

Special Topics in Anthropology: Seminar in Forced Migration

Rollins College

**Prof. Marisa O. Ensor
Proposed Course
United States of America**

Course Description:

The scale of forced migration is of growing concern as millions of people are displaced by factors such as war, repressive regimes and natural disasters. While some have been forced to take refuge across national borders, many others are displaced within their own countries. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the causes, patterns and consequences of forced migration worldwide. We will trace the emergence of the current regime of humanitarian action on behalf of displaced populations, analyze the differences and similarities between refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and discuss the most significant theoretical and practical dimensions of the field of forced migration. The major humanitarian crises of the last 50 years will also be examined.



Drawing by Burmese refugee Saw Hyaht Hloy, 13 years old, living at Huay Kalok Refugee Camp, Mae Sot District, Thailand.

Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Trace the historical emergence of the current refugee regime, and identify the many dilemmas that have been faced by governments, humanitarian organizations and other actors in dealing with the issue of human displacement.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the most important definitional, institutional, legal, political, and socio-economic dimensions of the forced migration experience.
- Understand the complexities involved in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced populations including the practical issues involved in managing a refugee/IDP camp.

Syllabus:

Week 1; January 15.

Introduction: Who is a Refugee? Who is an IDP?

Readings:

- Escape from Violence; Chapter 1
- Masses in Flight; Chapter 1
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapters 1–2
- The Price of Indifference; Chapter 1

Week 2; January 20–22.

Legal Framework

Readings:

- Masses in Flight; Chapter 3–4
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapter 16
- The Price of Indifference; Chapters 2

Week 3; January 27–29.

Institutional Arrangements and the Role of NGOs

Readings:

- Masses in Flight; Chapter 5
- The Price of Indifference; Chapters 4–6

Week 4; February 3–5.

Institutional Assessments and Class Presentations

Week 5; February 10–12.

Regional Studies: Europe

Readings:

- The Price of Indifference; Chapter 3
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapter 11

Week 6; February 17–19.

Regional Studies: Africa

Readings:

- Escape from Violence; Chapter 2–4
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapter 9–10

Week 7; February 24–26.

Regional Studies: Latin America

Readings:

- Escape from Violence; Chapter 7
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapter 12

Week 8; March 3–5.

Regional Studies: Asia

Readings:

- Escape from Violence; Chapter 5–6
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapter 6

Week 9; March 8–16.

SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)

Week 10; March 17–19.

Review for Midterm

Week 11; March 24–26.

Life in a Refugee/IDP Camp I

Readings:

- Course Pack “A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City”

Week 12; March 31–April 2.

Life in a Refugee/IDP Camp II

Readings:

- Course Pack “A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City”

Week 13; April 7–9.

Disaster and Development-Induced Displacement

Readings:

- Course Pack; Articles by Oliver-Smith, Cernea, and Castles
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapter 2

Week 14; April 14–16.

Conclusion: Towards a Better Refugee/IDP Regime

Readings:

- Escape from Violence; Chapter 10
- Masses in Flight; Chapter 7
- Engendering Forced Migration; Chapter 18
- The Price of Indifference; Chapters 7–9

Week 15; April 21–23.

Review for Final and Presentations

Week 16:

FINAL EXAM

Course Readings:

Required Texts:

1. Zolberg, Suhrke, and Aguayo. (1989) *Escape from Violence: Conflict and the Refugee Crisis in the Developing World*. Oxford University Press.
2. Cohen and Deng. (1998). *Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement*. Brookings Institution Press.
3. Indra. (1999) *Engendering Forced Migration: Theory and Practice*. Berghahn Books.
4. Helton. (2002) *The Price of Indifference: Refugees and Humanitarian Action in the New Century*. Oxford University Press.

*A course pack of additional readings has been put on the reserve at the library under the course title.

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