

# Refugee Resettlement in Canada

SOCI 498

Department of Sociology  
St. Francis Xavier University

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**Office hours:**  
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 3:45-5:15  
Fridays, 2:15-3:15  
or by appointment

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## Calendar description

This course provides a sociological analysis of Canada's refugee resettlement framework. Students critically examine the evolution of Canadian refugee law, policies, and practices to contemplate why Canada's refugee resettlement system receives international praise while also being the subject of criticisms (e.g., neoliberal state, ethical dilemmas, post-migration inequities). Attention will be given to the theory and practice of holistic integration and factors influencing the meaningful integration of refugees in Canada. 3 credits

## Required Reading

Labman, Shauna and Geoffery Cameron. 2020. *Strangers to Neighbours: Refugee Sponsorship in Context*. McGill-Queen's University Press: Montreal & Kingston.  
→ Available from publisher, Amazon (book or Kindle), and StFX library (digital).

Journal articles, refugee documents from organizations, and government documents  
→ Available on Moodle (links or Pdfs)

The schedule of reading is provided on Moodle

Evaluation	Value	Due date
1. Seminar leadership & participation	20%	
2. Midterm	30%	Thursday, October 20
3. Research paper & presentation (Proposal due by Oct. 5)	30%	by Friday, November 18
4. Service learning & summary reflection	20%	by Monday, December 5

## Seminar leadership and participation

Students will work in pairs to *co-lead two 75-minute seminars* on an assigned reading. You will be assigned your reading and seminar partner a week prior to each seminar. Together, you will prepare *a method to direct the class in a critical discussion of the reading*. You may provide a brief introduction to the reading, but your goal is to lead a discussion rather give a lecture (e.g., create questions that provide an opportunity to examine a key concept; the merits or limitations of a study; or how the reading informs past readings). Do your best to involve all classmates in the discussions. Please submit your Powerpoint and/or leadership notes to me -by email attachment please- by noon on the day of your seminar leadership.

The participation of students who are not seminar leaders is critical to having valuable seminar discussions. Please write and bring reading notes that identify and define key concepts and summarize the paper's main argument and findings. As well, please prepare a few 'talking points' that introduce a topic for discussion, perhaps a strength or weakness you wish to note; perhaps a question about the value or limitation of a key concept or the approach taken by the author(s). Students post their talking points on Moodle by noon. Seminar attendance is required.

### **Midterm**

The midterm will cover all course material up to the last class prior to the midterm.

### **Research Paper, Proposal, and Presentations**

Students will write a research paper (8-10 pages) on a topic related to refugee resettlement in Canada. I will provide topic suggestions in class, but please propose a topic of great interest to you. You are required to submit a topic proposal for approval on Moodle no later than **October 5**. The proposal should include one or two succinct paragraphs to describe the topic and scope of your proposed paper. For the research paper, students will use 8-10 academic sources; however, for the proposal, identify 4-5 articles published in academic journals or chapters in books published by a Canadian university press (Please use ASA or APA). You may use non-academic sources thoughtfully, but keep in mind that this is an exploration of the academic research on your topic. I will discuss more about writing an analytical academic paper in class. Papers presentations will be scheduled for the last few weeks of classes. There will be no duplication of topics, so approvals are on a first come first serve basis. I will post/share approved topics on Moodle and in class.

### **Service Learning and Critical Summary Reflection**

Your final paper is a *critical summary reflection* of some aspect of refugee resettlement in Canada, one that can inform policy. You have two options for developing this paper.

Option A: Do *Service Learning*, and write a summary reflection that draws from what you learned through your service. Your reflection would involve an analysis of how what you learned by working with a newcomer reflects and/or informs the readings in this course.

There are two *Service Learning* placements to choose from. Both placements provide students with an opportunity to provide settlement assistance to a person admitted to Canada through a refugee resettlement program. These will be introduced in detail in class. They involve spending two hours a week with this individual for 10 weeks. Your summary reflection would draw from how your experience informs research discussed in the course. Students' reflections will be discussed during the last class.

Option B: Draw from the course readings and presentations to write a critical, summary reflection that speaks to a debate, concern, or issue raised and discussed by researchers.

You can incorporate learnings from your paper or seminars; however, please be certain that this paper is a critical, summative examination of the topic or issue you select. In your reflection, give some attention to how your analysis stands to inform research and policy.

## **Policies concerning course work and papers**

1) Please follow these instructions on the submission of the papers:

- use 1.5 spacing
- use 1" margins
- use Times New Roman font
- submit your paper on Moodle

2) Extensions and late papers

A penalty of 5% per day including weekends (i.e., papers are marked out of 100) applies to late papers. If your circumstances warrant an extension without penalty, please see me to make a formal request. Early papers earn 1% per day, up to 5 days.

3) Plan ahead to have time to build and edit your work

Do you have a strong, relevant first sentence? Does your introduction include a thesis statement? Does the body of the paper develop your thesis? Did you provide a conclusion? Did you use one citation style consistently? Did you edit your paper for grammar and spelling? Did you insert page numbers?

4) Required Citation Style: ASA or APA style.

5) Avoiding plagiarism

Section 3.8.2 of the Academic Calendar defines *plagiarism* as “the misrepresentation of another’s work – whether ideas or words, intellectual or creative works, images or data – published or unpublished, as one’s own”. It includes representing someone else’s sentence(s), paragraph(s), or entire essay as *your* work, regardless of whether the true author was a classmate or a published author.

Properly referencing source material is done to 1) avoid plagiarism, and 2) show the reader how various authors have influenced your ideas or analysis. Be sure to reference passages that are direct quotes (word for word) AND *paraphrased* information from your references.

If you have questions about plagiarism, contact the Student Success Centre or your professor. All forms of plagiarism are reported to the Dean.

6) Academic Integrity

Please read Chapter 3 in the calendar. In light of Section 3.8.2 b (v): “Possession of unauthorized aids or assistance including copying during tests and examinations”, please leave smart phones and smart watches in your backpack during exams.

## **Office Hours and Communication Regarding Course Work**

*You are encouraged to see me during office hours* to discuss any aspect of the course. If my office hours conflict with your schedule, please schedule an appointment.

**Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning**

Please let me know if you are registered with the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning if you wish to coordinate services.

**Equity and Diversity**

I concur with the university that “Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.”

Please feel free to talk with me about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. You can also contact the Human Rights and Equity Advisor, Megan Fogarty via email at [mfogarty@stfx.ca](mailto:mfogarty@stfx.ca) or by phone at 902-867-5306.

**Course drop date**

The university wishes professors to inform students that they can drop a fall term course (online in Banner) on or before November 2.

**Volunteering opportunity with X-ACT**

StFX is introducing X-ACT: StFX ACademic Transition program for incoming students. Upper-year students who would like to participate in this peer-taught academic skills program are invited to email [sscentre@stfx.ca](mailto:sscentre@stfx.ca) to sign up.