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**Chicano Latino Studies 289/History 260
Refugees and Immigrants in U.S. History
Graduate Seminar**



Course Description:

This seminar will expose graduate students to the growing literature on U.S. refugee history, with a focus on tracing the evolving response of the U.S. government to refugees and asylum seekers from World War One through the aftermath of 9/11. While paying special attention to Latin American and Asian refugees after World War Two, readings will examine more broadly the ways that shifting international and domestic circumstances shaped how, when and why have specific groups of refugees were selected for admission and protection in the U.S; how laws, policies and programs devised to admit and care for refugees have evolved during this period; as well as the ways that emerging notions of refugee rights have interacted with American understandings of race, class, religion, national origin, gender and age, have influenced who has been granted or denied sanctuary within U.S. borders. Special attention will be paid to how the expanded power of the executive branch over immigration and refugee policy after World War Two, as well as the evolving relationship between the federal government and voluntary agencies contributed to the establishment of both increasingly sophisticated mechanisms of exclusion as well as a complex “public-private” bureaucratic infrastructure through which the United States continues to regulate the admission and care of refugees and asylees.

Course Schedule/Required Readings

Week 1: Theorizing Refugees and the State

Reading assignment:

-Phil Orchard, *The Right to Flee: Refugees, States and the Construction of International Cooperation* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014): Intro, Ch. 1, 3-5 (PolSci and Soc students-also read Ch. 2).

- Alexander Betts, *Survival Migration: Failed Governance and the Crisis of Displacement* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013): Introduction, Ch. 1 (*AVAILABLE ONLINE UCI LIBRARY)

-Brian Balogh, *The Associational State: American Governance in the Twentieth Century* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015): Introduction

Week 2: Refugees in U.S. History: Historiographical Origins, Part One

Reading assignment:

Gil Loescher and John A. Scanlan, *Calculated Kindness: Refugees and American's Half-Open Door, 1945 to the Present* (New York: The Free Press, 1986)

Richard Breitman and Alan M. Kraut, *American Refugee Policy and European Jewry, 1933-1945* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987): Introduction

Week 3: Refugees in US History: Historiographical Origins, Part Two

Reading Assignment:

Carl J. Bon Tempo, *Americans at the Gate: The United States and Refugees During the Cold War* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008)

Richard Breitman and Allan J. Lichtman, *FDR and the Jews* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013): Introduction (*AVAILABLE ONLINE UCI LIBRARY)

Week 4: Refugees, the State and Civil Society: A Public-Private Enterprise

Reading assignment:

Stephen R. Porter, *Benevolent Empire: U.S. Power, Humanitarianism, and the World's Dispossessed* (Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017).
(*AVAILABLE ONLINE UCI LIBRARY)

Joshua Mather, "Champions of Compassion: The American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service and Cold War-Era U.S. Foreign Policy," April 25, 2016; accessed online on July 6, 2020, at: <http://www.baas.ac.uk/usso/champions-of-compassion-the-american-council-of-voluntary-agencies-for-foreign-service-and-cold-war-era-u-s-foreign-policy/>

Week 5: Cold War Refugees, Part One: Presidential Activism, Executive-Legislative Relations and the Hungarian and Cuban Refugee Programs

Reading assignment:

Anita Casavantes Bradford, *The Revolution is for the Children: The Politics of Childhood in Havana and Miami, 1959-1962* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2014); Intro, Ch. 5-6 (*AVAILABLE ONLINE UCI LIBRARY)

Anita Casavantes Bradford, "Another foothold in our fight against communism:" Race, Religion, and Public Relations in the Hungarian and Cuban Refugee Programs, 1956–1961," *US Catholic Historian* (Summer 2019)

Week 6: Cold War Refugees, Part Two: Southeast Asia and Militarized Refuge(es)

Reading assignment:

Yen Le Espiritu, *Body Counts: The Vietnam War and Militarized Refuge(es)* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014): Chapters 1, 2 and 4 (*AVAILABLE ONLINE UCI LIBRARY)

Sabrina Thomas, *The Scars of War: The Politics of Paternity and National Responsibility for the Amerasians of Vietnam* (Lincoln, NE: The University of Nebraska Press, 2020): Introduction, Ch. 1

Jana K. Lipman, "A Refugee Camp in America: Fort Chafee and Vietnamese and Cuban Refugees, 1975-1982," *Journal of American Ethnic History* Vol. 33 No. 2 (Winter 2014): 57-87

Recommended:

Phuong Tran Nguyen, *Becoming Refugee American: The Politics of Rescue in Little Saigon* (Urbana, ILL: University of Illinois Press, 2017), 38.

