Conflict, Security, and Forced Migration
GOVT 444 B01 – Summer 2020
1:30 pm - 4:10 pm TR  Peterson Hall 1105

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to focus on the intertwined relationship between conflict, security, and forced migration. Drivers and root causes of forced migration could involve conflict-induced, climate-induced, or development-induced displacement. This course will address the root causes of forced migration; however, particular emphasis will be given to the conflict-induced forced migration.

We will analyze different geographies of forced migration, where protracted conflicts have existed for decades. We will analyze forced migration from a comparative perspective, with case studies-focus. In particular, I will share with you the field researches that my colleagues and I conducted, including the impact of the Syrian conflict on forced migration, refugees, and the diaspora in Europe.

The course will introduce critical theories of migration and determinants of migration flows, concepts, such as forced migration, refugees, IDPs, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, etc., and tackle challenges that influx of forced migrants present before the international community and nation-states. The course will also tackle controversial issues such as immigration and border security, human rights, integration vs. assimilation, securitization of forced migration, xenophobia, etc.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course objectives include:

- Introduce students to the theoretical, conceptual, and historical context of conflict, security, and forced migration,
- Analyze different cases around the globe with a particular emphasis on the MENA region,
- Familiarize students with the academic literature on forced migration, challenges, and opportunities,
- To promote critical thinking on the controversial issues surrounding forced migration and policies and different instruments.
GRADING SCALE
The grading for this course is as follows:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
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<td>A</td>
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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:
2. Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Gil Loescher, Katy Long, and Nando Sigona (eds). 2014. The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. (The related chapters will be available on Blackboard)

GRADING COMPONENTS

Participation .................................................. 20%
Research Paper ................................................. 35%
Presentation .................................................... 10%
Final Exam ....................................................... 20%
Presentation Takeaway ................................. 15%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Participation 20 %

In-Class Discussions
You will participate in class and small-group discussions by sharing your ideas and arguments. Critical thinking and multiple perspectives are highly valued during class participation. Your ideas, perspectives, and experiences provide a valuable contribution to the course dialogue and are essential for meeting the requirement for class participation. The discussion questions will be provided before the class via Blackboard.

Class Attendance
Class attendance is required, and attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Missing more than one week of classes will result in a reduced grade and/or failed grade. You should inform me of your absence before class for the absence to be considered as excused. Illness and religious holidays are excused absences. A doctor's note may be required in some cases.
Research Paper 35%
You will write a research paper on a topic that attracts your interest (i.e., the country/region faced with forced migration- source or receiving country, special topic, such as diaspora, human trafficking, border security, gender, IDPs, refugees, policy responses, institutions, etc.). You may choose a topic from the syllabus or other sources. You will be provided with more details and a guideline about your research paper. The research paper is due July 18, 2020.

The paper should include at least six scholarly, peer-reviewed articles and reference citations, be 8-10 to 35 pages, and typed double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font. You should follow APA formatting and citation guidelines. Be sure also to include “GOVT 444 B01 Research Paper” in the subject heading.

Presentation 10%
You will make an oral presentation on your research paper. Each student will be allotted a maximum of 15 minutes to ensure that all students have time to make their presentation during the class period. At the end of each presentation, classmates will be allowed to ask questions, provide feedback, or make other comments.

You are encouraged to use visuals and/or audiovisuals for a more effective presentation and to engage your classmates with activities and questions. The students are expected to make their presentations during the last two weeks of the semester.

Final Exam 20
The final exam will include multiple-choice and short essay questions. The exam questions will be based on course readings and lectures. We will have a review session before the final exam. Make-up exams are allowed with a documented, verifiable medical excusal or emergency excusal on the day of the exam. Final exam: July 23, 2020.

Presentation Takeaway 15%
You are expected to write takeaways on any of the three student presentations. Your response should involve your reaction to the presentation, which should not exceed 300 words. The due dates for the submission of the takeaways are on the course schedule. Be sure to include the title of the presentation and the name of the student who makes the presentation in your takeaway. If you write more than four takeaways, you will get one extra point for another takeaway. The presentation takeaway assignment is due July 23, 2020.
Office Hours and Meetings
I can meet with the students at Innovation Hall before and after the class. Please email me if you have any questions or issues you need to discuss. I respond to emails generally in 24 hours.

Registration and Enrollment:
Students are responsible for verifying their registration and enrollment in the classes. Please go to https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/summer-2020-calendar/ for important dates regarding registration and enrollment. The last day to add this class is June 4, 2020. The last day to drop this class is June 18, 2020.

