

ANTH3225D/SOCI 3220C — FALL 2026

Selected Topics: Community Connections: Newcomer Youth Settlement, Mentorship, and Peer Learning

Instructor: Blair Rutherford

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:15 or by appointment

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Method of Delivery: In person.

Course Description

This course is an experiential learning course where Carleton students learn about the resettlement experiences of newcomer youth while also providing tutoring and mentorship to newcomer high school students in their varied classes as well as about life in Ottawa more broadly, working with the existing infrastructures of support present in the high schools. Each of the Carleton students will spend 5-6 hours a week at one of two high schools (with supervision of a teacher) tutoring and mentoring newcomer high school students, while also attending a seminar class at Carleton led by Professor Rutherford one hour per week to learn more about various issues concerning refugees and immigration in Ottawa (and beyond) and to discuss their ongoing experiences and learning in the high schools. This course aims to bridge academic perspectives on migration and refugees (through the integrative seminar) with experiential learning in high schools. A key objective is for students to learn more about newcomers and education in Ottawa.

This course is modeled on the successful Step-Up Program at the University of Kentucky (<https://is.as.uky.edu/step-up>).

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be expected to be able to:

- work with diverse community members, demonstrating cultural sensitivity and adaptability.
- to have a richer understanding of newcomers and education.
- convey some of the key concepts in the anthropology/sociology of migration, citizenship and belonging.
- demonstrate increased self-awareness and understanding of their strengths, areas for growth, and values.
- articulate, through written reflections, weekly discussions, and other mediums, how their experiences contributed to their personal and professional development.
- have a better understanding of some of the historical and contemporary dynamics facing newcomer youth in Canada in general and in Ottawa in particular.
- to be able to articulate some of the key concepts in the anthropology/sociology of migration, citizenship and belonging.
- explain in more detail the changing immigration and refugee policies in Canada.