates. Assignments need to be posted in the Assignment tab in the left margin of Blackboard.
6. You will receive a grade within two weeks of submitting each assignment.

Instructions for Exams

1. There will be two exams: one midterm and one final.
2. Each exam will be worth 100 points.
3. Exams will consist of short answer and long answer questions.
4. Exams will be available for one week only and due at the end of the week (no exceptions!). When the week begins, you can download the exam, and then submit it (via

the Assignments tab in the Left margin) before the end of the week. Note: Finals week ends on a Friday at midnight, not Sunday like the rest of the work in the class.

5. Study Reviews are available to you and found under Course Content.
6. You will receive exam grades within one week of submission.

Student Evaluation:

Lesson Assignments	50% of grade
Midterm	25% of grade
Final	25% of grade

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

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

Schedule

Introduction

August 24 – 30

Reading Assignment:

1. Mahler; American Dreaming (Chapter 1) (Found as pdf in Course Content)

Lesson 1: Actors of Displacement

August 31 – September 6

Reading Assignment:

1. Malkki; Refugees and Exile (found in Assignments folder)

Written Assignment #1 (Choose only one: Introduction Prompt OR Lesson #1 prompt)

Due: September 6th *before* midnight

Lesson 2: Beyond Borders: National and Global Boundaries

September 7 - 13

Reading Assignment:

1. Mahler; American Dreaming (Chapter 2 and 3) (found as pdf in Course Content)
2. Nye; Globalism Versus Globalization (found in Globalism folder within Lesson #2)

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

September 14 – 20

Reading Assignment:

1. Messer; Anthropology and Human Rights (found in Assignments folder)
2. Nygren; Violent Conflicts and Threatened Lives: Nicaraguan Experiences of Wartime Displacement and Postwar Distress (found in Assignments folder)

Written Assignment #2 (Choose only one: Lesson #2 Prompt OR Lesson #3 prompt)

Due: September 20th *before* midnight

Lesson 4: Theorizing Migration: Theoretical Approaches to Migration

September 21 – 27

Reading Assignment:

1. Brettell; Migration Theory (found in Assignments folder)
2. Zolberg; The Next Waves: Migration Theory for a Changing World (found in Assignments folder)

MID TERM EXAM

September 28 – October 4

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

Midterm Due: October 4th *before* midnight

Lesson 5: Displacement in Latin America

October 5 - 11

Reading Assignment:

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

Written Assignment #3 (*Choose only one: Lesson #4 Prompt OR Lesson #5 prompt*)

Due: October 11th *before* midnight

Lesson 6: Displacement in Africa

October 12 – 18

Reading Assignment:

1. Crisp; Mind the gap! UNHCR, humanitarian assistance and the development process (found in Assignments folder)

Lesson 7: Displacement in Asia

October 19 - 25

Reading Assignment:

1. Grundy-Warr; Geographies of Displacement: The Karenni and the Shan Across the Myanmar-Thailand Border (found in Assignments folder)

Written Assignment #4 (*Choose only one: Lesson #6 Prompt OR Lesson #7 prompt*)

Due: October 25th *before* midnight

Lesson 8: Displacement and Migration in Europe

October 26 – November 8

Reading Assignment:

1. Fassin; Compassion and Repression (found in Assignments folder)
2. Giordano; Practices of Translation (found in Assignments folder)
3. Contemporary news articles from Europe (second week)

Lesson 9: Displacement in The Middle East and North Africa

November 9 - 15

Reading Assignment:

1. Feldman; Difficult Distinctions: Refugee Law, Humanitarian Practice, and Political Identification in Gaza (found in Assignments folder)

Written Assignment #5 (Choose only one: Lesson #8 Prompt OR Lesson #9 prompt)

Due: November 8th *before* midnight

Lesson 10: Refugee Resettlement

November 16 - 22

Reading Assignment:

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

Lesson 11: Case Study

November 23 – 29

Reading Assignment:

1. The Economics of Trafficking (found in Assignments folder)

Written Assignment 6 (Choose only one: Lesson #10 Prompt OR Lesson #11 prompt)

Due: November 29th *before* midnight

FINAL REVIEW AND FINAL EXAM

November 30 – December 11

Due: December 11th *before* midnight