

Global Issues in Forced Migration

**Tufts University
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy**

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United States of America**

Course Description:

This course explores some of the issues arising from the forced migration of people, both across international boundaries and within their own countries. We examine the causes and types of displacement; the economic, social and security impacts on host countries and regions; and the response of governments, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to displacement. We explore the role of refugees and other forced migrants in international and domestic politics, and the contribution and problems of humanitarian assistance.

The course is grounded in political science (specifically international relations, IPE and comparative politics), but our approach will be interdisciplinary, incorporating perspectives from anthropology, political geography, and law. Our time frame begins with the end of the Second World War, and focuses on the post-Cold War period. Course materials will be derived from all regions of the world.

The course has a strong case study and policy emphasis. Students are required to participate in a group project that will include outside research.

The Research Paper

Research Paper Questions:

- What role can and should the military play in refugee protection?
- Examine the role of UNHCR as an actor in international refugee affairs. Should UNHCR try to be a politically neutral organization? How did UNHCR's assumption of the lead agency role in former Yugoslavia and its relief activities there involve it in the politics of the war? Was this different in the Kosovo case?
- Explore the concept of *asylum*. To what extent is the institution of asylum under threat? How does this differ regionally?
- Why are IDPs a particular (legal and humanitarian) problem in international affairs?
- Do a 'state of the art' paper on human trafficking. What consequences might anti-trafficking measures have for refugee protection?

- Do a ‘state of the art’ paper on statelessness. Is this an emerging problem in the 21st century? Discuss institutional responses, new problems, etc.
- What are the moral issues underlying the concept of asylum? Discuss some of the moral and ethical dilemmas facing asylum countries and relief organizations today.
- What is meant by ‘refugee economies’? How does an influx of refugees transform a border zone?

Syllabus:

January 22 (Tuesday)

Week 1. First Class Meeting: Introduction, Definitions and Statistics

January 28

Week 2. Forced Migration in the post-Cold War Era: Patterns and Causes.

How is forced migration (FM) different from other kinds of international migration? In what sense is FM different now from what it was during the Cold War, or before? What are the ‘root causes’ of FM? (and should we focus on them?)

Reading:

UNHCR 1997. *The State of the World’s Refugees*. pp. 1–39; 54–68; 99–114.

Schmeidl, S. “Conflict and Forced Migration: A Quantitative Review,” in *Global Migrants, Global Refugees*, pp. 62–94.

Weiner, Myron. 1996. “Bad Neighbors, Bad Neighborhoods: An Inquiry into the Causes of Refugee Flows,” *International Security*, Summer, Vol. 21, No. 1 pp. 5–42.

J. Crisp, 2000. “Africa’s Refugees: Patterns, Problems and Policy Challenges”, UNHCR Working Paper #28.

February 4–25

Weeks 3–6. The Institutional Response to Refugees

We discuss the response to refugees by the international community, nation-states, and nongovernmental organizations. What is meant by the international refugee regime, who are the main actors, and how effective are they in coping with the problems of forced migration? What is meant by “asylum” today and how has asylum changed since the 1960s? We will consider how the tension between states and relief organizations like UNHCR and NGOs mediate the response to forced migration.

2/4 Week 3. The Response of the International Community. The International Refugee Regime: UNHCR and the Refugee Definition.

UNHCR 1997. *The State of the World’s Refugees*. pp. 39–54; 68–97; 115–131

Loescher, Gil. “Protection and Humanitarian Action in the Post-Cold War Era,” in Zolberg, Aristides R. and Peter M. Benda, *Global Migrants, Global Refugees*, New York: Berghahn Books. 2001. pp. 171–205.

Goodwin-Gill, Guy. 1999. "Refugee Identity and Protection's Fading Prospect," in Frances Nicholson and P. Twomey, *Refugee Rights and Realities: Evolving International Concepts and Regimes* (Cambridge University Press). pp. 220–249.

V. Turk. "The role of UNHCR in the development of international refugee law," *Refugee Rights and Realities: Evolving International Concepts and Regimes* (Cambridge University Press). pp. 153–174.

J-Y Carlier. "The Geneva refugee definition and the 'theory of the three scales," *Refugee Rights and Realities: Evolving International Concepts and Regimes* (Cambridge University Press). pp. 37–55.

Hyndman, Jennifer and B.V. Nylund. 1998. "UNHCR and the Status of Prima Facie Refugees in Kenya," *International Journal of Refugee Law* 10(1/2). pp. 21–48.

