

POLI 3420 - Refugees, Migrants, and International Order
Understanding the Politics of Global Mobility

Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University
Winter 2024

Time and Location

Wednesday 14:35-17:25
Henry Hicks Building, Room 217

Instructor

Dr. Kiran Banerjee
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Email: kr561466@dal.ca
Office hours: Wednesday 17:30-18:30, by appointment

Course Overview

The international politics of migration and mobility have become important flashpoints and growing areas of contention and debate in contemporary public discourse. Like most popular political issues, many people have strong opinions with a relatively weak understanding of the core issues. This course is designed to give students an in-depth introduction to the history, laws, institutions, and changing political dynamics of international migration. The course places a special emphasis on forced migration, refugee flows, and irregular migration given the unique challenges these trends present for the international system. The overall goal is to help develop the substantive knowledge and analytical tools necessary for understanding the complexities of international mobility in a world of states.

Each session will be centred on lectures to frame course discussion. Theoretically, the lectures will explore the tensions around globalization and the politics of mobility in a world that is politically and institutionally defined by states. At the same time a specific emphasis will be given to case studies and contemporary examples in order to better inform our discussions.

Course Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Provide students with an introduction to, and understanding of, the following:
 - a. the emergence of refugee protection and asylum;
 - b. the role of the UNHCR in international politics;
 - c. the effects of forced migration flows on regional stability;
 - d. irregular migration & human smuggling in the Mediterranean and at the US border;
 - e. North / South disparities and the drivers of migration;
 - f. the gendered dynamics of human trafficking;
 - g. the emergence of fortified borders to stop the movement of people; and
 - h. debates, politics, and predictions around the issue of climate change refugees.

2. Assist students in grounding their arguments in the relevant empirical literature and expose them to the fundamental arguments of scholars working within the fields of migration and refugee studies.
3. Help students develop and practice the analytic skills necessary to conduct scholarly research and present evidence in a coherent manner.

Class Format for in-person sessions:

Class sessions for the week will take place in person the Wednesday of each week during the scheduled course session with the first half devoted to the lecture and the second half devoted to classroom discussion, chaired by the week's respective discussion leads. The majority of the remaining hour of class time will be allotted to discussion responses.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements:

No previous study in issues of migration or refugee politics is necessary or assumed.

The Pre-req requirement of a 2nd year course in Political Science is mandatory. Please do not enroll in this class if you are a first-year student. If you are a second-year student and you believe you have a good reason to take this class, please touch base with the instructor before the class add/drop deadline. Some background in the International Relations discipline is helpful, with POLI 1550 and POLI 2520 serving as pre-requisites or permission from the instructor. Lectures and readings assume an understanding of the theoretical debates and concepts of International Relations, as well as a basic familiarity with world history and engagement with current events.

Some of the course sections are more reading intensive than others, with an average of around 50-70 pages of reading per meeting. The assignments and final exam will require familiarity with the course readings, as well as with the substantive material covered in the lectures. Students thinking of enrolling in the course should keep this in mind.

CLASS MATERIALS

Readings/Electronic Resources:

Readings mentioned in the course outline will be either available for download from Dalhousie Libraries via Proxy links or posted online on the course website — see the 'Course Readings' module on Brightspace for details and links to journal articles. It should be noted that any required texts for the class not included in the online 'course packet' have been ordered through the University Bookstore.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Grading Scheme

<i>Evaluation Component:</i>	<i>Due Date:</i>	<i>Percent:</i>
Attendance and Participation	Cumulative throughout course.	15%
Critical Reflection/ Discussion Lead	Rolling due dates; submit via Bright Space.	20%
Mid-term Exam	"In-class" Session 8 (Concurrent with course session)	15%
Term Paper	Due on March 28 th at 3pm (15:00 AST).	30%
Final Exam	TBD	20%
Total		100%

Evaluation Components

Critical Reflection Paper / Discussion Leads

Value: 20% of final grade

Type: This assignment requires students to apply critical thinking skills to assess the concepts and arguments encountered in the class and to develop questions based on the readings to frame class discussion.

Description: Active participation in-class discussion and debate is an important part of the course. As part of their mark, each session 3 or 4 students will be asked to prepare a critical reflection and discussion questions to get the conversation going. These will be assigned during our first session and begin following the week of January 22nd, with the first group assigned for session three. A final schedule will be available via Bright Space following our second session.

As part of fulfilling this assignment you must be present in the class session and prepared to open discussion by introducing your critical reflection paper and presenting your kick-off questions to the class. Other students should take the time to read all the reflections for that week and think about the questions, as their own overall participation mark depends on their active engagement in the discussion. When writing your Critical Reflection, keep in mind that the assignment should be 1 single-spaced page in length. Roughly 85% of the assignment should be taken up with your critical reflection on week's readings. The remainder should be taken up with one or two kick-off questions.

