

**SOC196H1S – LEC0101/LEC9101: Global Cities, Urban Refugees: Connecting  
South and North  
James (Jay) Johnson  
Department of Sociology  
University of Toronto  
Winter 2021**

***Location and Time:*** Online via Zoom, Tuesdays 11:10-1pm\*

***Office Hours:*** Online via Zoom, Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm or by appointment\*

***Email:*** jg.johnson@utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistant: Lauren Konikoff

Email: lauren.konikoff@mail.utoronto.ca

\*\*\*In light of the Covid-19 restrictions, this seminar will be held online. The scheduled seminars will be synchronous, meaning that they will be conducted live at the scheduled time (Tuesdays, 11:10-1:00pm). The seminars will be conducted via Zoom. All course materials (including readings) and assignments will be accessible via Quercus.\*\*\*

\*Please note that the seminar and all deadlines listed are according to EST (Toronto) local time.

\*\*\*Zoom log-in details for the seminars and my office hours will be distributed in separate messages and posted on the course website on Quercus.\*\*\*

*\*Additionally, you will be receiving regular communication, including weekly assignment checklists, via email and Quercus so please make sure that your email address is up-to-date and correct for the course.\**

**Brief Overview of the Course:**

The majority of refugees and asylum seekers today live in cities, above all, in the Global South. This course will introduce and critically assess key theories and concepts on forced migration in relation to cities from a global perspective. By drawing on a wide range of literature and case studies from around the world, the course will explore and compare cities across the Global South and North around questions of law, governance, and politics related to urban refugees and asylum seekers.

**Objectives of the Course:**

By the end of the course, students should have a stronger understanding of a) critical theories around “global” cities and urbanization in the Global South, b) the intersection between cities and urban refugees and related issues of law, policies, and politics in countries around the world; and c) academic writing and communication skills in general.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Restricted to first-year students. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

**Readings:** You are required to have **all the assigned reading completed before the scheduled lecture times.** *All of the readings will be available through links available on the course webpage on Quercus.*

***Class Format, Requirements, and Grading***

1 - Seminar Attendance/Participation	10 points
2 - Reflection Papers	20 points
3 - Midterm	20 points
4 - Final Test	20 points
5a - Research Paper Proposal	5 points
5b - Research Paper	20 points
5c – Research Paper Discussion	5 points
	Total: 100 points

**Letter Grading Scale:**

90-100 = A+	77-79 = B+	67-69 = C+	57-59 = D+	
85-89 = A	73-76 = B	63-66 = C	53-56 = D	49 or below = F
80-84 = A-	70-72 = B-	60-62 = C-	50 – 52 = D-	

- 1) ***Seminar Attendance and Participation:*** Attendance and participation in the scheduled seminars is required for the course. This is a First Year Foundations course, meaning that we will have a small class size for active and lively discussion. Therefore, it is crucial that you attend seminars and **come prepared for discussion by thorough reading and note taking of the assigned readings prior to each seminar.** The expectation is to attend seminars with video on and actively participate in group discussions. Participation will also include periodic discussion posts (3-4 sentences per post; 1 sentence response to a classmate’s post) to topics posted on the online discussion forum on the course’s Quercus page – see schedule below (10 points total).
- 2) ***Reflection Papers:*** Throughout the course, you will be required to write four brief reflection papers on the course readings. You may choose any **four readings throughout the course to write brief reflection papers (1 page, double-spaced max.)**. You must complete your reflection paper for a given reading prior to the seminar time that the reading is assigned (e.g., a reflection paper for the January 19 reading would be due on January 19 by 11:10am via Turnitin online). **You must submit at least your first reflection paper by Tuesday, Feb. 9.** The papers should be a critical reflection to the reading, rather than a general summary of the readings, and we will discuss the expectations for these papers further in the first day of class (20 points total).

- 3) **Midterm:** There will be a **take-home midterm starting on February 23 at 1pm.** The midterm will be open-materials (e.g., readings, notes, lecture slides, etc.) and will be **due by Friday, February 26, 1pm via Turnitin online** (20 points total).
- 4) **Final Test:** There will be a **take-home final test starting on March 30 at 1pm.** The final will be open-materials (e.g., readings, notes, lecture slides, etc.) and will be non-cumulative (i.e., covering course material after the midterm). It will be **due by Friday, April 2, 1pm via Turnitin online** (20 points total).

