Refugees in Twentieth-century U.S. History

Fall 2016

Course Information
350R (Unique #39355)
AAS 325 (Unique #35883)
Class meeting times: TTh 9:30 – 11 AM
Room: BEN 1.108

FLAGS: This course carries the Independent Inquiry and Writing Flags

Instructor Information
Professor Sam Vong
Email: svong@austin.utexas.edu
Office phone: 512-471-4073
Office location: GAR 0.134 (Garrison Hall)
Office hours: Tuesdays 3-5pm

Course Description
This course explores the history of refugees in the twentieth century, with special attention to the U.S. and its engagement in the international arena of refugee politics. Students will examine how states, non-governmental organizations, private charities, and local communities have come together to address the questions of asylum, displacement, statelessness, and human rights. Students will study the causes of particular refugee movements and the reasons why the United States responded to or failed to respond to certain refugee cases. The course will introduce students to how the "problem" of refugees has been framed by, among others, historians and social scientists, policymakers, NGOs, local communities, social workers, and refugees themselves. In doing so, this course will explore how particular cases of refugees have shaped U.S. domestic policies and also the development of the United States and its role in international affairs.

Course Aims and Student Learning Objectives
By the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify major concepts, problems, and historical questions in the field of refugee studies and connect them to broader themes in U.S. history, particularly U.S. immigration history;
2. Chart the evolution of and changes in U.S. and international refugee policies in the 20th century;
3. Engage with major theoretical debates on studies of displacement, forced migration, and statelessness;
4. Write a historical research paper and analyze primary source documents using methods of historical analysis.

Required Books and other Course Materials
The following books required for this course are available for purchase at the University Co-op. These books will also be on reserve at PCL.

1. Carl Bon Tempo, Americans at the Gate: The United States and Refugees during the Cold War (Princeton University Press, 2008);
2. Reading assignments, except for Bon Tempo’s book, can be found on Canvas for download.
3. A lined-notebook for weekly journal entries.

Attendance Policy and Class Participation
Attendance and active class participation is mandatory. If you miss more than two (2) classes, including excused and unexcused absences, your overall course grade will be negatively affected. I will not honor more than two (2) absences during the semester. No exceptions.

You need to arrive to class on time and be prepared to work. I will take attendance at the beginning of every session, and I will also take notes of your participation at the end of the session. This information will be used to determine your final grade for attendance and class participation.
**Description of Major Assignments**

1. **Midterm exam** – This will be a take-home exam in which you will write an essay in response to a prompt given by the professor. The objective of this exam is to review the materials that we will have covered in class discussions and readings from weeks 1 to 5. You will have approximately one week to complete the assignment.

2. **Final research paper** – You are required to write research paper using primary sources. The length of the paper will be 15 pages, including a bibliography. The research paper will be based on a historical topic of your choosing, but it must relate to the topic of the course—refugees in the twentieth-century. The objective of this assignment is to guide students through the process of independent research and writing.

3. **First draft of research paper** – This first draft of your research paper is due in week 10. This draft will be read by your classmates as part of a peer-review process. After receiving critical feedback from the professor and your classmates, you will use the feedback to revise and improve the draft.

4. **Weekly journal entries** – Each week we will engage in 10-15 minutes of in-class writing. You will be asked to respond to a prompt or to a specific reading assignment. This written work will be kept in a journal (or a blue book). During the semester, I will read your entries, but will not issue a grade. At the end of the semester, I will determine a final grade for your journal entries as a whole.

**Grading Policy, Grade Breakdown, and Due dates**

To pass this course, you must complete and receiving a passing grade for the assignments listed below. You will not pass this course if you do not complete one or more of the following assignments. Students will be evaluated using the conventional letter grade system, with a “+” and “-” (e.g., A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, etc.).

**NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Overall Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>Midterm exam (take-home)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>First draft of research paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Final draft of research paper (15 pages)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Weekly journal entries</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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= FINAL GRADE =

100%

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 512-471-6259. Students may feel free to speak with me in confidence concerning any need for special accommodations.

**Academic Integrity**

The core values of UT Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment in question or failure of the course. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be referred to Student Judicial Services. You are responsible for knowing the definitions and penalties for academic dishonesty, which include,
but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, academic interference, etc. The University of Texas functions under an honor code and has strict standards for academic integrity. Please see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php. According to these standards, using materials from an un-cited source as it were your own is an academic violation and will not be tolerated. (It is tantamount to a theft of ideas). Ignorance about the code will not serve as an excuse for infractions. Plagiarizers are treated as violators of the code of academic integrity, their work is sent to the Dean’s Office where it is kept on record, and repeat offenders are usually suspended or even asked to leave the university. For precise details about what constitutes plagiarism and how it is dealt with, please consult the following web address: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity2.html.

*** A complete syllabus with a schedule of readings will be distributed on the first-day of class and will be available for download on Canvas for students officially registered in the course. ***