Critical Reflections will be assigned and marked on an ongoing basis. Students must distribute their critical reflections to all students and the instructor **no later than 3 pm the day prior to the class**, via Brightspace, on the course discussion board. The exact number of Critical Reflections assigned will

depend on enrolment in the course. Full instructions will be provided on a separate handout on Brightspace immediately following the first class session.

Discussion Participation and Attendance

Value: 15% of final grade

Type: Participation in course discussion is not only strongly encouraged, but required.

Description: Each course discussion session will begin with a brief student presentation, followed by class seminar discussion and framed by the critical reflections prepared for that day. You will be evaluated based on your active participation in class discussion and engagement with the critical reflection/ kick-off questions of your colleagues. Following each discussion session students will be expected to share brief 'discussion responses' to at least *two* critical reflection papers, informed by the content and conversation of the day's course discussion sessions. Participation marks will be determined by cumulative performance throughout the course. Full instructions will be provided on a separate handout on Brightspace immediately following the first class session.

Midterm Exam

Value: 15% of final grade

Date: See Course Schedule

Type: Comprehensive, closed book examination.

Description: The mid term exam will be cumulative up to Session 8. It will be comprised of short answer questions to test subject matter from the readings and lectures. If you've been coming to lecture and reading all course materials carefully, you will likely perform well; if you haven't you will very likely earn a poor grade. Outside sources are not allowed.

Final Exam

Value: 20% of final grade

Date: See Course Schedule

Type: Comprehensive, closed book examination.

Description: The exam will be cumulative (i.e. will assess knowledge and comprehension from the entire course) and take place in the exam period (date TBD). The course instructor will, however, be sure to include questions from the last two weeks of the course to ensure that a) you start your paper early, and b) you do the (important) readings from the end of the course.

The exam format will be described in class. Outside sources are not allowed.

Term Paper

Value: 30% of final grade

Date: See Course Schedule

Type: This written assignment requires students to apply critical thinking skills to assess the concepts and arguments encountered in the class. Students must demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills.

Description: The purpose of the final essay is to apply what you have learned during the term and it is the main deliverable for the course. It has a pedagogical and substantive purpose. The pedagogical goal is to help you learn the academic skills of addressing a research question, developing a thesis, and testing your thesis using evidence. We will spend time in lecture discussing this.

A list of paper research questions will be distributed later during the course of the class. You will have a choice of research questions, which will cover the broad themes of the course. Further guidance on the assignment will be made available subsequently on Brightspace.

Every paper must have a thesis statement. Not having a thesis statement will mean a very low grade. You are encouraged to discuss your thesis statement with me before you begin writing.

Papers should be 8-10 pages in length, excluding references. 8 pages is the absolute minimum. Papers will suffer a deduction of 5% per half page under 8 pages. 11 pages is the maximum. Anything over 11 pages will receive a penalty of 5% per half page

All assignments must be completed and submitted in order to pass this course.

EVALUATION POLICIES

Statement on Academic Integrity:

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism on the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the information on the University's academic integrity website as well as consult the student resources provided on the site.

All course assignments submitted may be subjected to evaluation by a University approved computer service that checks assignments for plagiarism. Students are required to retain an electronic copy of all papers in addition to the hard copy submitted to the professor.

A note concerning the use of AI: Generative writing tools, including applications such as Chat GPT, are not permitted.

Citation Style:

Written assignments must conform to Chicago Manual of Style notes-bibliography style guidelines (see the "Chicago" section on the Style Guides research guide page at <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/style-guides.html>).

Submitting Assignments:

Final paper assignments are to be submitted in electronic (MS Word) form through Brightspace and via email. Electronic assignments in alternate software (e.g., Pages, Publisher) will not be accepted. The file name must start with your last name and first initial, followed by the assignment type (e.g., "Smith K Research Paper.doc"). Your assignment will not be considered submitted unless you have submitted your assignment electronically via Brightspace and directly by email to the instructor. Assignments should not be submitted to the Department office; any such assignments will not be accepted as submitted.

All written submissions must be typed; double-spaced; Times New Roman font. Please do not include a cover page; however, make sure to include a heading with your name, student number, my name and the course code, date, as well as the assignment title ("Final Essay"). Correct grammar and proper formatting of your written work will be important to your grade. Marks will be deducted for grammatical, spelling and formatting errors.

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence:

The course policy is that late assignments are penalized 10% per week, beginning from the date the assignment is due. Exceptions may be made, at my discretion, for students who contact me regarding medical reasons or family emergencies (but not computer-related emergencies) before assignments are due. Documentation will be required in these cases.