2/11 Week 4. State Responses I: Europe and the US.

UNHCR 1997. *The State of the World's Refugees*. Chap. 5 "The Asylum Dilemma" pp. 183–223.

T.A. Alenikoff. 1995. "State-Centered Refugee Law: From Resettlement to Containment," in Daniel and Knudsen, Eds. *Mistrusting Refugees*, Berkeley, Calif: University of California Press. pp. 257–278.

Joly, Daniele. 1999. "A new asylum regime in Europe," in Frances Nicholson and P. Twomey. *Refugee Rights and Realities: Evolving International Concepts and Regimes* (Cambridge University Press). pp. 336–356.

Lavenex, Sandra. 1998. "'Passing the Buck': European Union Refugee Policies towards Central and Eastern Europe," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 11(2): 126–145.

K. Khoser, M. Walsh and R. Black. "Temporary Protection and assisted return of refugees from the European Union: a preliminary analysis," Paper presented to International Conference on Inclusion and Exclusion, New School for Social Research, New York, June 5–7, 1997.

Martin, S. & Schoenholtz A. "Fixing Temporary Protection in the United States," *World Refugee Survey* 1998, pp. 40–47.

McBride, M. 1999. "The Evolution of US Immigration and refugee policy: public opinion, domestic politics and UNHCR," UNHCR, New Issues in Refugee Research Working Paper No. 3.

2/19 No class Presidents Day (Class moved to Friday 2/22)

2/22 (Friday) Week 5. The Nongovernmental Response

Mary Anderson, *Do No Harm* (entire)

Tim Cross, 2001. "Comfortable with Chaos: Working with UNHCR and the NGOs; Reflections from the 1990 Kosovo Crisis." Working Paper No. 42

February 25 – March 4

Weeks 6–7. Refugee Camps

What are refugee camps like? What problems do refugees experience inside them, and what effects do they have on the refugees themselves? How do the refugees respond, economically, politically and socially? What alternatives to camps might we consider?

2/25 Week 6 Camps I: Life Inside.

Voutira, E. and Harrell-Bond, B. 1995. "In Search of the Locus of Trust: the Social World of the Refugee Camp", in Daniel and Knudsen, Eds. *Mistrusting Refugees*, Berkeley, Calif: University of California Press.

Kibreab, Gaim. 1993. 'The myth of dependency among camp refugees,' *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 4.

Harrell-Bond, B. 1999. "The experiences of refugees as recipients of aid," in *Refugees: Perspectives on the Experience of Forced Migration* edited by A. Ager. New York, Cassell.

John L. Hammond, "War-Uprooting and the Political Mobilization of Central American refugees." *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 1993, 6(2), pp. 105–122.

3/4 Week 7 Camps II: Security and Protection Issues.

UNHCR 1995. *The State of the World's Refugees*. (Keeping the Peace) pp. 97–142.

Verdirame, G. 1999. "Human Rights and Refugees: the Case of Kenya," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 14. pp. 54–77.

K. Jacobsen, 2000. "A Framework for Exploring the Political and Security Context of Refugee Populated Areas," *Refugee Survey Quarterly* Vol. 19(1). pp. 3–22.

C. Robinson, "Refugee Warriors at the Thai-Cambodian Border," *Refugee Survey Quarterly* Vol. 19(1). pp. 23–37.

R. Martin, "Regional Dynamics and the Security of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan," *Refugee Survey Quarterly* Vol. 19(1). pp. 71–78.

Ginifer, Jeremy. 1998. "Protecting Displaced Persons Through Disarmament," *Survival*, 40(2) Summer, pp. 161–76.

Frellick, Bill. 1997. "Assistance Without Protection," *World Refugee Survey* Washington D.C.: Immigration and Refugee Services.

3/11–3/26 Weeks 8–10 Internally Displaced People.

(co-taught with Charles Petrie, Senior UN Policy Adviser)

How are IDPs different from refugees and why is it important to distinguish between them? What particular problems confront IDPs, and how has the international community responded?

3/11 Week 8 IDP Protection: Whose Mandate?

UNHCR 1997. *The State of the World's Refugees*. pp. 99–142

G. Goodwin Gill, 2000. "UNHCR and Internal Displacement: Stepping into a Legal and Political Minefield," *World Refugee Survey*. U.S. Committee for Refugees, Washington D.C.