Late Work Policy
Requests for a deadline extension or a grade of incomplete must be made in writing 24 hours before the assignment is due. Requests will be granted for a legitimate reason, such as family emergency and illness.

University Services
If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should:

1. Make sure this documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 222; 993-2474; www.gmu.edu/student/drc) to determine the accommodations you need; and

2. Talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs. By GMU policy, instructors cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, seek assistance from the University Writing Center (http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/). You will be expected to write academically for this class despite any linguistic deficits you have, so take full advantage of this service to earn good grades.

If you are in personal distress, you can also get help from Counseling and Psychological Services (http://www.gmu.edu/departments/csdrc). Class topics may engender anxiety or challenge world views, and the counseling services are there to help.

Honor Code Policy
George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. Please consult the Student Handbook for a full definition of these terms. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

Violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
Cheating includes any “willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students,” by any means whatsoever, or the attempt to do so. Examples: Copying off another student; using notes during a closed-book exam; obtaining an assignment ahead of time from a student who took the class a previous semester; turning in the same work in more than one class (without prior authorization from all professors concerned).

Plagiarism includes “presenting as one’s own the works, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement” or “borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement.” Examples: getting your paper off the Internet; cutting and pasting paragraphs from other authors into your paper; turning in a paper that was written by somebody else; buying a paper; taking a written piece from someone else but rewording it so that it looks different.

Lying includes “the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work.” Examples: lying to faculty member by saying you were sick when you were not; falsely claiming a death in the family or a personal emergency; falsifying any official documentation.

Stealing encompasses “taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the University campus.” Examples: stealing exams or paper assignments from the professor for the purposes of cheating; selling notes you take in class to an individual or a business.

**BAD WEATHER AND OTHER EMERGENCIES**

Call GMU’s closing line at (703) 993-1000 to see if classes are cancelled due to weather. You can also register for Mason’s emergency alert system at https://alert.gmu.edu. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I will make every attempt to email you ASAP at your GMU email address.

**PRIVACY POLICY**

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. This means we do not gossip about others’ opinions or personal status outside of class, whether or not we agree with their opinions. Please also respect everyone’s right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK I

June 2  Course Overview & Concepts and Theories in Forced Migration

- Alice Bloch and Giorgia Donà. 2019. “Forced migration: setting the scene”. In Alice Bloch and Giorgia Donà (eds), Chapter 1

June 4  Trends in Conflict-induced Forced Migration


WEEK II

June 9  Drivers and root causes: Explaining forced migration


June 11  Drivers and root causes: Explaining forced migration

WEEK III

June 16  Victims of Forced Migration: Gender, Youth, and Children


- Milena Chimienti, Anne-Laure Counilh and Laurence Ossipow. “Second generation from refugee backgrounds: Affects and transnational ties and practices to the ancestral homeland” In Alice Bloch and Giorgia Donà (eds), Chapter 9

June 18  Criminal Networks, Human Trafficking


***Research Paper Topic Selection and Outline Due June 18***

WEEK IV

June 23  Conflict-induced Forced Migration in the Middle East and North Africa


June 25  Securitization fo Forced Migrants: Syrian Conflict and Weaponizing Refugees

WEEK V

June 30 Conflict-induced Forced Migration in the Africa & Broader Central Asia

July 2 Conflict-induced Forced Migration in Africa & Broader Central Asia

WEEK VI

July 7 Conflict-induced Forced Migration in South America

July 9 The U.S. Response to Immigration Crisis
WEEK VII

July 14  How to Respond to Challenges of Forced Migration

- Nassim Majidi and Liza Schuster. 2019. “Deportation and forced return” In Alice Bloch and Giorgia Donà (eds), Chapter 6
- Giorgia Donà and Marie Godin. 2019. “Mobile technologies and forced migration.” In Alice Bloch and Giorgia Donà (eds), Chapter 8

***Student Presentations

July 16 Institutional Responses to Forced Migration


***Student Presentations

*** Research Paper Due  July 18

WEEK VIII

July 21  Conflict, Forced Migration and Security in the 21th Century

- “Reflecting on the past, thinking about the future: Forced migration in the 21st century.” In Alice Bloch and Giorgia Donà (eds), Chapter 10

July 23  ***FINAL EXAM

***The presentation takeaway assignment is due July 23, 2020.