

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Code / Title: (AM/PEAC 365) Refugees, Forced Migration, and Integration in Jordan

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Peace and Conflict Studies / Middle East Studies, International Relations, Migration Studies, History

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

Since its foundation in 1921 following World War 1, Jordan has received large numbers of refugees from neighboring countries and beyond. The mosaic of Jordanian identity has been formed from this diverse mixture of refugees combined with the indigenous Hashemite people. Refugees have come to Jordan from a variety of social backgrounds and economic classes, bringing with them distinct values, cultural traditions, and skills. Refugees from Syria differ from those who have come from Yemen, as those from Chechnya differ from those from Iraq, Israel/Palestine, and Armenia.

This course analyzes the different degrees of integration into the host communities as well as cultural, legal, and economic factors that influence the assigning of different roles to specific nationalities. Course materials highlight the ways refugee communities have been influenced by their hosts and vice versa. This includes examining the impact on Jordanian culture and traditions (food, clothing, language, religion) as well the influence on the Jordanian labor market, health care system, and general infrastructure. Furthermore, the course explores issues of asylum and related challenges such as mutual adjustment and stereotyping, in addition to the historical context of the conflicts that have displaced people and rationale for choosing Jordan as a place of refuge. It also debates the controversial issue of refugee admittance and resettlement.

Leveraging the Jordanian context as a classroom, the course has a significant field-based component. Lectures are supplemented by guest speakers, interviews with people who have resettled in Jordan, and field visits to large international agencies such as UNRWA and the UNHCR, as well as an NGO working in food security issues with refugee populations in Jordan.

Objectives

In this course, students learn to:

- Distinguish between the concept of asylum through the eyes of refugees and those of the host country.
- Appreciate the various reasons why Jordan has been chosen as a country of asylum for millions of people.
- Understand the impact of Jordan's reception of refugees and its geopolitical role extending into the Arab Spring.

Syllabus of Record

- Build a nuanced understanding of the different perspectives of refugees in a way that challenges traditional views.
- Examine the concept of integration between refugees and host communities.
- Understand the UN mandate and the responsibilities and limitations of UNRWA and the UNHCR in providing assistance and protection to refugees, especially those from Israel/Palestine and Syria.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to thoroughly prepare for each class and to actively participate. Class attendance, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy, is critical for success in the course and includes guest lectures and field-based components. In addition to class lectures and debates, the course features guest lectures and field visits, to organizations like UNRWA, UNHCR, and a Syrian refugee food security program in the Jordan Valley.

Students must complete all readings prior to class and be prepared to thoughtfully engage with the issues that are being examined.

Graded assignments include:

- Reflection papers: 3 short response papers (2-3 pages) following documentary videos, and field visits to NGOs
- Interviews: 2 short response papers (2-3 pages) following two interviews with non-Jordanian residents of Jordan to discuss how they define their experience in Jordan and their place in the social composition.
- Final Paper: 9-12 pages, excluding bibliography, on a topic determined in consultation with the faculty member.
- Presentation: 15 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions, on the topic of the final paper. This should include a PowerPoint presentation of approximately 15 slides.
- Final exam: focuses on the key issues analyzed during the course. An exam review activity the class before will assist students in preparing for the exam.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| • Preparation and participation | 15% |
| • Reflection papers (3) | 15% |
| • Response papers (2) | 20% |
| • Final paper | 20% |
| • Presentation | 10% |
| • Final Exam | 20% |

Syllabus of Record

Readings

Adbel Jabbar, Sinaria, and Haidar Ibrahim Zaza. Impact of Conflict in Syria on Syrian Children at the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan. *Early Child Development and Care* 184.9-10 (2014).

Abdel-Nour, Farid. "Irreconcilable Narratives and Overlapping Consensus: The Jewish State and the Palestinian Right of Return." *Political Research Quarterly* 68, no. 1 (2015): 117-27. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/24371976.

AbuZayd, Karen Koning. "Palestinian Refugees: Seeking an Overdue Solution." *New Zealand International Review*, vol. 33, no. 3, 2008, pp. 14–18. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/45235764. Accessed 6 Mar. 2020.

Al-Kilani, Saleh. A Duty and a Burden on Jordan. *Forced Migration Review* (2014).
Bedein, David. Don't Dismantle UNRWA; Reform Its Policies. Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, 2017, www.jstor.org/stable/resrep04348. Accessed 6 Mar. 2020.

Betts, Alexander, and Paul Collier. "Help Refugees Help Themselves: Let Displaced Syrians Join the Labor Market." *Foreign Affairs* 94, no. 6 (2015): 84-92. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/43946544.

