

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Protection and Practice

**New York University
School of Continuing and Professional Studies
M.S. Program in Global Affairs
Y45.2320-001
Spring 2009
Wednesday, 3.30p.m. - 6.10p.m.
21 January – 29 April 2009
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2.00-3.15 pm (other times by appt.)
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SYLLABUS

Course Objectives: Forced Displacement of populations has been a prominent dimension of world history. In the 20th century, two world wars and numerous intra-state conflicts resulted in large numbers of forcibly displaced persons. The first decade of the 21st century has witnessed new waves of refugees, a steep increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), a rise in the number of persons seeking asylum and an increase in the number of people displaced due to natural disasters, development projects and climate change.

This course will give graduate students in global affairs a deeper understanding of the compelling human rights issues attendant on forced displacement. After an initial review of the legal frameworks for addressing forced displacement and key issues, the course will focus on selected case studies (e.g., Afghanistan, the Balkans; Burma; Darfur; Iraq; Rwanda) that illustrate various aspects of displacement and changing trends in the provision of humanitarian assistance. It will pay particular attention to gender-based violence and the specific needs of vulnerable groups: women, children, adolescents and the aged.

Following initial introductory lectures, the course will be conducted as a seminar. Thus, it is essential that students complete the designated readings prior to coming to class. In order to keep up to date with issues pertaining to refugees and IDPs, students will monitor principal websites and will report back to the class on key issues. In late March and April, a portion of the class session will be allocated to briefings by students on their Issues Papers. As schedules permit, representatives of UN offices, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations will address the class.

Course Materials and Requirements:

UNHCR, The State of the World's Refugees: Fifty Years of Humanitarian Action, Oxford University Press, 2000.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/unhcr2000.htm>

UNHCR, The State of the World's Refugees: Human Displacement in the New Millennium, Oxford University Press, 2006.

<http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/4444afc50.pdf>

Jan Egeland, A Billion Lives: An Eyewitness Report from the Frontlines of Humanity, Simon & Schuster, 2008.

David Rieff, A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis, Vintage, 2002.

Fiona Terry, The Paradox of Humanitarian Action: Condemned to Repeat? Cornell University Press, 2002.

The readings for each class session are listed below. It is essential that students read the designated material prior to the class session and are prepared to participate actively in class discussion. Weekly reading assignments may be adjusted during the term to respond to students' particular interests and to balance the reading requirement.

Attendance and Lateness Policy: All students must attend class regularly and take part in discussions. More than two absences, with explanation or not, will result in a full letter grade deduction from a student's final grade. Students are expected to arrive on time; those coming in after attendance has been taken will be recorded as tardy. Two instances of tardiness will be counted as one absence.

Exam and Issues Paper: There will be an in-class "mid-term" examination on 4 March. The exam will be essay in format. Each student will submit an "Issues Paper", approximately *12-15 double spaced-pages in length*, which examines a particular aspect/issue of forced displacement. The topic for the Issues Paper should be selected in consultation with the professor by 25 February. It is due 22 April. ***It must be submitted electronically and a hard copy (double spaced) should be given to the instructor.***

Students should consult social science style manuals and writing guides to assist them in the preparation of the research paper.

The SCPS places highest emphasis on matters of academic honesty and imposes strict penalties for plagiarism. The definition of plagiarism adopted by the SCPS is:

Plagiarism is presenting some else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically, plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer; a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; creative images, artwork, or design; or facts or ideas gathered, organized, and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing and not providing proper attribution. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgement of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper or course to dismissal from the University.

Research papers may only be used for one class.

Grading: Final grades will be calculated according to the following percentages: class preparation and participation, 20%; midterm exam, 25%; issues paper 25%; in class exam, 30%.

In accordance with departmental policy, a grade of *incomplete* is granted only in extreme cases such as illness or other family emergency, and only when almost all work for the semester has been successfully completed. A student's procrastination in completing his/her assignments is not a basis for an *incomplete*.

Jan. 21st Lesson 1
The legal frameworks addressing the situation of Refugees and IDPs and the causes of forced displacement.

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
The 1967 Protocol to the 1951 Convention
The 1969 OAU Refugee Convention

(These documents available on UNHCHR and UNHCR web sites)

<http://www.unhcr.org/BASICS/4034b6a34.pdf>

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998

http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/pub/idp_gp/idp.html

Terry, Chapter 1 "Humanitarian Action and Responsibility," pp. 17-54.

