

GLCb2027_fall_2023
Sociology of forced migration
Thursdays from 16:00 to 17:40, Room P22

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Consultation Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

Forced migration as a separate discipline has emerged relatively recently within the social sciences, and sociology in particular. The movement of people both within and outside countries is studied within migration studies, primarily through the prism of demographic, social and economic factors, but the most outstanding and independent factor is “force” (Harrell-Bond, 1988.). This course offers students a focused look at the trend of forced migration - whether due to military conflicts, climate change or other push factors that cause displacement - from the perspective of sociological theory and research. What social transformations does this type of migration cause? What are its distinct risks in terms of analyzing groups of forced migrants? What are the prospects for further research on forced migration in the social sciences, and sociology in particular, and how can sociological knowledge be applied in the field? In this course, we explore and discuss possible answers to these pressing questions concerning the different social dimensions of forced migration.

Course objectives:

By the end of the semester, students will gain experience and knowledge on:

- the development of the forced migration theories in sociology and migration studies;
- typologies of forced migrants and social factors that influence the experience of this social group;
- ways of adaptation, integration, physical and symbolic boundaries between groups of migrants and host societies;
- research paradigms and approaches concerning forced migration and migrants.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- To theorize forced migration as a social phenomenon using a sociological perspective;
- Discuss contemporary trends of forced migration and the factor of “force” as an independent variable
- Give and receive constructive criticism
- Evaluate and revise first drafts
- Demonstrate knowledge of and practice proper citation

Teaching methods:

The teaching methods used in this course involve weekly lecture meetings, reading of literature, homework exercises and formal writing assignment.

Course content

- Introduction to the course and brief overview
- Theoretical development of knowledge on forced migration in migration studies and sociology;
- Sociological perspectives on forced migration;
- Approaches to the study of forced migration;
- The pro-migrant paradigm of sociological study on forced migration.

Activities, requirements, expectations and grading:

1) READING, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND REFLECTION DISCUSSIONS (FROM WEEKLY LITERATURE OR WEEKLY PRACTICE TASKS):

All of the classes are complemented by a list of literature (obligatory and sometimes supplementary). students can also receive recommendations to attend a cultural or social event or watch a movie related to the topic of the lecture. On a weekly basis, students are expected to complete one of the following tasks (there is a different task for each week in the interactive syllabus). The weekly task is graded for 4 points each.

1) an audio or video record of a brief discussion among students (in a group of up to 3 people) on the material read and studied prior the lecture. No longer than 20 minutes. The audio/video file should contain the names of the students who participated in the discussion in the title.

2) prepare a 200-word discussion paper based on the readings. The document should contain your critical view of the readings and not duplicate (retell) the content of the readings. The document should be of a discussion nature. For example, what do you agree with, what questions did the literature or topic prompt you to ask, how can the issue raised by the author be considered today, does the content of the reading correlate with what we (you) observe in our social reality? The completed tasks should be uploaded to the Homework Vault not later than 9.00 AM the day before the class. This semester – every Wednesday.

2) CLASS DISCUSSION FACILITATION AND PARTICIPATION: On a weekly basis, at least 2 students will be assigned as discussion facilitators according to the readings. Discussion facilitation is a mandatory assignment during the semester and is worth 10 points. Participation in each discussion - active discussion is encouraged with an additional 2 points for each participant. In order to record these points, each student who participated in the discussion during the class must come to the teacher after the end of the class and record their participation so that the teacher can mark it during the evaluation.

3) PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT – Prepare a group presentation on the topic.

4) FINAL EXAM: Online. Based on the practical assignment you should write an analytical essay. At the end of the semester, students will receive a written and oral assignment, the completion of which will prove that they have passed the course – 30 points. Exam will include writing the answers to 3 open questions on the topic of the course. The detailed instruction will be provided during the course.

Grading:

The final grade consists of:

- 1) Weekly reading, home tasks and fieldworks (up to 50%)
- 2) Group assignment – discussion facilitation (10%)
- 3) Practical assignments during the course (10%)
- 4) final exam (30%) based on compulsory readings and practical assignment.

Week #	Dates	Topic of the lecture	Reading materials
1	26/09	<i>Introduction to the course and brief overview of the content.</i>	Syllabus Watch the movie (if have an access) The Swimmers 2022 (Netflix) https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8745676/
2	03/10	The history of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. What is the place of sociology?	Obligatory reading: Barbara E. Harrell-Bond. The Sociology on Involuntary migration. An introduction. Current Sociology, Volume 36 (2): 6. June 1, 1988. Finn Stepputat, Nynna Nyberg Sorensen. Sociology and Forced Migration. The Oxford Handbook of Migration and Refugee Studies. 13 pages.
3	10/10	Mapping the field. What is (in)voluntary migration? Why do we define the matter of “force” in sociological inquiry?	Obligatory reading: Stephen Castles. Towards a Sociology of Forced Migration and Social Transformation. Article in “Sociology” 2003 (2).
4	17/10	Causes of forced migration. Discuss the social dimensions of the variable “force”.	Obligatory reading: Sarah Lischer. Causes and Consequences of forced Displacement. Article in “Civil Wars” 9 (2) 2007. 14 pages. Stephen Castles. The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World. Theories of Migration, pp. 25 – 31.
5	24/10	Forced migrants, host societies and agencies. States and forced migrants.	Obligatory reading: Michael Barnett. Humanitarianism with a Sovereign Face: UNHCR in the Global Undertow. The International Migration Review, Spring, 2001, Vol. 35, No. 1, Special Issue: UNHCR at 50: Past, Present and Future of Refugee Assistance (Spring, 2001), pp. 244-277 Stephen Castles. The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World. pp. 221 – 238
6	31/10	<i>Reading week</i>	
7	7/11	Spatial movement and forced displacement scenarios	Obligatory reading: Van Hear, N. (2014) ‘Refugees, Diasporas, and Transnationalism’, in Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E., Loescher, G., Long, K. and Sigona, N. (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 176-187
8	14/11	How does (forced) migration transform societies? Focusing on a pro-migrant paradigm.	Stephen Castles. The Age of Migration. International Population Movements in the Modern World. pp. 55 – 81. Irina Kuznetsova, Oksana Mikheeva. Forced Displacement from Ukraine’s War-Torn Territories: Intersectionality and Power Geometry. Nationalities Papers (2020), 48: 4, 690–706
9	21/11	Studying life experiences: Bringing the voices of migrants into migration studies.	Sigona, N. (2014) 'The politics of refugee voices: Representations, narratives and memories'. In The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, edited by Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Gil Loescher, Kathy Long and Nando Sigona. Oxford:

			Oxford University Press: 369-382
10	28/11	Representations of Forced Migration	Terence Wright. The Media Representation of Refugees and Other Forced Migrants. <i>Visual Studies</i> , Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002. 15 pages.
11	5/12	The human dimension in forced migration studies.	Elizabeth Colson. Forced Migration and the Anthropological Response. <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i> Vol. 16, No. 1 2003. 19 pages).
12	12/12	Regional Studies (1) presentation class	Choose the region you will make the presentation about during the class from the list in <i>The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter Regional Studies pp. 416 - 522). Instructions on the presentation will be provided prior to the class.
13	19/12	Regional Studies (2) presentation class	Choose the region you will make the presentation about during the class from the list in <i>The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press (Chapter Regional Studies pp. 416 - 522). Instructions on the presentation will be provided prior to the class.

Final exam: See the scheduled date to be posted in the IS