Critical Immigration and Refugee Studies

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Office Hours: Tues. 1:30-3:30; Th. 1-2

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 2 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. The attached guideline also provides guidelines for your response papers.
   b) A 15pp. paper that draws on the course themes and materials. Turn in a one-page prospectus by week 3.

Required Readings:
- Yen Le Espiritu. In Press. *Body Counts: The Vietnam War and Militarized Refuge(es)*. University of California Press. [I will provide you with the manuscript]
- All other readings available through the course’s library eReserves page.
Schedule of Readings and Discussions

Week 1 – Introduction

Part I – Departures

Week 2 - Problem-Oriented Approach to Immigration/Refugee Studies


Part II – Critical Immigration Studies

Week 3 -- Nation State Sovereignty and Citizenship

- Engin F. Isina. “Citizenship in Flux: The Figure of the Activist Citizen.” *Subjectivity* 2009, 29, 367-388.

Week 4-- Borders on Belonging: Criminalization, Incarceration and Detention

Week 5—Sexuality, Gender, and Immigration Control


Week 6– The Global and the Intimate


Part III – “In-Between” Figures: Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Week 7 – Refugees as “Critical Beings”


- Patricia Owens. 2009. “Reclaiming ‘Bare Life?’: Against Agamben on Refugees.” International Relations 23 (4): 567-582.


Week 8 – In-Between Spaces: Stateless by Geographical Design

**Week 9 – “Colonialism of Compassion”: Critique of Humanitarianism**

**Week 10 – Militarized Refuge(es)**