POLI 164: International Politics of Forced Migration  
Fall 2013  
Tu/Th 2:00-3:45, Engineer 2 194

Professor Lamis Abdelaaty  
Office: 152 Merrill Annex  
Email: labdel@ucsc.edu  
Office Hours: W 1:00-3:00, and by appointment

Course Description  This course is an introduction to global issues in forced migration, the movement of people displaced by persecution, conflict, natural or human-made disasters, environmental change, or development projects. It is grounded in the international relations subfield, but students are expected to engage with ideas from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Topics covered include historical trends in, analytical approaches to, and the international legal framework governing forced migration. We also explore the causes, consequences, and responses by state and non-state actors to refugee flows. A series of examples from recent and current events are examined, including a case study of forced migration in the Arab Spring.

Learning Objectives  After taking this course, students should be able to:

- Distinguish between types of population movements and recognize worldwide patterns in forced migration
- Understand the origins and evolution of international legal and institutional frameworks governing forced migration
- Reflect critically on responses to asylum-seekers and refugees by states, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations
- Grasp the complexity, prevalence, and persistence of forced migration as a facet of political life

Requirements  Students should attend and participate actively in every class. Each student will prepare a 2 page memo, due on October 22, that covers a current or recent case of forced migration. In addition, there will be two papers assigned based on the reading materials. A 5-6 page paper covering Part II will be assigned on November 5 and due on November 12. A 7-8 page paper covering Part III will be assigned on December 3 and due on December 10.

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Policies

- **Readings**: You should arrive at every class having carefully read the assigned readings for that session. This will be necessary for you to follow the lectures, ask questions, and participate in class. Your understanding of the readings will be assessed in the papers assigned. Occasionally, you may be assigned a short op-ed or newspaper article covering current events in addition to the readings listed below.

- **Attendance**: Attendance is mandatory. You must show up on time to every class. More than two unexcused absences will result in a lower course grade. If you must miss a class due to religious observance, conflict with an extracurricular activity, illness, or a genuine family emergency let me know as soon as you possibly can.

- **Participation**: Your participation ensures that everyone benefits as much as possible from the course. Your participation grade will reflect the quality (not merely the quantity) of the remarks and questions you raise in class. All participants are expected to listen attentively and respond respectfully to others.

- **Written Assignments**: Each written assignment must be submitted in hard copy on the day and time indicated below. Any paper not submitted on time will be reduced by one full letter grade for every day that it is late. If you wish to contest your grade, you must explain in writing (within one week) why your grade is inaccurate in light of the comments you received. Contested grades may be adjusted upward or downward, or not at all.

- **Laptops**: Students may use laptops to consult class readings and take notes. Applications unrelated to the course should not be used during the class session.

- **Email Protocol**: I cannot guarantee instantaneous responses to email queries, so do not wait until the last minute to email me about potential issues or problems. As a general rule, I will do my best to respond within 24-48 hours. If you have a question that will require a lengthy or detailed answer, come to office hours (or, if you are unable to see me during regularly scheduled office hours, email me to schedule an appointment).

- **Students with Disabilities**: If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the quarter. You may submit this letter outside of class to ensure your anonymity. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

- **Academic Conduct**: Academic integrity is taken very seriously. All written work you submit for this class must represent your own work. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the university’s policies on academic integrity (undergraduate.ucsc.edu/acd_integrity/) and the Politics department’s citation requirements (politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.html).
Readings  The following book is required and available for purchase at the Bay Tree Bookstore. It is also available as an e-book through the University Library CruzCat Catalog (there are, however, restrictions on printing, copying, and downloading).


All other readings are available electronically via eCommons and UC-eLinks.

Course Outline

Part I. Preliminaries

Sept 26 – Introduction

Oct 1 – Concepts and Trends


Oct 3 – Analytical Approaches

- FMGP: “Chapter 1: International Relations Theories,” p. 18-42.

Oct 8 – Forced Migration, the State, and Globalization


Oct 10 – International Law on Forced Migration

- Skim Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees; Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
Oct 15 – Implementation and Limitations


PART II. Causes and Consequences of Refugee Flows

Oct 17 – Sources of Refugee Flows


Oct 22 – Security Implications of Refugee Flows

(Memo due in class at 2:00pm)


Oct 24 – Refugees as Weapons


Oct 29 – Statebuilding and Reconstruction

Oct 31 – Ethical Concerns


**PART III. RESPONSES TO REFUGEE MOVEMENTS**

Nov 5 – Responses by Developing Countries
(First paper assignment handed out)


Nov 7 – Responses by Developed Countries

- FMGP: “Case Study 1: Securitization of Asylum Since 9/11” p. 75-76.

Nov 12 – Asylum in the US
(First paper due in class at 2:00pm)


Nov 14 – International Cooperation on Refugees


Nov 19 – Regional Cooperation on Refugees

Nov 21 – Responses by International and Nongovernmental Organizations


Nov 26 – Humanitarianism


Part IV. Conclusions

Dec 3 – Forced Migration and the Arab Spring
(Second paper assignment handed out)

- TBA

Dec 5 – Future Challenges


Dec 10 – Second paper due by 11:00am at 152 Merrill Annex