Christophersen, Mona. Educating Syrian Youth in Jordan: Holistic Approaches to Emergency Response. Report. International Peace Institute, 2015. 11-15. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09544.7.

Christophersen, Mona. Securing Education for Syrian Refugees in Jordan. Report. International Peace Institute, 2015. 3-4. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09545.5.

Dickinson, Elizabeth. "Shadow Aid to Syrian Refugees." *Middle East Report*, no. 272 (2014): 36-42. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/24426480.

Carapico, Sheila. "Foreign aid for promoting democracy in the Arab world." *The Middle East Journal* (2002): 379-395.

Chatelard, Geraldine. "Jordan: A refugee haven." *Migration Policy Institute Online Journal* (2010).

Connable, Ben. "Economic Factors and Forecasted Impact." In *From Negative to Positive Stability: How the Syrian Refugee Crisis Can Improve Jordan's Outlook*, 19-24. RAND Corporation, 2015. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/j.ctt19w72rx.8.

Dal Pra, Amelia Marie. "A Refuge for Refugees: The Historical Context and Socioeconomic Impact of Palestinian Refugees in Jordan." *Global Tides* 11.1 (2017): 4.

De Bel-Air, Françoise. "Migration Profile: Jordan." (2016).

Syllabus of Record

El-Abed, Oroub. "The discourse of guesthood: Forced migrants in Jordan." In *Managing Muslim Mobilities*, pp. 81-100. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2014.

Eran, Oded. Report. Institute for National Security Studies, 2019. Accessed March 10, 2020. doi:10.2307/resrep19453.

Fee, Molly, and Rawan Arar. "what happens when the united states stops taking in refugees?." *Contexts* 18, no. 2 (2019): 18-23.

Feldman, Ilana. "What is a camp? Legitimate refugee lives in spaces of long-term displacement." *Geoforum* 66 (2015): 244-252.

Ferris, Elizabeth and Kemal Kirişçi. "The Context, Causes and Consequences of Syrian Displacement." In *The Consequences of Chaos: Syria's Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect*, 1-31. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2016.

Ferris, Elizabeth and Kemal Kirişçi. "Syrian Refugees: Challenges to Host Countries and the International Community." In *The Consequences of Chaos: Syria's Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect*, 33-70. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2016. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/10.7864/j.ctt1c2cqw.7.

Gornall, Jonathan. "Healthcare for Syrian Refugees." *BMJ: British Medical Journal* 351 (2015). Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/26522638.

Hanafi, Sari. "Opening the Debate on the Right of Return." *Middle East Report*, no. 222 (2002): 2-7. Accessed March 10, 2020. doi:10.2307/1559261.

Hartnett, Allison Spencer. "The Effect of Refugee Integration on Migrant Labor in Jordan." *Review of Middle East Studies* 52, no. 2 (2018): 263-82. Accessed March 10, 2020. doi:10.2307/26562582.
Karsh, Efraim. *ISRAEL 1948, Israel, and the Palestinians—The True Story*. Commentary Magazine 1 May 2008.

Kagan, Michael. "'We Live in a Country of UNHCR': The UN Surrogate State and Refugee Policy in the Middle East." *The UN Refugee Agency: Policy Development & Evaluation Service Research Paper* 201 (2011).

Karsh, Efraim. *ISRAEL 1948, Israel, and the Palestinians—The True Story*. Commentary Magazine 1 May 2008.

Kuzar, Ron. "The Term Return in the Palestinian Discourse on the Right of Return." *Discourse & Society* 19, no. 5 (2008): 629-44. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/42889220.

Syllabus of Record

Omar, Manal, Elie Abouaoun, and Béatrice Pouligny. "Rebuilding Societies: Strategies for Resilience and Recovery in Times of Conflict." Report. Atlantic Council, 2016. 9-11. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/resrep03654.6.

Oron, Israela. Report. Institute for National Security Studies, 2018. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/resrep17041.

Parekh, Serena (2020) Reframing the refugee crisis: from rescue to interconnection, *Ethics & Global Politics*, 13:1, 21-32, DOI: 10.1080/16544951.2020.1735013

Roper, Steven D., and Lilian A. Barria. "Burden Sharing in the Funding of the UNHCR: Refugee Protection as an Impure Public Good." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54, no. 4 (2010): 616-37. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/20773710.

Sanyal, Romola. "Refugees: The Work of Exile: Protracted Refugee Situations and the New Palestinian Normal." In *The Post-Conflict Environment: Investigation and Critique*, edited by Monk Daniel Bertrand and Mundy Jacob, 135-57. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2014. Accessed March 10, 2020. doi:10.2307/j.ctt22p7hj9.9.

