PSCI 4817A
The International Politics of Forced Migration

Tuesdays, 11:35am to 2:25pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: James Milner
Office: Loeb A629
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10am to 11am and 3pm to 4pm
Telephone: (613) 520-2600 x2211
E-mail: James.Milner@carleton.ca

Please use your Carleton e-mail address or the e-mail function of cuLearn to send an e-mail to the instructor and always include the course code in the subject line.

First class: 11 September 2018
Last class: 4 December 2018

NOTE: No class meeting on 23 October (Reading Week)

cuLearn: On-line components of this course will be managed through cuLearn. Please visit the cuLearn site at least once a week to receive the most current information pertaining to the scheduling of the course and required readings.

Course objectives:
The prolonged presence of sprawling and insecure refugee camps in Africa and Asia, the plight of ‘boat people’ seeking refuge in Europe and North America, and controversies surrounding asylum seekers in the global North are but three examples of the tensions between human rights principles and domestic, regional and international politics. While a UN Agency was established in 1950 to ensure protection for refugees and to find solutions to their plight, these objectives are frequently frustrated by political constraints. How can this tension be reconciled? How can global standards for refugee protection be implemented more consistently in national and local contexts?

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the major themes and tensions that currently affect the global refugee regime. Through the course, students will be expected to develop an understanding of the origins and elements of the global refugee regime, current issues it is seeking to resolve, the significance of these issues in the resolution of contemporary refugee situations, and the role that local, national, regional and global politics play in the origins and development of these issues.

Working through a series of lectures, seminars and case studies, the course will present a history of the global refugee regime, focusing on its functions and components, before considering issues that currently confront the regime. The course will conclude by applying these concepts to contemporary refugee situations and examining the local, national, regional and international obstacles to ensuring the protection of refugees and to finding a solution to their plight in specific contexts.
Course outline:
The course is divided into three sections:

Section 1 provides an overview of the global refugee regime, including an introduction to core instruments such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Section 1 will also consider the meaning of international refugee protection, definitions of refugees and understandings of protection, and the functioning of the global refugee regime.

Section 2 will turn to a more specific examination of contemporary issues confronting the global refugee protection regime, including the politics of asylum in the global North and South, the range of solutions available to refugees, protracted refugee situations, the relationship between security and refugee movements, global refugee policy, and challenges of international cooperation and so-called ‘burden sharing’.

This section will include case studies of particular refugee-hosting states to examine how the themes and issues raised during the course are applied in the context of the resolution of specific contemporary refugee situations. Working as a class, we will examine the politics of asylum countries in the global North and South and the factors that both enable and constrain UNHCR’s ability to pursue its mandate in a range of contexts. Working in small groups, students will examine the challenge of implementing examples of global refugee policy in particular national contexts.

Section 3 will conclude the course by considering responses at the global level to the challenges confronting the global refugee regime and a consideration of how the global refugee regime, especially UNHCR, can respond to these challenges in the coming years, especially through the negotiation of a Global Compact for Refugees in 2018.

Requirements:

Reading critiques 20%
- Reading critique 1 (due between weeks 4 and 7): 10%
- Reading critique 2 (due between weeks 8 and 11): 10%

Research paper 65%
- Essay proposal (due 9 October 2018): 10%
- Small group presentation (Weeks 7 to 11): 15%
- Final paper (due 4 December 2018): 40%

Participation 15%

As per early feedback guidelines, the essay proposal is due on 9 October 2018. Proposals will be graded and comments returned by e-mail before 16 October 2018.

There is no final exam for this course. Instead, students are required to actively engage in reading, writing and participation throughout the term through four elements:

Reading critiques: Students are required to write two reading critiques over the course of the term. The first critique is due between weeks 4 and 7 of the course. The second
reading critique is due between weeks 8 and 11. Reading critiques should be 2 to 3 pages long, single spaced and referenced. Critiques should summarise the key arguments of the readings for the week in which the critique is submitted, contrast the perspectives of the readings, and respond to the readings within the context of the course. Is there a tension between the readings? What contribution do they make? Do you agree with their position? How do the arguments of the authors relate to the broader themes of the course? Reading critiques must be submitted at the start of class.

