20th Century Migrations

This course will study European mass migration in historical perspective. After an overview of 19th century migration, we will follow the changes in immigration policy from the 1880s to the present. In addition to economic motivations, we will consider the role of the making of nation-states in shedding populations and restricting their movement. The course explores human mobility in the context of political struggles, border changes, economic conditions, demographic shifts, family structures, gender roles, and cultural expectations.

The refugee crises of WWI and its aftermath spawned and international institutions, passports and new immigration laws. We will study the role of international institutions in the housing of refugees and the making of refugee policy. A major focus will be the movements of people following World War II, the largest mass migration before today. Topics include ethnic cleansing and the creation of homogenous nation-states, the fate of Holocaust survivors, the American and UN responses political and economic refugees, and the fears within European countries that mass migrations elicited (especially of Communist infiltration). The course will engage theories of diaspora, nationality, and state-building and study how notions of citizenship, national belonging, and state control influenced and were influenced by the evolution of migration movements within Europe. The reading concludes with the Bosnia crisis after the collapse of Yugoslavia.

The current crisis has added an urgency to an historical reading of migration. We can explore the distinctiveness of events as well as the effect of historical precedent on subsequent events. Research papers must use some primary source material and engage some of the readings in the course or other approved secondary sources. The course readings are weighted toward Eastern European migration to the United States, but migration is a global phenomenon and students may pursue final topics of their own choosing within the general themes of the course. You will define your own topic in consultation with the professor. All topics must be approved by the professor.

The serious study of the topic of this seminar has only begun recently. Primary materials are abundant; survivors and witnesses to the events are still alive. You will be sleuths, searching for primary descriptions and documentary evidence. The U.S. played a major role in Europe, so papers may be comparative, but this is a European history course, so Europe must be a major component in student projects.

First drafts are expected to be as polished as the papers you normally turn in at the end of the semester. These papers will be distributed to a small group of fellow students and the professor. Students will read the papers of their fellow students in their group very carefully, making margin comments and general suggestions for improvement of the paper. Assisting
fellow students with good suggestions will be a graded assignment (10%). Drafts, revisions, and final paper will count for 50% of the grade; class presentation of the paper will be 10%.

Assignments:
  Weekly 1-2 page reaction papers and discussion 30%; reading fellow student papers, 10%; 15 page research paper, drafts, presentation, and final paper, 60%.

• Attendance Policy:
  Class participation is central to the success of this course. Attendance is absolutely required. Missing two meetings will drop the letter grade one notch. Participation in class will also be decisive in borderline grades.
  We meet only once a week. This allows us the unique opportunity for in-depth discussion and sharing of ideas. coming to class prepared is essential, and attendance is expected. Classes cannot be “made up.”

This is a demanding course. Make sure you can handle the workload this semester. A 4940 is required for the major.

Schedule of classes (The schedule of classes is approximate and subject to change—including test dates.)

Required Reading:
Michael Marrus, The Unwanted, European Refugees in the 20th Century (Oxford, 1985)

Recommended:

Schedule of classes (The schedule of classes is approximate and subject to change—including test dates.)
Week 1: Jan. 9  Introductions

Week 2: Jan. 16  People on the Move in Europe: Contemporary Relevance and Historical Context

Choose one additional extended newspaper or magazine article or Gatrell, “Conclusion, Refugees and their history,” 283-296.

Write a ¾-1 page analysis on migration in historical perspective

Week 3: Jan. 23
Historical Background on 19th Century Migration: Sorting Labor and the Making of the Nation-State
Readings: Sassen, *Guests and Aliens*, Ch. 2-4, “1800” & “After 1848” pp. 7-75; Marrus, Ch. 1, “Toward a Mass Movement,” pp. 14-26

Week 4: Jan. 30:
The Nation’s People—or not
Readings: Tara Zahra, *The Great Departure*, Intro & Ch. 1-2, pp. 3-104; Marrus, complete Ch. 1, 27-50

Week 5: Feb. 6: World War I & the Armenian massacre
Library tour: Judaica Suite, Smathers Library East

Week 6: Feb. 13: Interwar Unmixing
Readings: Marrus, Ch. 3, “In Flight from Fascism,” 122-207; Zahra, Ch. 3, “Happy and Unhappy Returns,” 105-142; Sassen, “The State and the Foreigner,” Ch. 5, 77-89
Recommended: Gatrell, Ch.2
2-3 page research paper prospectus with bibliography due

Week 7: Feb. 20: Nazism and Escape
Readings: Marrus, Ch.4, “Under the Heel of Nazism,” 208-239; Zahra, 143-179, Sassen, 90-98

Week 8: Feb. 27: WWII & the Holocaust
Recommended: Gatrell, Ch. 3

Week 9: March 6: Rubble Europe
Recommended: Gatrell, Ch. 4, “‘Nothing Except Commas’ Jews, Palestinians, and the Torment of Displacement”
Paper draft due

Week 10: March 13: DP camps and Ethnic cleansing continued

Week 11: March 20: Scaling the Walls
Readings: Zahra, Ch. 6 and Ch. 7: “Work Will Set You Free,” and “The Freedom Train,” pp. 181-254; Sassen, Ch. 6, “Patterns, Rights, and Regulations,” pp. 99-132
Recommended: Gatrell, Part III: “Refugees in the Global Cold War and its Aftermath”

Week 12: April 3: Bosnia

Week 13: Papers due, April 8
Group meetings, April 10-12

Weeks 14-15
Oral presentations of final papers

Week 16
Revisions on Final papers due

• Citations: The research paper must use footnotes or endnotes. Guidelines for Turabian-style footnotes/endnotes are available on the web. MLA style (citations inset in the text) is acceptable for papers based solely on class readings.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see: www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpahub.html.