For final papers, you have a 48 hour discretionary deadline beyond the stated deadline. During this period, no grades will be deducted, but you will forfeit comments on your paper. After 48 hours, you will be docked the full 10% per week, until the assignment is submitted. Barring extensions, work submitted more than 10 days after assignment deadlines will not be accepted.

The student declaration of absence form replaces sick notes for absences of three days or fewer that result in missed or late academic requirements. However, if you do not inform the professor in advance, or the assignment is very late, your work may be penalized as per course policy. Please refer to Brightspace for more information about the policy and for the form itself.

Grade Policy:

The course's grading scheme follows the Dalhousie undergraduate academic calendar.

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/grade-scale-and-definitions.html

Grade Appeal Policy:

A student who is dissatisfied with the assessment of their work or performance in any aspect of class work, including a midterm or final examination, shall follow the procedures set out below. Please carefully review these procedures. Once an appeal is submitted the entire assignment will be re-examined, not just the question or paragraph mentioned in the appeal. The appeal process can,

therefore, result in one of three outcomes: no change to the original grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.

Students who wish to initiate the first procedural step outlined in the course policy to have an assignment or exam grade revisited must do the following:

a) Within five days of receipt of the assignment grade, submit to me via email a written explanation, no more than one page in length (typed and single-spaced) explaining why the grade should be revisited and what the grader missed in his/her comments. Along with this explanation, please provide me with an electronic copy (scanned if necessary) of the original exam or paper. (You should retain the original copy.)

b) After submission of the written materials, it is your responsibility to contact me via email to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss the exam/paper and your written submission.

Participation and Attendance Expectations:

This class does have a participation and attendance grade, and students are expected to attend all or most synchronous class sessions.

CLASS POLICIES

Respect:

You are expected to treat your fellow students, your instructor and guest lecturers with respect. Please show up to sessions on time, refrain from talking and texting when others are speaking, and turn all mobile devices to silent mode. Communications with the instructor, be they in person, over email or over the telephone, should be courteous and professional.

It bears repeating and emphasizing that, in the context of the course's synchronous and asynchronous class activities, just as in the face-to-face environment, students should treat each other (and all class participants) with kindness and respect.

This expectation of respect is mandated by the Student Code of Conduct, but is particularly important to keep in mind in the context of an online learning environment, where there are heightened risks of misunderstanding. Accordingly, students should be especially mindful of the need to maintain a polite and respectful level of engagement.

Email Policy:

In all email communications with the instructor, please include the course code in the subject line, use proper greetings and salutations, and sign-off with your full name. Student email communications will be limited to requests to set up appointments (if meeting during office hours is not possible) and notifying me of extended absences. I will not: respond to questions regarding information clearly stated

in the course syllabus by email; discuss substantive issues or answer substantive questions (i.e. those requiring an answer longer than a couple of sentences) by email; accept Critical Reflection assignments by email; or respond to an unprofessional or rude email. I respond to emails during normal university work hours (i.e., Mon-Fri. 9 am – 5 pm), and students can typically expect a response to an email inquiry within two work-days. I do not typically respond to emails in the evenings, on weekends, or on statutory holidays.

Recording of the Course and Class Slides:

Class lectures and any other materials provided for the course are subject to the copyright of the course instructor and may not be reproduced or copied in whole or in part without the consent of the instructor. Students who are enrolled in the course and who are provided with special permission to receive course materials or any other material may, in such circumstances retain it in order to view it at a more convenient time, but must destroy the reproduction within 10 days of the last course session, April 1st 2023. Non-authorized audio / video recordings or photographs of lectures and/or seminar sessions are not permitted under any circumstances.

Copyright:

Class materials, including lecture slides and content, are normally the intellectual property of the person who has made the presentation in the class. Copyright provides presenters with the legal right to control the use of their own creations. As noted above, students are not permitted to record the classes. Class materials, including that made available on Brightspace and written notes of the lectures, may not be copied, reproduced, redistributed, or edited by anyone without permission of the presenter except as allowed under law.

Student Feedback

Students are encouraged to provide the instructor with constructive feedback on their learning experience across the course of the term.

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. Read more at: www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html.

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Read more at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Accommodations:

Please note that while faculty are expected to undertake reasonable measures to implement student accommodations plans, faculty also retain the right to assess each plan in light of the pedagogical aims of the course as well as other reasonable considerations, including but not limited to intellectual property, privacy, academic freedom, class size, and workload, and to suggest other alternatives.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Read more at: <https://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments: (See Module - '[Class Schedule & Readings](#)')
Optional Review Session – to be scheduled in class during session 11 for week of April 9th

Course schedule subject to change at discretion of the professor

UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Territorial Acknowledgement

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click here to read more.

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. (read more: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing:
<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <http://dsu.ca/dsas>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html