Research paper and seminar presentation: Students are also required to research a particular aspect of global refugee policy and examine efforts to implement that example of global refugee policy in a particular national context. Some potential examples of global refugee policy to be examined are:

- UNHCR’s urban refugee policy
- UNHCR’s policy on age, gender and diversity mainstreaming
- UNHCR’s Executive Committee Conclusion on protracted refugee situations
- UNHCR’s Executive Committee Conclusion on international cooperation and burden and responsibility sharing in mass influx situations
- UNHCR’s Executive Committee Conclusion on legal safety issues in the context of voluntary repatriation of refugees

As explained in the first class, students will be required to identify the example of global refugee policy on which they will focus their research and a historical or contemporary case study in which efforts were made to implement the policy. The focus of the student’s individual research will then be to identify and examine the factors that explain the implementation or non-implementation of this example of global refugee policy in a specific national context.

Students are required to join a small group of five students all examining efforts to implement the same example of global refugee policy in different contexts. Sign-up for small groups will be facilitated through cuLearn. All students must join a small group by 21 September 2018. Students will work in these small groups to compare efforts to implement the same policy in different contexts and work to explain any similarities or differences between the efforts. Class time on 25 September 2018 will be given to facilitate this group work. Arrangements will be discussed in class on 18 September.

Students will then submit a 3 to 5 page proposal, inclusive of a bibliography, on their selected policy and case study at the start of class on 9 October 2018. Comments on the proposals will be returned before 16 October 2018.

Small groups will then be scheduled to give a 45 minute presentation in the second half of class during weeks 7 to 11. The process of scheduling and coordinating these presentations will be discussed in class.

Based on feedback from the paper proposal and the small group presentation, students will be required to write an individual 15 to 18 page paper that explains the level of implementation observed in their case study and draws conclusions for the broader study of the implementation or non-implementation of global refugee policy in national contexts. Essays are due at the start of class on 4 December 2018.
Participation: 15% of the final grade is for participation. Students are expected not only to attend class meetings, but engage in class discussion. While this is a large class, it will be run as a senior undergraduate seminar. Students who submit reading critiques in a given week will be especially expected to contribute to class discussions.

In addition, students are expected to remain informed on current events relating to the global refugee regime, which will form a key component of class discussions. Students may wish to refer to the daily briefings from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), available on-line: http://www.unhcr.org

Late penalties: Reading responses submitted after the start of class will receive a grade of 0%. All other assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized by 5% of the 100% assignment grade per 24 hours. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for academic accommodations, as outlined below, or for medical or personal emergencies substantiated by official documentation. Late papers must be submitted via the drop box in the Department of Political Science (Loeb B640).

The departmental drop box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

Provisional outline of course topics:
Below is a tentative weekly breakdown of the course and possible readings. Please consult cuLearn regularly for updates to this list of weekly topics and readings, in addition to information about the course.

Week 1
11 September 2018: Introduction: The politics of the global refugee regime


Week 2
18 September 2018: Who is (not) a refugee?


**Week 3**  
25 September 2018: Small group meetings (no class meeting)

**Week 4**  
2 October 2018: Global refugee policy and the challenge of implementation


**Week 5**  
9 October 2018: The global refugee regime during the Cold War  
**Due:** Essay proposals


**Week 6**  
16 October 2018: The global refugee regime after the Cold War


**Reading Week:** No class meeting on 23 October 2018
Week 7
30 October 2018:  Power and the global refugee regime
First small group presentation
Last week to submit first reading critique


Week 8
6 November 2018:  The politics of protection in the global North
Second small group presentation


Week 9
13 November 2018:  The politics of protection in the global South (specifically Africa)
Third small group presentation


Week 10
20 November 2018:  The politics of solutions and protracted refugee situations
Fourth small group presentation


Week 11
27 November 2018:  UNHCR and its “partners”
Final small group presentation
Last week to submit second reading critique


Week 12
4 December 2018:  Responding to the challenge: Towards a Global Compact
Due: Final essay


Academic Accommodations

Requests for Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline
Plagiarism
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:
• reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
• submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
• using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
• using another’s data or research findings;
• failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
• handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of “F” for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work
Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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Approval of final grades
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts
All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society
"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/ and our website https://carletonpss.com/, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline
The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.