Jan 28th Lesson 2
Forced Displacement Issues in the 20th and 21st Century

UNHCR, The State of the World's Refugees (2000)—pp. 13-27; pp.37-58;

Brookings-Bern Project on Internal displacement: Protecting Persons Affected by Natural Disasters: IASC Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters.

http://www3.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/2006_IASC_NaturalDisasterGuidelines.pdf

http://www.hrcberkeley.org/afterthetsunami/pdfs/02intro_bg_country.pdf

pp. 1-11; pp. 93-102.

Feb. 4th Lesson 3
The Middle East: Forced Displacement in Palestine and Iraq

Egeland, pp.133 -184

Forced Migration Review, pp. 5-51, Issue 26, August 2006.

The Question of Palestine and the United Nations, pp. 3-65. (UN website)

UNHCR Guidelines Relating to the Eligibility of Iraqi Asylum Seekers,
Oct. 2005. UNHCR website.
Egeland, pp. 7 -35.
Nir Rosen, " *The Flight from Iraq*", New York Times Magazine, 13 May
2007.

Feb. 11th Lesson 4
Refugees and Displaced Persons in Latin America

Terry, Chapter 4, pp. 83-113.
Egeland, "No End to Violence in Colombia," pp. 35-76.

Feb. 18th Lesson 5
Forced Displacement in Afghanistan

Terry, pp. 55-82.
Rieff, pp. 231-265.

Feb. 25th Lesson 6
**Humanitarian Intervention: Refugee Protection in the Former
Yugoslavia**

Rieff, pp. 123-154; pp. 197-230.

***** Paper Topics Due *****

March 4th Lesson 7
Mid Term Exam

March 11th Lesson 8
Stateless Populations and Asylum Seekers: Challenges and Solutions

1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons

1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

www.ohch.org/english/law/statelessness.htm

UNHCR, Refugees, No. 147, Issue 3, 2007, "Special Report – "The
Strange, Hidden World of the Stateless," pp. 4 – 31.

**State of the World's Refugees 2006, Chapter 2, "Safeguarding
Asylum".**

March 18th Spring Break *** Enjoy! *******

March 25th Lesson 9
The Great Lakes Region: Crises in Rwanda and the DRC

Reiff, p. 155-193.

Terry, pp. 155-215.

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/genocide.htm>

April 1st

Lesson 10

Darfur: Sovereignty v. The Responsibility to Protect

S/2005/60 “Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur to the United Nations Secretary-General, Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1564 of 18 September 2004. (Geneva, 25 January 2005).

Available on the UN website.

(Read the introductory section – about 10 pages; useful background on the origins of the conflict.)

A/63/677 “Report of the Secretary-General – Implementing the Responsibility to Protect,” 12 January 2009.

Evans and Sahnoun, “The Responsibility to Protect,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No.6. www.foreignaffairs.org/20021101faessay9995/gareth-evans-sahnoun/theresponsibility-to-protect.html

Kofi Annan, “Reflections on Intervention,”

http://www.dwfed.org/pp_annan_on_sov.html

Security Council Resolution 1769 (2007)

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/445/52/PDF/N0744552.pdf?OpenElement>

Egeland, “Scorched Earth in Darfur”, pp. 77-96.

April 8th

Lesson 11

Responding to the needs of vulnerable groups (women, children, adolescents, the aged) in forced displacement settings

UNHCR, *Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women*

Egeland, Chapter 9, “Uganda’s Twenty thousand Kidnapped Children”

“Burma’s Displaced People”, **Forced Migration Review**, April, 2008, pp.4-52.

April 15th

Lesson 12

The Transition from Humanitarian to Development Assistance: Post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation programs

The World Bank, *An Independent Review of the Post-Conflict Fund*

Support to Refugees and the Internally Displaced (Social Development Papers, Paper No. 17, Oct 2004). May be downloaded from

www.worldbank.org/WEBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/EXTCPR/O,,CONTENTmdk:20487833~menuPK:126092

April 22nd Lesson 13
Rethinking Durable Solutions

UNHCR, The State of the World's Refugees (2006),
Chapters 6 & 7.

Terry, Chapter 6, "Humanitarian Action in a Second Best world," pp.216-245.

***** Issues Paper Due *****

April 29th Lesson 14
****** Final Exam*******

Suggested Websites

www.unhcr.org

www.iom.int

www.theIRC.org

www.irinnews.org

www.msf.org

www.forcedmigration.org

www.foreignaffairs.org

www.idpproject.org

www.theIRC.org

www.womenscommission.org

www.humanitarianinfor.org

www.refugeecouncilusa.org

www.refugeesinternational.org

www.rsc.ox.ac.uk

www.reliefweb.org

www.nrc.no/idp.htm

www.state.gov/g/prm