PSCI 4817A
The International Politics of Forced Migration

Fridays, 8:35am to 11:25am
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: James Milner
Office: Loeb A629
Office hours: Tuesdays, 3-4pm and Fridays, 12pm-1pm (or by appointment)
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Please use your Carleton e-mail address or the e-mail function of cuLearn to send an e-mail to the instructor or TA and always include the course code in the subject line.

First class: 6 January 2017
Last class: 7 April 2017

NOTE: No class meeting on 24 February (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?

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.
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.

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.

Requirements:

Reading critiques 20%
Reading critique 1: 10%
Reading critique 2: 10%

Research paper 65%
Essay proposal: 5% (due 20 January 2017)
Seminar presentation: 15% (Weeks 5 to 11)
Peer-review assignment: 5% (31 March 2017)
Final paper: 40% (due 7 April 2017)

Participation 15%

As per early feedback guidelines, the essay proposal due on 20 January 2017 will be graded and returned to students by 31 January 2017.

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 2 reading critiques over the course of the term. Reading critiques should be 2 to 3 pages long, single spaced and referenced.
Critiques should summarise the key arguments of the readings, 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 expected to research a particular issue relating to the global refugee regime. While students are free to select a topic of their choice in consultation with the instructor, they are especially encouraged to work on a case study (country, theme or issue) and consider the factors that enhance or constrain UNHCR's ability to fulfil its mandate of protection and solutions in this particular case.

Students will be required to submit a 3 to 5 page proposal, inclusive of a bibliography, on their selected issue at the start of class on 20 January 2017.

On the basis of this proposal, students will be required to give a presentation on their research in the second half of class in Weeks 5 to 11. (Students should include a note in their essay proposal if there is a week when they cannot give their seminar presentation.) Presentations will be scheduled so that students presenting on similar topics will give their presentations on the same week. This presentation schedule will be posted on cuLearn by 27 January 2017.

Based on feedback from the paper proposal and the presentation, students will be required to write a 15 to 18 page paper. Students will be required to exchange a complete draft of their paper with another student for peer review on or before 31 March 2017. Mechanics of the peer review process will be discussed in class.

On the basis of comments from peer review, students will revise their paper and submit a final version at the start of class on 7 April 2017.

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
6 January 2017: Introduction: Refugees and global politics


This class will include a viewing of the film Home Free (2008), a 22-minute documentary about solutions for Burundian refugees who have been in exile for more than 40 years.

Week 2
13 January 2017: The origins and evolution of the global refugee regime


Week 3
20 January 2017: Who is (not) a refugee?

Due: Essay proposals


Week 4
27 January 2017: The global refugee regime during the Cold War


**Week 5**
**3 February 2017:** The global refugee regime since the Cold War
Seminar presentations


**Week 6**
**10 February 2017:** Global refugee policy
Seminar presentations


**Week 7**
**17 February 2017:** The politics of protection in the global North
Seminar presentations


Reading Week: No class meeting on 24 February 2017

Week 8
3 March 2017: The politics of protection in the global South (specifically Africa)
Seminar presentations


Week 9
10 March 2017: The politics of solutions and protracted refugee situations
Seminar presentations


Week 10
17 March 2017: UNHCR and its “partners”
Seminar presentations


**Week 11**
**24 March 2017:** Responding to the challenge: Towards a Global Compact
Seminar presentations


**Week 12**
**31 March 2017:** Peer-review week
Due: Peer-review assignment (by e-mail)

**Week 13**
**7 April 2017:** Conclusion: Where next for the global refugee regime?
Due: Essays

The course will conclude with a discussion of the future of the global refugee regime and its ability to overcome the constraints discussed in the course. The final class meeting will feature either a guest speaker or a film, to be discussed in the first half of the course.

**Academic Accommodations**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>85-89</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit [https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencessociety/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencessociety/) or come to our office in Loeb D688.

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