

LAR 303: Impact Seminar: Connecting Knowledge to Choices & Actions, Understanding Refugees and Forced Migration

Course Description

This course will develop students' teamwork and leadership skills to prepare for citizenship or work as they connect theory, practice and experience. Students, drawn from multiple fields of specialized study, will collaboratively analyze a complex real-world problem, develop an empathetic understanding of multiple perspectives needed to comprehend the issue, and propose possible solutions.

(Prerequisites: junior or senior status, and successful completion of LAR 202 or equivalent)

Undergraduate Core Learning Outcomes (Common to all LAR 303 Courses)

Students will work to

- Construct a reasoned understanding of a problem with evidence of relevant contextual factors, including ethical, logical, and cultural dimensions of the problem;
- Articulate multiple approaches for solving the problem and propose one or more solutions/hypotheses that indicate a deep comprehension of the problem;
- Engage all participants to foster a constructive team climate;
- Reflect on their progress on the essential learning outcomes, drawing on their specialized studies (majors/minors), foundational areas of knowledge, liberal arts seminars, and experiential activities in order to express their distinctive voices, define their own ethical values, and understand and prepare for their multiple roles in a just society.

Course-specific Learning Outcomes

Students will work to

- Understand the socio-historical contexts surrounding the rise of modern refugees and issues related to forced migration.
- Evaluate the role of States and Non-State Actors, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as National Human Rights Institutions and their response to mitigate refugee crises and issues of forced migration.
- Study and consider the direct stories and lived experiences of refugees and their journey fleeing violence and persecution.
- Collaborate with a team in order to analyze a current or past refugee crisis and propose a solution with a demonstrated understanding of the situation from the perspective of the multiple actors involved.

Text (Required)

The New Odyssey, Author, Patrick Kingsley 2017, ISBN: 1631492551

- Additionally, each week may have additional readings (e.g. journals and articles) assigned by the instructor.

Methods for Assessment

- The ability of students to engage, interact, communicate, and effectively work with faculty and each other (foster a constructive team climate) will be assessed through attendance, participation in and out of the classroom, group projects and faculty observation.
- A reasoned understanding of modern refugees with evidence of relevant contextual factors, including ethical, logical, and cultural dimensions of the problem will be assessed through written reflection assignments, participation in active learning, group presentations and an exam.
- The ability of students to articulate multiple approaches for solving the problem of refugees and propose one or more solutions/hypotheses that indicate a deep comprehension of the problem will be assessed by student participation in service learning, reflective writing, group presentations and faculty observation.
- Students' reflection on their progress on the essential learning outcomes, drawing on their specialized studies (majors/minors), foundational areas of knowledge, liberal arts seminars, and experiential activities in order to express their distinctive voices, define their own ethical values, and understand and prepare for their multiple roles in a just society will be assessed through a cover letter and portfolio.

Policies / Grading

- **Grading** - Students will earn a final grade of A+, A, B+, B, C+, C, D+, D, or F based on the average of assessments of all assignments, attendance, and engagement.
- **Assignments** – The assignments and grading for this course are outlined below.
 - Attendance: 20% (As there are only 8-weeks in the course, it is expected that students are present and prepared for class each week).
 - Participation: 20% (This will be assessed through weekly class discussions over the reading as well as student participation through speaking and voicing thoughts and opinions each week in class).
 - One exam given during the 6th week of class: 20% (this exam will discuss terms and concept discussed from week 1 to week 4).
 - Final group paper & in-class presentation: 40% (students will work with a team to analyze a refugee crisis and present their findings to the class in the final week of the course. Additionally, teams will submit a final paper to demonstrate an understanding of the issue from multiple perspectives).
- **Academic Integrity** – This policy requires that you immediately and cheerfully offer the benefit of your knowledge and skills to any fellow student who needs your help. If someone helps you, whether a fellow student, the author of a book/article, a family member, a pastor or priest, a coworker, a child, a pet, or anyone else, say that they helped you. That's called citing a source. Always show respect for the ideas or words of others by giving them the credit. Failure to show respect will result in an "F."

For all other policies including ADA, FERPA, Anti-harassment, and others, please see the College of Professional Studies Student Handbook published online at <http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=644>.