FYS 042: Refugees, the Human Experience  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:45, Meredith 206

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Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00 Wednesdays 2:30-3:30, Thursdays 10:30-11:30 and by appointment

Course Description:

The UN Refugee Agency lists over 42 million people in the category “population of concern.” In this course we will read the personal stories of some individual refugees—their experiences fleeing from turmoil, death and war, as well as their experiences and adjustments in coming to the United States. We will look at the culture of both refugees and Americans and how assimilation does or does not take place.

The primary goal of FYS classes is to help integrate students into academic culture; sharpen students’ writing, critical thinking, verbal communication and information literacy skills; encourage active participation by students in class; invite connections among several areas of study or disciplines; and aim to establish a sense of community among members. Discussion of readings and assignments each class period are meant to stimulate your thought processes and see multiple viewpoints.

Writing

Writing assignments will be given at least once a week. Most assignments will be short, but expect several longer essays and a research paper. This class is participating in a Writing Workshop pilot project. One requirement will be to attend at least two Writing Workshop appointments (most likely one toward the beginning of the semester and one toward the end).

Participation and Attendance

Participation is an integral part of this class and attendance is required. Roll will be taken each class period. If you will not be in class, please notify me by phone or email ahead of time. Two unexcused absences will be allowed before there is a reduction in your grade. Arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful to other members of the class. Please be on time.

You are responsible for your learning and progress in the course. This also means being an active participant in the class having read/done assignments ahead of time and being well versed in the discussion topic of the day. Written assignments will be handed in at the beginning of class. If you have questions about an assignment or any of the material, please ask ahead of time. You can reach me by phone, email or in person primarily during the day. I may have meetings or other responsibilities at the time and may not reply immediately.

You will be required to take notes in long-hand each class period, so bring paper and pen. Studies have shown that students remember content better while taking notes long hand instead of typing on a computer. Phones need to be turned off during class. Laptops and tablets may occasionally be used in class if their use is part of the class assignment.

One on one appointments

Talking individually with your professors is good practice. In a university, the dynamics of the class are generally a collaborative responsibility of both the students and the professor. I will make it a requirement for each of you to see me individually at least twice during the semester. This does not have to be during my posted office hours, but can be by special appointment. It is important to discuss writing and other work on a personal basis, and this can’t be done in class. Students should not depend on the professor to initiate interaction but initiate it themselves.

Grading
I will not grade all assignments, but there will be enough graded assignments to let you know how you stand. Midterm grades will be posted. My general scheme for the final grade will be:
- Class participation: 10 per cent
- Quizzes, short daily assignments: 20 per cent
- General essays: 25 per cent
- Research paper: 30 per cent
- Final project: 15 per cent

**Scholastic Dishonesty**

A student who submits as his or her own work a thesis, draft, completed essay, examination, quiz, or any other written work which is taken in whole or in part from another person’s writing without proper acknowledgement (that is, the use of quotation marks and documentation for directly quoted material or some sort of specific citation for paraphrased material) is guilty of plagiarism. A student who submits a plagiarized paper or allows another person to copy his or her work is subject to any one or all of the following actions:
- receiving a 0 grade for the paper;
- receiving an F grade for the course;
- being reported to the university for possible disciplinary action.

University policy for academic integrity can be found at: http://www.drake.edu/dos/handbook/academic/#dishonesty.

**Special Accommodations**

It is the policy at Drake University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law and state law. Any student with a documented disability who needs accommodation, for example in arrangements for seating, examinations, or note-taking, should contact Student Disability Services at 515-271-1835. Once the appropriate documentation is received from the Student Disability Services Office, please provide it to the instructor within the first week of class or within a week of diagnosis.

**Student Services**

The Coordinator for Sexual Violence Response and Healthy Relationship Promotion’s primary role is to act as a resource for students who have been subjected to interpersonal [gender] violence including sexual assault/ harassment, dating/ domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, and stalking and will advocate on behalf of the student victim’s requests if services are voluntarily initiated. The coordinator can explain how to initiate a complaint within the university and through criminal/ civil processes, assist with referrals to a confidential crisis advocate and/ or counselor and appropriate medical or legal professionals. The coordinator must report “known” student campus assaults to the Dean of Students and/ or Title IX Coordinator, but the complainant still has rights to participate or withdraw from the university process. Other services include providing crisis intervention (safety plan, crisis counseling, rights information), and assistance in academic and housing accommodations as needed. To contact the coordinator, Alysa Mozak, call 515-271-4141 or email alysa.mozak@drake.edu. The Violence Intervention Partner (V.I.P.) program through this office provides peer-based 24/7 confidential advocacy services. To access a V.I.P. advocate call or text 515-512-2972. For more information about these services visit www.drake.edu/sexual-assault/.