Satloff, Robert, and David Schenker. Report. Council on Foreign Relations, 2016. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/resrep05671.

Seeley, Nicholas. "The Politics of Aid to Displaced Iraqis in Jordan." *Middle East Report*, no. 256 (2010): 37-42. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/40985239.

Singer, Joel. "No Palestinian 'Return' to Israel." *ABA Journal* 87, no. 1 (2001): 14-15. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/27841226.

Taylor, J. Edward, Mateusz J. Filipski, Mohamad Alloush, Anubhab Gupta, Ruben Irvin Rojas Valdes, and Ernesto Gonzalez-Estrada. "Economic Impact of Refugees." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 113, no. 27 (2016): 7449-453. Accessed March 10, 2020. www.jstor.org/stable/26470706.

Zimmermann, Anne Mariel. "What Does US Aid "Buy" in the Middle East?." In *US Assistance, Development, and Hierarchy in the Middle East*, pp. 1-18. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2017.

Additional Resources

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Jordan and UNHCR (1998). Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b31920.html>

UN Resolution 194: Available at: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/ip-ares-194.php>

The 1951 UN Convention on Refugees: Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10>

Syllabus of Record

Council of Foreign Relations: A System of Under Strain: https://www.cfr.org/interactive/refugeecrisis/index.html?utm_source=tw_iigg&utm_medium=social_owned#!/a-system-under-strain

International Organization for Migration: <https://www.iom.int/>

Refugee History Archives: <http://refugeehistory.org/blog/2017/5/25/10-refugee-history-archives>

The Refugees Study Center at the University of Oxford: <https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/>

UNHCR: <https://www.unhcr.org/>

UNHCR Jordan: <https://www.unhcr.org/jo/>

UNRWA: www.unrwa.org

Outline of Course Content

The course covers approximately 1 topic every 2-3 weeks.

Topic 1 – An Introduction to Refugees and Forced Migration Studies

- The current refugee crisis: definitions and numbers.
- Connotations of terminologies: guest/host/refugee/migrant
- The 1951 UN Convention on Refugees.
- The role and responsibility of the UNHCR.
- 3 Solutions and layers of local resistance: repatriation, resettlement, local integration.
- Refugee camps and their connotations from perspective of refugees, hosts and the global community, symbolic meanings

Topic 2 – Jordan as a Place of Refuge

- The historical role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as a place of refuge.
- Power dynamics between host/guest/refugee: who is regarded as guest? Or Refugee?
- Receiving refugees: Cherkassy, Armenian, Chechen, Palestinian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Syrian refugees.
- Power dynamics among religious and ethnic minorities residing in Jordan
- International law and the geopolitics of refugee reception in the Middle East.

Topic 3 – Jordan and the Palestinian Refugee Issue

- *The Nakba:* Conflicting narratives of the 1948 war. Connotations of terminologies: Israel/Zionist occupation/Israelis/Jews
 - The Palestinian refugee camps.
 - UN Resolution 194.
 - The Right of Return Debate – layers, implications on refugees in Jordan.
- *The Naksa:* Jordan and the 1967 war.
- UNRWA and the Palestinian Refugees, distinctions from UNHCR.
- The debate regarding hereditary refugee status.

Topic 4 – Jordan and the Syrian Refugee Issue

- The Syrian war: Reasons, repercussions, relief efforts, and Jordan's role.

Syllabus of Record

- UNHCR Jordan: Protection, assistance and Syrian refugee camps (Zaatari, Azraq and Rukban).
- Challenges: Security, health and education.
- The Jordan Response Plan (JPR) and public opinion.
- The politics of aid and development - debates on economic and development discourse

Topic 5 – The Impact of Refugees on Jordan

- The mosaic of Jordanian identity & Jordan's identity crisis
- Challenges and opportunities: How Jordan has been impacted by refugees and refugees impacted by Jordan.
- The impact on the economy: Boost or burden?
- The impact on the labor market. Taking or making jobs? Division of labor market along ethnic lines
- The impact on culture and traditions. Where are you from?

Topic 6 – Analyzing Key Issues

- Successes and Limitations: An analysis of Alexander Betts and Paul Collier, *Refuge: Transforming a Broken Refugee System*.
- USAID and the controversial history of educating refugee youth.
- Refugee resettlement debate: Should Western nations accept more refugees from the Middle East?
- Power dynamics of global community: global north vs global south/ financially independent wealthy states (donors) versus economically dependent states, impacts on state sovereignty