



Middlebury C.V. Starr
Schools Abroad

Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (MSAB 2385) Fall Semester - 2020 / 2021

Instructor: Peter Nash Stavros

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Office Hours: By appointment [remote]

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the foundational aspects of refugee and forced migration studies. Students will develop an understanding of the framework that forms the bedrock of the modern global refugee regime. They will look at root causes of displacement, the historical context of the system currently in place, and various international and domestic instruments that govern the rights and obligations of refugees and host states. Class discussions will call on students to understand and analyze concepts such as persecution, the protected grounds upon which refugee status is granted, non-refoulement, and durable solutions. Students will also look at the stories of asylees and refugees, with a focus on those from the Middle East, including Palestinian refugees, and those who have fled to Jordan. To the extent possible, guest speakers will be invited.

Course Format

This course will operate as a seminar, meaning that students are expected to come to synchronous classes prepared and ready for in depth, critical discussion on the subject matter.

List of Topics

**Subject to change*

- Introduction to Forced Migration and its Root Causes
- Persecution: What it Is and What it is Not - Discrimination, Prosecution, and Violence
- The Protected Grounds: Race, Religion, Nationality, and Political Opinion
- The Protected Grounds: Membership in a Particular Social Group - Sexuality and Gender
- Refugee Resettlement, Local Integration, and Voluntary Repatriation
- Deportation, Non-Refoulement, Admissibility, Exclusion, and Cessation
- Ongoing Developments in the US & the Southern Border
- The Syrian Refugee “Crisis”
- The Non-Refugees? Palestinians and the Climate Displaced

Grading

Component	Weight	Description
Participation	15 %	Students must actively participate during all synchronous classes. Students will receive a grade of 1, 2, or 3 for participation. Absence will result in a grade of 0 for that week. The lowest participation grade will be dropped.
Asynchronous Response Papers	15 %	Students must submit weekly written responses to a question or set of questions related to the content of the asynchronous class for that week. This is due by the end of the day EST on Friday of every week when an asynchronous class takes place.
Case Study	20 %	<p>Students must research an ongoing or historical refugee flow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Presentation (10%)</u>: A 15 to 20-minute presentation of the case study during one of the synchronous classes must address at a minimum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History and cause of the refugee situation 2. Immediate effects on neighboring host states 3. Ultimate outcome or resolution of the refugee flow 4. Long term consequences. • <u>Write-Up (10%)</u>: Students must submit a 4 to 5-page write-up by the end of the day EST on Friday of the week that they gave their presentation. The write-up must answer the following question: <i>"How could this forced migration flow have been better handled?"</i> The write up should discuss at a minimum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 to 3 problems that arose during the refugee flow. 2. How host states or the international community attempted to address those problems. 3. Ways in which those solutions ultimately fell short. 4. Recommendations for an alternative approach or set of approaches that would have worked better.
Take Home Midterm	25 %	The take-home midterm will be distributed the morning of Wednesday October 14 . Responses are due by the end of the day EST on Friday October 16 .
Policy Proposal	25 %	<p>Students will submit a 6 to 7-page proposal recommending a new policy or a change to existing policy related to refugees either domestically or internationally. The paper should discuss at a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The issue the student is looking to address. 2. The existing policies, rules, and regulations dealing with that issue. 3. The benefits and drawbacks of these existing policies, rules, and regulations. 4. The proposed change to the policies, rules, and regulations. 5. The benefits and drawbacks of that proposed change. 6. Application of the new policy to a real historical or ongoing refugee situation showing a superior outcome should that change be adopted. <p>This is due by the end of the day EST on Friday December 5.</p>

Late Assignments

Assignments submitted late will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day. An assignment that is more than 3 days late will receive a grade of 0. All assignments are to be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of the class in which they are due, unless otherwise instructed.

ACCOMMODATION

If you have requested academic accommodations in your Middlebury course please check in with the Director of the School in Jordan regarding your requests during the first week of classes. It is your responsibility to communicate specific requests for accommodations to your instructor well in advance of deadlines. Contact the Director Kerstin Wilsch (kwilsch@middlebury.edu) if you have any questions or need assistance communicating with your instructor.

MIDDLEBURY HONOR CODE

The Middlebury College Honor Code applies to all academic work undertaken in this course. Honor Code violations, including plagiarism, cheating, duplicate use of written work, and other forms of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary measures up to and including dismissal from the program. More information on the Honor Code and academic honesty can be found in the Middlebury Handbook available at this [link](#).. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Honor Code and making sure their work does not violate the Code.