Course Overview:

This course will critically analyze and assess the context, formulation, ratification and implementation of refugee policy, administration, and status determination in Canada. It will examine the participants and institutional actors, both governmental and societal, at the federal, provincial, local, and international levels, and the underlying dynamics and processes that drive the outcomes in this public policy field in Canada. The course will examine, in depth, the refugee status determination system in Canada, the Resettlement from Outside Canada program, including, Convention Refugees Abroad Class, Country of Asylum Class, and Source Country Class; the Sponsoring Refugees program; the central role of the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada in defining who is a refugee, and the role of the UNCHR, and other UN agencies, and international organizations in not only participating in Canada's refugee programs but also setting the policy agenda and influencing refugee policy in Canada.

The course will begin with an examination of the history of refugee policy in Canada. It will review and analyze the 2002 "Immigration and Refugee Protection Act," the role of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) in the formation and implementation of refugee policy. The course will also review and analyze Canada's overseas operations and its work in refugee camps in different parts of the world.

The course will also examine the role of the lawyers and immigration consultants in the refugee status determination system and their respective associations and regulatory bodies, such as, the Immigration Section of the Canadian Bar Association and law societies (e.g., the Law Society of Upper Canada) and the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC). It will also examine the role of the Canadian Council of Refugees (CCR) and other NGOs, including, community based organizations, such as, FCJ Refugee Centre, Romero House and Sojourn House, that provide shelter and counselling services to those newly arrived in Canada seeking asylum.

The course will explore and analyze how refugee policy is affected and shaped by broader political movements and forces in Canada, such as, political parties, pressure groups, the media, and the public at large.

Overall, the course will provide students with an in depth understanding and appreciation of the context and the various actors, institutions, and processes that formulate, ratify and implement refugee policies in Canada.
Assignment and Evaluation:

Participation and Attendance including submitting briefing notes websites search relating to refugee advocacy: 20%

Annotated Bibliography related to your research paper eight sources: 20%

Research Paper: Topic will be assigned: 40%

Final Exam 20%
May 19 Introduction to the course

May 21 Lecture 1: Forced Migration and the Refugee in Historical perspective


May 26 Lecture 2: -- the history of refugee policy and its administration in Canada


May 28 Lecture 3: -- Refugees: International Regime Formation


Convention Relating to the Status of the Refugees 1951)
Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967)

Jun 02 Lecture 4: -- The central roles of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the External Affairs and International Trade Canada in formulating, implementing and evaluating refugee programs

Jun 04 Lecture 5: -- The key quasi-judicial role of the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada in determining who is a refugee in Canada


Jun 09 Lecture 6: -- The role of the Federal Court of Canada and Supreme Court of Canada in setting the legal and administrative standards for this policy field


Jun 11 Lecture 7: -- the contribution of advocacy groups, such as the Canadian Council of Refugees (CCR), professional associations, the immigration section of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC), community based organizations, Romero House and Sojourn House, and religious groups;

Website excursion into what NGOs, civil society and Advocacy Organizations do in improving the refugee experience and defending and protecting the rights of refugees.

Students should provide briefing notes in each of the organizations cited I Lecture 7

Additional readings to be assignment for this topic

Jun 16 Lecture 8: -- The critically important role of the UNHCR and other UN agencies, and international Organizations.


Jun 18 Lecture 9: -- The role of the media in shaping the policy agenda and influencing public opinion;


Jun 23 Lecture 10: -- The role of political parties and electoral politics In Refugee determination Policy.


Additional readings to be assignment
Jun 25 Lecture 11: -- Canada's overseas operations and its work in refugee camps in different parts of the world.

UNHRC website – Country report on Canada

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and development: Minister’s Speech and other resources showcasing Canada's global contribution in field of refugee governance

Additional readings to be assigned

Jun 30 Lecture 12: -- Evaluation of the Resettlement from Outside Canada program, including, Convention Refugees Abroad Class, Country of Asylum Class, and Source Country Class; and the Sponsoring Refugees program


Jul 02 Lecture 13: -- Inland Protection of Refugees


Jul 07 Lecture 14: -- The refugee status determination system in Canada and abroad.


Jul 09 Lecture 15: -- Exclusion and Denial of Asylum and Refugee Status.


Jul 14 Lecture 16: -- Engendering Refugee Policy Forced Migration and the protection of Women


Jul 16 Lecture 17: Non-Refoulement and Canadian Refugee Policy


Jul 28 Lecture 18: The Case of Omar Ahmed Khadr and Others and the Principle of Non-Refoulement what can we Learn?


Jul 30 -- Lecture 19: Refugee Policy and National Security

http://www.sqdi.org/volumes/pdf/14.2_-_aiken.pdf

Aug 04 Lecture 20: Rights of Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Access to Social Services the Case of Health Care

McKeary, Marie (2010). Barriers to Care: The Challenges for Canadian Refugees and their Health Care Providers. Journal of Refugee Studies Vol. 23 No. 4

Aug 06 lecture 21: -- Discrimination as a basis of Denial of Refugee status: The Case of Sexual identity


Aug 11 Summing up and Review

Aug 13 Final Exam