**Course Overview – Themes and Texts**

**General Schedule**

**Week 1:**

**Tues, Sept. 1**

Introduction: syllabus, general schedule, expectations, class discussions, overview of the library.

Read: CountryWatch (Database) Sudan and Southern Sudan – History, Political Conditions, Economic Conditions, and People.

Thurs, Sept. 3
Discussion of Sudan and John Bul Dau. Introduction to certain databases, MLA citation style, and problems of plagiarism. Short writing assignment.

Week 2:
Tues, Sept 8
Hand in paper.
Read for Thurs:

Thurs, Sept. 10
Meet at Lutheran Social Services: Guest speaker: Hilary Burbank and Elly Gentry.
Short writing assignment.
Read for Tues.:
Cambodia section in CountryWatch – History, Political Conditions and People.

Week 3
Tues., Sept 15
Hand in paper
Discussion: Sudan & Cambodia, Dau and Ung
Read for Thurs.:

Thurs, Sept 17
Larger writing assignment – with a visit to the writing workshop.

Week 4:
Tues, Sept 22
Discussion: Ngor and Killing Fields in conjunction with previous refugee stories.
For Thurs.:
Read Lee Rood’s series of articles on Burmese refugees from the Des Moines Register.
Make appointments with writing workshop early enough – rough draft will be due Tues. Sept. 24

Thurs, Sept 24
Hand in rough draft.
Guest speakers from EMBARC
Read for Tues.
Week 5:
Tues, Sept 29
Guest Speaker: Leslie Olson or Kristin Littlejohn from Oakridge Neighborhood.
Read for next Thurs.:


Thurs, Oct. 1
Hand in final draft of paper.
Guest speaker: Jill Anderson, Catholic Refugee Services

Read for Thurs.:


Think about what you will want to write about in your research paper.

Week 6:
Tues Oct. 6
Bring Laptops - meet in the library classroom (rm 045)
Discuss the research paper, review research strategy, look at helpful topic databases.
Introduce RefWorks.
Discuss annotated bibliographies, review citation and “Works Cited” format. Work on research topic.
Write a paragraph on what you want to research and why.
Set office appointments with me to discuss your research topics.

Thurs, Oct 8
Bring your laptop and work on research topic in class (meet in Cowles Library room 045)
Read for Tues.: Review readings by Williams, Ong, Nawyn and Bayor that was assigned earlier.

Week 7:
Tues, Oct 13
Hand in annotated bibliography.
Discussion of NGOs
Read for Thurs.:
Nigerian section in Country Watch.

Thurs Oct 15
Kartemquin Educational Films, 2008. (part one of the Nigerian family: Disc 1.) – on reserve.

Start making appointments with the Writing Workshop – the workshop will not be open Oct. 17-20

Read for Thurs., Oct. 22:


<fall break>

Week 8:
Thurs, Oct 22
Discuss racism.
Have your appointments with the Writing Workshop set.

Week 8.5.:
Tues, Oct 27
Turn in rough draft of research paper.
Thurs, Oct 29
Discuss assimilation.

Week 9.5.:
Tues, Nov. 3

Thurs, Nov. 5

Week 10.5
Tues, Nov 10
Hand in research paper.
Discuss identity.

Thurs, Nov 12
Discuss "refugeeness"
Longer writing assignment
Read for Tues.: Hamilin, Rebecca. “Illegal Refugees: Competing Policy Ideas and the Rise of the

**Week 11.5:**
**Tues, Nov. 17**
Discuss U.S. refugee policy

Read for Thurs.:

**Thurs., Nov. 19**
Discuss U.S. courts and refugees
Discuss possible presentation topics and organize group presentations.

For Tues.:

**Week 12.5**
**Tues. Nov. 24**
Hand in paper.
Discuss global refugee policy as it pertains to the current situation.
Read for next Tues:
Use the Global Issues in Context database. Under the topic “Conflict and Diplomacy,” select “Refugees” and choose 5 articles from different areas to read and report on.

<Thanksgiving>

**Week 13**
**Tues., Dec. 1**
Time set aside to work on presentations.

**Thurs., Dec. 3**
presentations

**Week 14**
**Tues., Dec. 8**
Presentations

**Thurs, Dec. 10**
Recap

Final Exam – Friday, Dec. 18 9:30 a.m.