Description and Goals

Migration, both voluntary and forced, has long shaped the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with many countries simultaneously being points of origin, transit and destination. Different factors affected the migration dynamics in the region: economic and demographic trends, political and ethnic conflicts, climate change, among others. This inter-disciplinary course traces the history of migration and displacement in, through, and from MENA since the late 19th century by focusing on the major migratory movements that shaped the region. It covers each movement by placing it within its international and regional contexts and analyzing its (1) various root causes, (2) the legal and institutional frameworks that evolved around it, and (3) the economic and political implications on the migrant community, host and sending countries, and the region overall.

Some of the migration and refugees cases covered are: French colonial settlement in Algeria, European and Syrian migration to Egypt in the 19th century, early Lebanese and Syrian migration to the Americas, Muslim and Christian forced displacement at the end of the Ottoman period, Jewish migration to the region, Palestinian refugees, Arab labor migration to the Gulf states, migration to Europe from and through North Africa, and the recent Syrian, Yemeni and Iraqi refugee crises.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have gained in-depth understanding of the different migratory and refugee movements throughout the modern history of the Middle East and strong analytical tools to approach other migratory movements in or outside the region.

Main Sources

There is one required book for this class and two recommended for general background on the Middle East. Most required readings, and recommended ones, come from academic journal articles and institutional publications. These will be posted on the class canvas page.

Recommended for basic contextual background (both on reserve at library West)


**Lectures Format**

The background and overview of the topic of each week will be covered by lecturing. In-depth analysis of reading assignments will be covered by in-class discussions with students.

**Requirements & Grade Distribution**

Class participation: Students are expected to attend and participate in discussions by asking and posting questions (on class online-board) and providing answers/arguments. Grade 30%.

Take-home exams: Two take-home exams will be assigned. Each will be given on a Friday and due the following Monday. First exam after week 5, second test after week 9. (20% each) Total 40%

Final paper (15 pages) 30%

I reserve the right to give drop quizzes to make sure students are keeping up with the reading assignments.

**Course Outline and Reading Material**

This reading list is subject to change based on students’ interests and needs and the class dynamics.

(*Starred readings are required. The rest are optional/recommended.*)
Week 1. Introduction: Analytical Framework of Migration Studies and Middle East Background


* Dawn Chatty, Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), Ch. 2, pp. 38-65.

Week 2-3. Colonial Settlers and Economic Immigrants


Week 4. Forced Migration and Displacement at the End of Ottoman Empire

* Dawn Chatty, Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), ch. 3 & 4.

Week 5. Lebanese and Syrian Migration to the U.S.


Weeks 6-7. Jewish Migration to Ottoman Palestine


Week 8. Palestinian Refugees

* Dawn Chatty, Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), ch. 5.


**Week 9-10. Migration to the Gulf (Impact of Oil)**


**Week 11. North African Migration to Europe**


Migration from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe Past Developments, Current Status and Future Potentials, ed. Michael Bommes, Heinz Fassmann & Wiebke Sievers. IMISCOE Research Amsterdam University Press, 2014.


**Week 12. Migration & Development, Brain Drain & Remittances**


**Week 13-16. Refugees Crises: Syria, Iraq & Yemen**


**Some useful references**

- United Nations Higher Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)
- Migration Policy Institute [www.migratorypolicy.org](http://www.migratorypolicy.org)
- International Organization for Migration: [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)
- Economic Research Forum, [www.erf.org](http://www.erf.org)
- Arab Social Science Research: [www.assr.org](http://www.assr.org)
- Middle East Report: [www.merip.org](http://www.merip.org)