

WOH3930 - 0003

REFUGEES IN HISTORY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Refugees and mass displacement are not recent phenomena. Displacement has afflicted humans for millennia (perhaps forever). The ancient Greeks pitied those in exile, like the love-struck Medea or the cursed Oedipus. The Israelites of the Bible yearned to return to their homeland. In the twentieth-century, millions of Germans, Cubans, and Cambodians (among many others) were forced from their homes. This seminar investigates episodes of refugee displacement from the past 2000 years in order to gain insight into the refugee dilemmas of today. A central theme of the course will be the definition of categories. Who counts as a refugee? How have societies of the past applied and marshalled the term refugee? Students will craft an original research paper that examines one historical episode of refugee accommodation.

REMOTE SYNCHRONOUS
WED 3:35-6:35PM

COURSE GOALS:

Discover the millennia-long history of refugees and refugee accommodation

Research the history of refugees using advanced historical methods

Present complex information about refugee conditions to a non-specialist audience

Challenge existing assumptions and assertions about refugee dilemmas

Understand the central importance of history and historical arguments in the construction of contemporary narratives