**Make-Up Tests & Missed Due Dates:** *Students cannot make up tests unless for exceptional circumstances (e.g., personal and family medical emergencies). Students who miss a test for a valid reason and wish to take a make-up test must give me a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, accompanied by proper documentation from a college registrar. While medical notes will not be required; students will need to declare their absence on ACORN on the day of the missed test or due date of assignment, and email the instructor directly. Students with personal reasons are also to contact their College and have the college email the instructor directly. A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason will not have a third chance to take the test, and the mark assigned for the test will be a zero.*

**Marking Tests:** *If you feel that your test answers were not properly assessed you may request a remark. If you would like to request a remark, you must make the request directly with the instructor within one week of receiving the mark and you would need to attend office hours or schedule an appointment (as opposed to solely communicating over email) to go over the test. Finally, please note that a remark request will lead to a thorough review of your test, and that compared to your original mark, the new mark may go up, remain the same or go down based on the new assessment.*

- 5) **Research Paper:** The research paper consists of 3 parts: a) a brief proposal on what the paper will focus on; b) the research paper itself; c) discussion of key findings in an online forum and live during the last seminar (April 6).

Students will have an option of working alone or in pairs for the research paper. The paper will involve each student choosing a city to discuss its refugee policies/politics based on specific criteria from the course. **Students will then write a research paper (3-5 pages max.) that analyzes a selected city per person (i.e., 1 city for individual papers; 2 different cities for pairs).** Students will discuss the key findings of their papers during an online forum and via Zoom during the last seminar of the course (Tuesday, April 6).

- a) The **research paper proposal is due by March 9, 11:10am via Turnitin online** (5 points total).
- b) The **research paper is due by April 6, 11:10am via Turnitin online** (20 points total).

- c) **Paper discussions will take place in an online forum prior to and via Zoom during seminar on April 6, 11:10am-1pm via Zoom (5 points total).**

***Lateness Policy:** Papers will be considered late if they are turned in 10 minutes after the deadline. You will lose 3 points per day for lateness.*

**Office Hours, Emails, Appointments:** Please feel free to email me at [jg.johnson@utoronto.ca](mailto:jg.johnson@utoronto.ca) with any questions you may have (with **SOC196 in the subject line**) and I will respond in a timely manner Mon. – Fri. I also encourage you to attend my office hours (Thursdays, 12:30-1:30pm via Zoom) for more further questions and discussion. If you cannot make office hours due to scheduling conflicts, then please contact me to meet by appointment.

**Turnitin:** Students agree that, by taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to *Turnitin.com* for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the *Turnitin.com* reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of those papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the *Turnitin.com* web site.

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %) unless students instead provide, along with their tests, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the test they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

**Plagiarism:** Be careful to avoid plagiarism. It is a serious academic offense with serious penalties (see the “Code of Behavior on Academic Matters”). If you are using someone else's ideas, do not present them as your own. Give proper references if you are using somebody else's ideas, and use quotation marks if you are quoting. When in doubt, it is always safer to over-reference --you are not going to be punished for that. Please also be aware that turning in an old paper, or large parts thereof, for credit in a second (or third etc.) course, is considered an academic offense that results in students being referred off to the Office of Academic Integrity.

**Accessibility Needs:**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

[disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

**Writing Help:** The University of Toronto expects its students to write well, and it provides a number of resources to help you.

- Visit the Writing at U of T website ([advice.writing.utoronto.ca](http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca))

- Book a one-on-one meeting with your College Writing Centre ([writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres](http://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres))

**Research Help:** University of Toronto Libraries provides access to a vast collection of online and print resources <[onereach.library.utoronto.ca](http://onereach.library.utoronto.ca)>. Get help navigating UTL and web resources and developing research skills for your course work by

- **Contact the Innis College Librarian**, Kate Johnson <[katej.johnson@utoronto.ca](mailto:katej.johnson@utoronto.ca)> with any questions or to set up an online meeting
- **Use ASK: Chat with a Librarian** (online service): [onereach.library.utoronto.ca/ask-librarian](http://onereach.library.utoronto.ca/ask-librarian)
- **Stream films and media** through UTL: [mediacommons.library.utoronto.ca/streaming-video](http://mediacommons.library.utoronto.ca/streaming-video)
- **Explore UofT Research Guides:** [guides.library.utoronto.ca](http://guides.library.utoronto.ca)

