COURSE OVERVIEW:

In this course students will address the psychosocial issues of forced migrants through reading and discussing personal narratives, professional guidelines, international research and the historical theoretical debates. Issues to be explored will include the consequences of traumatic experiences, prevalence of mental illness and the wide range of psychosocial issues related to life in exile, the special issues related to gender and age and for people with disabilities.

Students will participate in a field experience leading to greater understanding of the issues of forced migrants within urban Cairo.

Upon completion of the course, successful students will be knowledgeable about the issues and the rationale behind the theoretical debates and the impact these have upon intervention. They will understand the international standards for good practice and intervention and how context, culture, ethnic and religious differences impact individual, family, community and societal experiences.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Attendance, preparation and classroom participation (20%)
This is a seminar course and you are expected to actively participate in all classes. It is important to complete all the reading assignments prior to the class meeting each week. A list of readings is provided in the syllabus. You will not benefit nor will the class benefit from you, if you do not participate.

Presentation on readings (15%)
You will be required to choose one class during the semester in which you will be a primary facilitator of the classroom discussion. You are expected to make a brief presentation on the key points of the readings and facilitate the classroom discussion through your design of questions, presenting case studies or other creative means.

Reaction papers (25%):
You are responsible for 4 reaction papers. The reaction papers should be 2-4 (double-spaced) pages. You can choose topics based on the readings of particular interest to you. Your reaction papers should reflect your opinions, thoughts, feelings and experiences related to a series of readings associated to your chosen topic. Please do not give a summary of the readings, but explore interesting ideas or debates make connections with past readings or experiences you have had, or in some other way creatively address the readings.
Reaction papers are due on: September 30, October 21, November 4, November 18.

Research project and paper (40%):
A research project and paper will be a central component of this course. You will be paired with a refugee psychosocial worker. You will go with him or her into a refugee community to discuss and explore needs, problems and resources. You are expected to write a paper that will compare the findings of your experience with previous findings about this refugee community in Egypt and international research about other similar refugee communities. You will make a brief presentation about your research project in class.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READINGS

WEEK 1
September 9
430-7pm

WEEK 1 CLASS TOPICS:
- Introductions / Course overview
- Overview of Psychosocial and Mental Health Consequences of Forced Migration

WEEK 2
September 30
330 – 6

FIRST REACTION PAPER DUE

WEEK 2 CLASS TOPICS:
- Exploration of the experience of forced migration
- Theoretical debates about the consequences of traumatic events.

REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 2:

Eggers, D. & Deng V.A. (2008) “I saw people who had been injured, bleeding and running. It was like the earth was coming to an end.” Interview.


Optional reading:

WEEK 3
September 30
7 – 930pm

CLASS FACILITATORS FOR WEEK 3: LIYAM / AYMAN

WEEK 3 CLASS TOPICS:
- Secondary trauma due to the adjustment to life in exile
- Contextual differences between urban and rural life

REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 3:


**WEEK 4 October 7 3:30- 6:00pm**

**CLASS FACILITATORS FOR WEEK 4: ANN / MADDIE / KARIM**

**WEEK 4 CLASS TOPICS:**
- Influences of context, culture, tradition and religion on the individual, family and communal experiences of forced migrants.

**REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 4:**


**WEEK 5 October 7 6:30 - 9pm**

**CLASS FACILITATORS FOR WEEK 5: PHILIP / MICHELLE**

**WEEK 5 CLASS TOPICS:**
- Memories and narratives and the experience of loss.

**REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 5:**


### WEEK 6
**October 14**  
**4:15 – 6:45pm**

**CLASS FACILITATORS FOR WEEK 6:** EWELINA / KELSY

**WEEK 6 CLASS TOPICS:**
- Issues of health and disability

**REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 6:**


### WEEK 7
**October 21**  
**4:15 – 6:45PM**

**SECOND REACTION PAPER DUE WEEK 7**

**CLASS FACILITATORS WEEK 7:** CLAUDIA / MAGGIE / SHROUK

**WEEK 7 CLASS TOPICS:**
- The consequences of torture, rape and acts of violence
- The special issues of women

**REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 7:**


### WEEK 8
**October 28**  
**No Class / Field Visits**

### WEEK 9
**November 4**  
**4:15- 6:45pm / Guest speaker on issues of children**

**THIRD REACTION PAPER DUE WEEK 9**

**CLASS FACILITATORS FOR WEEK 9:** RAYYA / KATHLEEN

**CLASS TOPICS FOR WEEK 9:**
- The issues of children and families.

**REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 9:**


OPTIONAL READING: www.aucegypt.edu/researchatauc/rc/cmrs


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 10</th>
<th>November 11</th>
<th>4:15-6:45pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLASS FACILITATORS FOR WEEK 10:</td>
<td>ERIN / KIMBERLY / AMANDA</td>
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<td>CLASS TOPICS FOR WEEK 10:</td>
<td>• Issues for refugees resettled in western countries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 11</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>4:15-6:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOURTH REACTION PAPER DUE WEEK 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLASS FACILITATORS FOR WEEK 11:</td>
<td>CYNTHIA / FIONA</td>
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<td>CLASS TOPICS FOR WEEK 11:</td>
<td>• Intervention at individual, family, community, and societal levels.</td>
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<td>REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 11:</td>
<td>Inter Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency</td>
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**WEEK 12  November 25  NO CLASS / MAKE – UP**

November 25  MAKE UP class will be scheduled for presentations.

**WEEK 13  December 2  4:15- 6:45pm**

**CLASS TOPICS FOR WEEK 13:**
- Intervention at individual, family, community, and societal levels.

**REQUIRED READING FOR WEEK 13:**


**WEEK 14  December 9  4:15- 6:45PM / LAST CLASS**

Class presentations ON WEEK 14.
Make-up class from Week 12 will be scheduled for WEEK 14.

**FINAL PAPER DUE AT TIME OF CLASS PRESENTATION**