**Critical Immigration and Refugee Studies**  
(Revised Oct 2)

Professor Yen Le Espiritu  
Office: 228 SSB  
Phone: (858) 534-5206  
Email: yespiritu@ucsd.edu  
Office Hours: Tues. 3 – 5 p.m.; Thurs. 9:30-10:30 a.m.; and by appointment

**Course Requirements**

1. Attendance and active participation.
2. Discussion leader. Each student (or a pair of students) will lead one class discussion. In the presentations, characterize the stakes, methods, and objectives of the group of readings. Rather than summarize, discuss the interventions the works are making; i.e., into what debates are the pieces intervening, how and why, and for what ends? Which disciplinary or theoretical conventions are being criticized, and which employed? Over the course of the quarter, try to identify and discuss the divergences, contradictions, and oppositions between different projects and approaches represented in weekly units. You are welcome to bring in additional materials, if you think they are relevant.
3. Writing Assignments/Project. Please select one of these 4 options:
   a) Three 5-pp response papers, one of which may be written on your presentation and due on the same day. Response papers are due on the day that the readings will be discussed in the seminar.
   b) A 15pp. paper that draws on the course themes and materials. Turn in a one-page prospectus by week 3.
   c) KeyWord and OurWord Essays –  
      KeyWord: Please select one keyword from the course and write a 7-8pp essay on it, drawing on 5-7 sources from course readings. The essay should have three components:
      - Define the keyword: track how different authors use the keyword, assess and synthesize the different definitions; and come up with your own definition
      - What kinds of critical projects does the keyword enable?
      - Are there ways of thinking that are occluded or obstructed by the use of this term?
      OurWord: Please come up with your own word (in any language) that captures for you the lived immigrant and refugee experience, and write a creative piece (7-8 pp.) that conveys this lived experience.
   d) Public Action Event – Please submit ideas for approval first
Contribute to the website by submitting a Story Map or blog.

**Required Readings:**

- All other readings available through the course’s library eReserves page.

**Schedule of Readings and Discussions**

(Sept. 27) Week 0 - Introduction

**Part I - Departures**

(Oct. 4) Week 1 - Problem-Oriented Approach to Immigration/Refugee Studies

Discussion Leader: Greg Gushike

Part II - Border Making, Securitization, and Statecraft

(Oct. 11) Week 2 - Critical Geopolitics: Borderscapes, Sea Space, and Dis-“Place”ment
Discussion Leader: Oscar Gutierrez

- Forensic Oceanography: http://www.forensic-architecture.org/case/left-die-boat/

(Oct. 18) Week 3 - Borders on Belonging: Criminalization, Incarceration and Detention
Discussion Leaders: Marisol Cuong; Melina Economou


(Oct. 25) Week 4 - Immigration Control and Body Politics
Discussion Leaders: Asia Feiss; Rochelle McFee


(Nov. 1) Week 5 - The Global and the Intimate
Discussion Leaders: Lorena Cruz; Maxie Gluckman
• Video: Elvia Mendoza, Nosotros Tambien Migramos. [This video is password protected. Instructions will be given in class on how to access the video]

Part III - The Dis-“Placed” as Critical Beings

(Nov. 8) Week 6 - Refugee Host States in the Global South
Discussion Leaders: Morgen Chalmiers; Leslie Gautsch
Please read the following articles:
   - “Introduction: Refugees and Displacement in the Middle East.” Pp. 3-7
   - “The Real Refugee Crisis Is in the Middle East, not Europe.” Pp. 56-58

(Nov. 15) Week 7 - Refugees as “Critical Beings”
Discussion Leaders: Beatrice Waterhouse; Daniel Rios
  
  https://academic.oup.com/jrs/article/27/1/1/1586763


**(Nov. 22)** - Thanksgiving Holiday

**(Nov 29)** *Week 9 - Re-Presentation, Stories and Memory Work*
  Discussion Leaders: Youngoh Jung; Jessica Aguilar
  https://africasacountry.com/2015/02/the-hierarchy-of-refugee-stories
  • Poem: Warsan Shire. “Home.”
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nI9D92Xiygo
  www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story
  • Short Story: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Thing Around Your Neck,” in *The Thing Around Your Neck*.
  https://ia600102.us.archive.org/26/items/THETHINGAROUNDYOURNECK/THE%20THING%20AROUND%20YOUR%20NECK.pdf

**(Dec. 6)** *Week 10 - Those “Who Keep on Existing”*
  Discussion Leader: Christiane Assefaf