**Quercus Help:** Seeking technical help with Quercus?

- **Student Quercus Guide** - Information on how to navigate Quercus, access your courses, and download mobile apps: [uoft.me/qstudents](http://uoft.me/qstudents)
- **Quercus for Students** - Blog posts are written by UofT students who share their experiences and tips when using the Quercus academic toolbox: [qstudents.utoronto.ca](http://qstudents.utoronto.ca)

*\*\*\*In general, I realize that we are currently living through exceptional times and conditions. If there are certain events or circumstances that limit or challenge your full participation in the course, please do not hesitate to contact me as early as possible.\*\*\**

**Class Schedule (all readings available on the course website)**

**Tuesday, January 12: Course Overview**

- Discussion Post 1: Posted Wed., Jan. 13, 9am; Due by Mon., Jan. 18, 9am

**Tuesday, January 19: Globalization and Forced Migration**

Castles, Stephen. 2003. "Towards a Sociology of Forced Migration and Social Transformation." *Sociology* 37(1):13-34.

**Tuesday, January 26: "Global" Cities**

Saskia, Sassen. 2007. "The Global City." Pp. 168-178 in *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*, edited by D. Nugent and J. Vincent. Malden MA: Blackwell.

**Tuesday, February 2: "Ordinary" Cities**

Robinson, Jennifer. 2015. "World Cities, or a World of Ordinary Cities." Pp. 66-72 in *The Global South Cities Reader*, edited by Faranak Miraftab and Neema Kudva. Milton Park UK: Routledge.

Goldman, Michael, and Wesley Longhofer. 2009. "Making World Cities." *Contexts* 8(1): 32-36.

- Discussion Post 2: Posted Wed., Feb. 3, 9am; Due by Mon., Feb. 8, 9am

### **Tuesday, February 9: Case Study: Johannesburg, South Africa**

Simone, AbdouMaliq. 2004. "People as Infrastructure: Intersecting Fragments in Johannesburg." *Public Culture* 16(3):407-429.

Mpe, Phaswane. 2011. *Welcome to Our Hillbrow*. Columbus OH: Ohio State University. Chapter 1 – "Hillbrow: The Map" (Optional)

- First Reflection Paper (at minimum) Due by Feb. 9, 11:10am

### **Tuesday, February 16: Reading Week, No Class**

### **Tuesday, February 23: Midterm Review & Take-Home Midterm**

- **Take-Home Midterm Posted on Tuesday, February 23, 1pm**
- **Take-Home Midterm Due by Friday, February 26, 1pm via Turnitin**

### **Tuesday, March 2: Urban Refugees in the Global South**

Landau, Loren. B. 2014. "Urban Refugees and IDPs." *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*, edited by E. Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, G. Loescher, K. Long, and N. Sigona. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Discussion Post 3: Posted Wed., Mar. 3, 9am; Due by Mon., Mar. 8, 9am

### **Tuesday, March 9: Urban Refugees, Urban Spaces**

Lyytinen, Eveliina. 2015. "Congolese Refugees "Right to the City" and Urban (In)Security in Kampala, Uganda." *Journal of Eastern African Studies*. 9(4):593-611.

Fontanari, Elena. 2015. "Confined to the Threshold: The Experiences of Asylum Seekers in Germany." *City* 19(5):714-726.

- **Group Research Paper Outline via Turnitin Due by March 9, 11:10am**

### **Tuesday, March 16: Rethinking Refugee "Camps" and "Cities"**

Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Elena. 2020. "Shifting the Gaze: Palestinian and Syrian Refugees Sharing and Contesting Space in Lebanon." Pp. 402-414 in *Refugee in a Moving World: Tracing Refugee and Migrant Journeys across Disciplines*, edited by E. Fiddian-Qasmiyeh. London: UCL Press.

Mould, Oli. 2017. "The Calais Jungle: A Slum of London's Making." *City* 21(3-4): 388-404.

- Discussion Post 4: Posted Wed., Mar. 17, 9am; Due by Mon., Mar. 22, 9am

### **Tuesday, March 23: Urban Refugees, Politics, and Citizenship**

Nyers, Peter. 2010. "No One is Illegal Between City and Nation." *Studies in Social Justice* 4(2): 127-143.

### **Tuesday, March 30: Final Test Review & Take-Home Final Test**

- **Take-Home Final Test Posted on Tuesday, March 30, 1pm**
- **Take-Home Final Test Due by Friday, April 2, 1pm via Turnitin**

### **Tuesday, April 6: Research Paper Due**

- **Research Paper Due via Turnitin by April 6, 11:10am**
- **Research Paper Discussions in online forum and via Zoom in seminar, April 6, 11:10-1pm**