

Forced Migration and Resettlement Studies: A PPSE (Principled Problem Solving Experience) Minor.

Program Director: Dr. Diya Abdo

Description:

In this one-of-a-kind minor, students not only learn about forced migration and resettlement. Because of Guilford College's location in Greensboro, NC (a very active refugee resettlement hub in the U.S.) as well as the presence of the [Every Campus A Refuge \(ECAR\)](#) program on campus, students will be able to immerse themselves in refugee support history, networks, and service-providers as well as do the hands-on work of hosting refugees on Guilford's campus and supporting them in resettlement. ECAR is an initiative that mobilizes college and university campus resources (within and without the institution's physical borders) to provide housing and other forms of assistance to refugees seeking resettlement in the institution's local area. In partnership with local resettlement agencies, universities and colleges can make a big difference in refugee resettlement in terms of numbers of refugees resettled, quality of resettlement and the shaping of public discourse around refugees and immigrants. This PPSE minor formalizes the educational components of the initiative and engages students in disciplinary, interdisciplinary and place-based experiences that facilitate:

- 1) learning about forced displacement, refugeeism, and (im)migration
- 2) centralizing the voices, agency and perspectives of (im)migrants and forcibly displaced individuals
- 3) participation in the place-based educational processes of resettlement and community building
- 4) emphasis on the nature and significance of organizing and advocacy.

These various elements of the minor are designed to educate you on:

- 1) **What** forced displacement is and **why** it happens as learned through the courses you take, the material you read, and the guest lectures you attend.
- 2) **Who** are the individuals who experience it and what is their perspective as learned through the courses focused on primary narratives, the NaTakallam conversation partners, and (under certain conditions) the refugees with which you volunteer.
- 3) **How we** can collectively address the problems of forced displacement and resettlement as learned through the courses on organizing, civic engagement and community building as well as training provided by community partner organizations.
- 4) **Doing** the work of principled problem-solving by hosting refugees, assisting them in resettlement, advocacy work and the programmatic ECAR projects.

Courses:

- I. Complete PPS 151: Forced Migration and Resettlement Studies I
- II. Complete PPS 251: Forced Migration and Resettlement Studies II
- III. Complete **one** course focused on understanding the **causes for forced displacement and (im)migration** such as
 - a. JPS 336: Understanding Oppressive Systems
 - b. SPAN 310: Contemporary Latin America
 - c. SOAN 431: Latino/a Migration Patterns
 - d. HIST 310: Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Sovereignty
 - e. HIST 310: Immigrants and Refugees
 - f. HIST 314: Immigration and a Multicultural Europe
 - g. HIST 238: War and Peace: 20th century Europe
 - h. Or a similar course chosen by the student and approved by the minor's coordinators.
- IV. Complete **one** course focused on the **voice, agency and perspectives of (im)migrants and displaced individuals** such as
 - a. ENGL 350: Immigrant and Refugee Literature
 - b. HIST 310: Immigrants and Refugees
 - c. HIST 310: Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Sovereignty
 - d. IDS 421: Border Crossings
 - e. GER 400: 20th Century German Literature and Culture
 - f. Or a similar course chosen by the student and approved by the minor's coordinators.
- V. Complete **one** course focused on **building community, advocacy, organizing** such as
 - a. PPS 110: Intro to Civic Engagement
 - b. PPS 211: Change, Innovation, and Impact
 - c. JPS 103: Community Problem Solving
 - d. JPS 220: Community Building Fundamentals
 - e. JPS 327: Social Justice in the Southern U.S
 - f. PECS 110: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies
 - g. EDUC 302: Cross Cultural Education
 - h. PECS 315: Human Rights
 - i. Or a similar course chosen by the student and approved by the minor's coordinators.

General overview for PPS 151 and 251: Forced Migration and Resettlement Studies:

- a) Students will learn about various topics related to refugeeism, forced displacement, im(migration), and resettlement through readings, site-visits, field trips, guest lectures, films, documentaries, discussions and written reflections.

- b)** Students will engage in conversational interactions with refugees through [NaTakallam](#), a non-profit that employs forcibly displaced individuals by connecting them with students for conversations over Skype. This component centralizes refugee voices and experiences without exploiting the particular refugees we host on our campus or mining them as resources for our benefit, and with whom “educational conversations” are not expected nor enforced. If these conversations do happen, they should be initiated by the hosted guest; utmost privacy and confidentiality regarding such conversations should be upheld by the volunteer.
- c)** Receive training from our partnering resettlement agencies: [CWS Greensboro](#) and [New Arrivals Institute](#). This includes being vetted/background checked by CWS and signing confidentiality agreements regarding interactions with their clients.
- d)** Volunteer with the ECAR families or other CWS clients. This includes, but is not exclusive to, participation in the various aspects of hosting the family, ESL instruction, and implementation of resettlement tasks.
- e)** Design and implement an advocacy, problem-solving, or other type of resettlement and (im)migrant support project derived from their learning experiences in the program and on which future student can build: creating public narratives; building on/refining best practices; generating social media; participating in research and impact studies; outreach about ECAR/public policy issues; advocating for refugee and (im)migrant rights; fundraising; building/organizing community partnerships; organizing and holding educational events; creating resettlement support kits and materials etc. Students must complete their project by the end of the semester and present it at the Guilford Undergraduate Symposium and elsewhere.