Mooney, Erin. 1999. "In-country protection: out of bounds for UNHCR?" in Nicholson, Frances and P. Twomey (eds.). *Refugee Rights and Realities: Evolving International Concepts and Regimes* (Cambridge University Press).

McNamara, Dennis. 1998. "UNHCR's Protection Mandate in Relation to Internally Displaced People." from *Rights Have No Borders*, Norwegian Refugee Council, Global IDP Survey, 1998.

3/18 ***Spring Break***

3/25 Week 10. ***Responses to IDPs, and How IDPs Help Themselves***

K. Jacobsen, S. Lautze and A. M. K. Osman. 2001. "Sudan: the Unique Challenges of Displacement in Khartoum" in *Caught Between Borders: Response Strategies of the Internally Displaced*. Edited by Marc Vincent and Birgitte Sorensen. Pluto Press, 2001. pp. 78–98.

C. Cusana. "Burma: Displaced Karens. Like Water on the Khu Leaf," in *Caught Between Borders: Response Strategies of the Internally Displaced*. Edited by Marc Vincent and Birgitte Sorensen. Pluto Press, 2001. pp. 138–171.

R. Muggah, 2000. "Through the Developmentalist's Looking Glass: Conflict-Induced Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement in Colombia," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 13(2).

Letitia Rossano. "The Response of the Assistance Community to Internal Displacement in Afghanistan between July 1999 and March 2000" Draft.

S.T. Kleine-Ahlbrandt. "The Kibeho crisis: Towards a More Effective System of International Protection for IDPs." *Forced Migration Review*, 1998.

April 1–8

Weeks 11–12. Durable Solutions: Voluntary Repatriation, Third Country Resettlement and Local Integration

What is meant by UNHCR's term, "durable solutions"? What kinds of problems surround the implementation of such solutions, from refugees' and the relief organizations' point of view?

4/1 Week 11. ***Repatriation and Resettlement***

UNHCR 1997. *The State of the World's Refugees*. pp. 85–92; 143–181

Ferris, Elizabeth. "After the Wars Are Over: U.S. Policy in Reconstruction," in Zolberg, Aristides R. and Peter M. Benda, *Global Migrants, Global Refugees*, New York: Berghahn Books. 2001. pp. 322–349.

Landgren, Karin. 1998. "Reconciliation: Forgiveness in the Time of Repatriation," *World Refugee Survey* 1998, pp. 20–26.

Fredriksson, John. 1997. "Revitalizing Resettlement as a Durable Solution," *World Refugee Survey* Washington D.C.

Chimni, B.S. 1999. "From resettlement to involuntary repatriation: towards a critical history of durable solutions to refugee problems," Working Paper #2, New Issues in Refugee Research, UNHCR, CDR, Geneva. May.

J. Macrae, 1999. "Aiding peace...and war: UNHCR, returnee reintegration, and the relief-development debate," UNHCR, New Issues In Refugee Research, Working Paper No. 14.

4/8 Week 12. *Local Integration and Sustaining Refugee Livelihoods*

Why do host countries resist local integration, and how can this resistance be diminished? How do refugees pursue livelihoods and what effect does this pursuit have on the host communities?

UNHCR 1995. *The State of the World's Refugees*. (Promoting Development) pp. 143–186.

K. Jacobsen. 2001. "The Forgotten Solution: Local Integration for Refugees in Developing Countries." UNHCR New Issues in Refugee Research, Working Paper No. 45. July 2001.

Demusz, K. 1998. "From Relief to Development: Negotiating the Continuum on the Thai-Burmese Border," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 11(3), pp. 231–244.

Cuenod, Jacques. 1989. "Refugees: Development or relief?" In Gilbert Loescher and Laila Monahan (eds.), *Refugees and International Relations*. New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 219–254.

4/15 Week 13. *Trafficking and Illegal Migration*

John Morrison, 2000. "The trafficking and smuggling of refugees: the end game in European asylum policy?" *New Issues In Refugee Research*, Working Paper.

4/22 Week 14. *Project Presentations and Wrap*

Course Readings:

Zolberg, Aristides R. and Peter M. Benda. *Global Migrants, Global Refugees*, New York: Berghahn Books. 2001. (paperback)

Mary Anderson. *Do No Harm*. (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1999)

UNHCR, 1997. *The State of the World's Refugees: A Humanitarian Agenda, 1997–98*. Oxford University Press 1997.

This text can be accessed at the UNHCR website (<http://www.unhcr.ch>).

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