**Semester description:**

**MA in Global Refugee Studies (GRS)**  
8th semester (2nd semester of the MA)

| **Information about the semester**  
| School: The School of Culture and Global Studies  
| Study Board: Board of Studies for International Affairs |

**Regulations and Curriculum:**  

**Description of the semester**  
The purpose the 8th semester at GRS is firstly to give students an up-to-date insight into theories about the dynamics of international political economy (IPE) and a number of chosen interdisciplinary topics related to development and forced migration. The course identifies the most important actors and institutions with a critical focus on the interaction of ideology, politics and economics.

Secondly the semester explores the relationship between culture, identity and politics from the perspective of cultural studies and anthropology. We investigate these relations from four different angles (there could be many more). First, we explore what we mean by culture by relating it to concepts of place, belonging and movement. Second, we study the correlation between (cultural) identities, politicization and conflict, looking both at identity as cause of conflict and at conflict as producer of identity. Third, we scrutinize the intersections between two dimensions of identity, namely gender and generation, and explore their relation to displacement, political struggle and political identity. Finally, we take a closer look at violence and violent events and explore how we can analyse these phenomena among people on the move.

And thirdly the semester gives an insight into the relationship between forced migration (displacement), inability to move (stuckness) and conflict from different perspectives. Displacement, stuckness and conflict are not stable categories; rather they are different moments in complex historical processes. The displaced person of today might very well find it impossible to move tomorrow. What characterize both moments of stuckness and displacement are the curtailed autonomy and force acted upon the bodies of the disenfranchised by structures of power. Hence, a central element of the course is to understand and explore the concept of ‘force’ as cutting across historical and political contexts and how people caught in such power relations navigate to survive and prosper in precarious circumstances. The course adopts a double focus in that we address structural courses for displacement, stuckness and conflict as well as the experiences and coping strategies for those affected.

| **Organisation of the semester**  
| The semester is divided into two parts: course work (15 ECTS) and project work (15 ECTS). All information regarding objectives, content, scope, teaching and learning methods, schedule, prerequisite |
requirements for participation, general and specific learning objectives, assessment criteria and examination forms can be received from GRS: https://www.fak.samf.aau.dk/digitalAssets/409/409370_dir17-18-eng.pdf

For detailed course/lecture information, reading material and teacher’s PPT documents, please refer to https://www.moodle.aau.dk/

Semester coordination and secretariat

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International Political Economy (GRS) Spring 2019

Course Description (objectives, content, examination, etc.)

Title, ECTS credits

International Political Economy (GRS)
The three courses on the 8th semester are evaluated in one 15 ECTS exam

**Location**

GRS

8th semester

**Coordinator**

Bjørn Møller

**Course Instructor**

Various- see course plan

**Language**

*English*

**Objectives**

See syllabus:


**Course Activities**

This course consists of lectures.

**Academic Content and Conjunction with Other Courses/Semesters**

The guiding assumption for this course is that economic and international political economy theories can illuminate *certain* aspects of the refugee and migration phenomena, both at the macro and micro-level—but certainly not that they can provide exhaustive explanations. The economic meta-theory of the rational value-maximising actor (*homo economicus*) may also be useful outside the realm of economics—not because all people are rational all the time, but because most people strive for acting rationally most of the time. Some of the readings contain mathematical economic formulae, but do not despair: What matters is not the math, but the general understanding of the (causal and other) links.

Because of copyright regulations it is not possible to upload most readings on Moodle. Hence, most of the readings, especially the compulsory ones, should be downloaded by means of Google Scholar from the web, usually via the AAU Library. In some cases, I have included the web address for reading that are available to you, even though Google Scholar cannot find them. I have checked all the links on the fifth of January when they all worked, but some may become unavailable for whatever reason—so you are advised to download them to your computer, just to be on the safe side.

The format of the course will be lectures. If there is an interest in this, we may add some group work. Slides for the lectures will be uploaded in due course.
Scope and Expected Performance (1 ECTS corresponds to 27 work hours for the student)

5 ECTS = a total of 135 hours for the entire course (27 hours per ECTS credit)

Teaching hours: 8 lectures and two guest lectures

Preparation time before class: approx. 10 hours

Exam (preparation and attendance): approx. 40 hours

Examination

The courses of the first and second semester are collectively assessed with an oral exam or a 48 hours written assignment.

Spring 2019

Globalization, forced migration and refugees seen in a historical developmental and political perspective

Course Description (objectives, content, examination, etc.)

Title, ECTS credits

*Globalization, forced migration and refugees seen in a historical, developmental and political perspective*

The three courses on the 8th semester are evaluated in one 15 ECTS exam

Location

GRS

8th semester

Coordinator

Steffen Bo Jensen

Course Instructor

Various- see course plan

Language

*English*

Objectives
See syllabus:

**Course Activities**

This course consists of lectures.

**Academic Content and Conjunction with Other Courses/Semesters**

The course is organized around the following narrative: people leave some place of origin and travel via roads and routes to somewhere new. Inspired by anthropologist Hans Lucht’s book, *Darkness Before Daybreak* (2011), the course will trace people in different settings as they move across space and time, as well as the structures and systems they must move through. While we follow the overall narrative of Hans Lucht’s book, we also question key assumptions about movement from poor places to richer places that dominate much discussion about refugees and migration. Hence, we look for instance at those that stay around in megacities in the global South and those that go back or are returned or deported.