Week 7: The "Human Rights Revolution" and the Origins of the 1980s Refugee Act

Reading Assignment:

Barbara J. Keys, *Reclaiming American Virtue: The Human Rights Revolution of the 1970s* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014),

Deborah E. Anker and Michael H. Posner, "The Forty Year Crisis: A Legislative History of the Refugee Act of 1980," *San Diego Law Review*, Vol. 19 Issue 1 (1981): 9-89.

Week 8: Race, Geopolitics and the Limits of Universalism: Central Americans, Legal Violence and the Sanctuary Movement

Reading Assignment:

María Cristina García, *Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2006), Introduction, Ch. 1, Ch. 3 and Conclusion (*AVAILABLE ONLINE UCI LIBRARY)

Cecilia Menjívar and Leisy J. Abrego, "Legal Violence: Immigration Law and the Lives of Central American Immigrants," *American Journal of Sociology* Vol. 117 No. 5 (March 2012): 1380-1421

Susan Bibler Coutin, *The Culture of Protest: Religious Activism and the U.S. Sanctuary Movement* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1993), Introduction, Ch. 1 (*PROFESSOR WILL PROVIDE)

Week 9: Unaccompanied Refugee Minors in U.S. History

Reading Assignment:

Anita Casavantes Bradford, *Suffer the Little Children: Child Migration and the Geopolitics of Compassion in the United States* (University of North Carolina Press 2022); (*PROFESSOR WILL PROVIDE)

Cecilia Menjívar and Krista M. Perreira, “Undocumented and Unaccompanied: Children of Migration in the European Union and the United States,” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* Vol. 45 No. 2 (2019): 197–217, 200.

Recommended:

Leisy Abrego, “Intervention and Displacement: How U.S. involvement in Central America Pushes Children and Families to Migrate,” *Moral Imperialism*, August 21, 2014, accessed online on January 15, 2021 at:
<https://moralimperialism.wordpress.com/2014/08/21/intervention-and-displacement-how-u-s-involvement-in-central-america-pushes-children-and-families-to-migrate/>

Oscar Martínez, “Why the Children Fleeing Central America Will Not Stop Coming,” *The Nation*, July 30, 2014; accessed online on January 15, 2021 at:
<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/why-children-fleeing-central-america-will-not-stop-coming/>

Jacqueline Bhabha and Susan Schmidt. *Seeking Asylum Alone: Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Refugee Protection in the U.S.* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies, June 2006), accessed online on January 11, 2021 at:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/267042020_Seeking_Asylum_Alone_Unaccompanied_and_Separated_Children_and_Refugee_Protection_in_the_US.

Week 10: Refugees, the State and the Geopolitics of Compassion in 21st Century America

Reading Assignment:

María Cristina García, *The Refugee Challenge in Post-Cold War America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017)

Assignments/Assessment

Students in this seminar are required to:

- 1) Complete a weekly “book review” style summary (2-3 double-spaced pages) of the assigned readings; for each scholarly monograph, they will also locate/print/read one scholarly review for each of the complete books assigned. **15%**
- 2) Prepare and lead one in-class presentation/critical workshop-style activity based on an assigned reading. A detailed task handout and rubric will be provided. **25%**
- 3) Write a 12-15 page historiographical essay on a survival migrations-related topic OR, with instructor permission, complete an equivalent project (some form of public scholarship or research informed creative product, course syllabus plus sample lecture/assessment tasks, etc.), of relevance to their own research. A detailed task handout and rubric will be provided. **40%**
- 4) Attend all seminar meetings and contribute proactively and thoughtfully to discussions of the assigned readings. **20 %**