Corresponding to different stages of our conceptual journey, we explore a variety of themes which are surrounded by both academic and political debate: displacement and mobility, transforming world economies, mobility inducing conflicts, rural-urban migration, urban refugees, natural resource depletion, border controls, labour recruitment systems, human trafficking, refugee flows, integration, assimilation, diasporas and repatriation. In each session, we look at specific case studies which relate to central themes, and we set out to unpack the case studies by relating them to social, political, economic and historical processes and by applying theoretical concepts presented in the course.

Lastly, we examine different theoretical approaches to describe and understand people’s movement at various stages of their journeys. We will explore specific analytical concepts, situate them in their disciplinary and theoretical contexts and test their application on case studies. We will also build an impression of larger bodies of academic literature relating to people who move, how these bodies of literature sometimes overlap and clash, and how they have implications for the ways in which we make sense of people’s movement or stasis.

The course builds on theoretical knowledge which the students have gained from the courses 'politics, Culture & Identity' and 'International Political Economy'.

**Scope and Expected Performance (1 ECTS corresponds to 27 work hours for the student)**

5 ECTS = a total of 135 hours for the entire course (27 hours per ECTS credit)

- Teaching hours: 8 lectures and two guest lectures
- Preparation time before class: approx. 10 hours
- Exam (preparation and attendance): approx. 40 hours

**Examination**
The courses of the first and second semester are collectively assessed with an oral exam or a 48 hours written assignment.

### Politics, Culture, Identity, Spring 2019

| Title, ECTS credits |  
|---------------------|---
| Politics, Culture, Identity, 5 ECTS |  
| Location |  
| Global Refugee Studies |  
| 8. semester |  
| Coordinator |  
| Anja Kublitz |  
| Course Instructor |  
| Anja Kublitz, Michael Ulfstjerne |  
| Language |  
| English |  
| Objectives |  
| Knowledge: Has obtained knowledge on theoretical and methodological approaches to studying culture, identity and politics in relation to forced migration. |  
| Skills: Can use the acquired knowledge to choose theories that suit its analytical purpose and can relate critical to these theories. Furthermore, can analyze, interpret and compare cases of forced migration. |  
| Competencies: Can reflect and argue based on a scientific foundation. Furthermore, can reflect critically on the use of culture and identity in analysis of forced migration. |  
| See syllabus: |  
| Course Activities |  
| Lectures, exercises, group work, student presentations, class discussions. |  
| Academic Content and Conjunction with Other Courses/Semesters |  
| “Culture, Identity, Politics” is the second of two courses that explore different theoretical perspec- |
tives on refugees and immigrants from the perspective of political philosophy, social science and anthro-

pology. The first course, “Political change and development”, was offered in the autumn 2016 and started from a birds-eye perspective by investigating the relations between the refugee, the nation-state and the EU. In this semester we will zoom in on refugees own experiences and practices and on how these are constituted. Through the lens of cultural studies and anthropology, the course explores the relationship between culture, identity and politics from four different angles (there could be many more).

First, we explore what we mean by culture by relating it to concepts of globalization, movement and ethnicity. Second, we study the intersections between two dimensions of identity, namely generation and gender, and investigate their relation to displacement and political mobilization. Third, we explore the cultural patterns of economy, exchange and reciprocity as a way to understand the underlying dynamics of social hierarchies and livelihood strategies of marginalized groups. Finally, we take a closer look at violence and violent events and explore how we can analyze these phenomena among people on the move.

The aim of the course is to introduce central concepts and theoretical approaches within this field and to enhance the students’ analytical and critical skills by allowing time to analyse and discuss empirical cases (see also the learning goals).

Format

Each session lasts four hours including a lunch and a minor coffee break. The purpose of having seminars instead of only lectures provided by the teacher is that we explicit want to support the students’ analytical and critical skills by allowing space for thorough discussions and student exercises. Rather than one-way monologue, the seminars are designed to encourage dialogue and can be considered laboratories for testing and improving analytical skills. Each seminar therefore both consists of lectures and student assignments such as student presentation and facilitated group work.

The students will be divided up into ten study groups of 5-6 persons. The purposes of the groups are 1) to facilitate in-between class learning by being able to discuss readings with co-students prior to class and 2) to prepare a presentation of 5-10 minutes to each session and 3) to conduct group exercises in class. Preparation and presentation will be done based on a set of questions to the literature that will be uploaded on Moodle.

The course builds on theoretical knowledge which the students have gained from the courses ‘Globalization’ and ‘International Political Economy’.

Scope and Expected Performance (1 ECTS corresponds to 27 work hours for the student)

5 ECTS = a total of 135 hours for the entire course (27 hours per ECTS credit)

Teaching hours: 4 seminars each lasting four hours

Preparation time before class: approx. 20 hours

Exam (preparation and attendance): approx. 40 hours
Examination

The courses of the first and second semester are collectively assessed with an oral exam or a 48 hours written assignment.