**Proposal for First-Year Seminar**

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**Representing Refugees: Displacement and Migration in Media and Popular Culture**

Course Description

In a moment of global migration crisis, what images and stories circulate about refugees? How do refugees represent their own experiences of struggle and movement? In this seminar, we will consider news media, visual art, music, films, and stories about refugees. What do these representations tell us about the challenges refugees face? About public opinion on border issues? How do they communicate ideas about suffering, borders, rights, or identity? We might think we’re used to seeing photographs and stories about children in detention at the US/Mexico border, or migrants packed into rubber dinghies in the Mediterranean Sea – but how do those images and narratives shape how we understand refugee experiences and border issues?

Course Objectives

* Learn about key issues facing refugees
* Appreciate and critically respond to different media representations about borders and migration
* Develop skills in discussion and writing

Syllabus

Assignments: Your work for the class will be to assemble a portfolio of representations of refugees, which you will collect during the semester and present during the last two class sessions.

Week 1 Background on Refugees and Refugee Policy

Week 2 Refugees in Ohio (Selected Reading from *Rejecting Refugees*)

Week 3 Refugee Stories (Selected Reading from fictional accounts)

Week 4 Refugee Stories (Selected Reading from journalistic accounts)

Week 5 Refugee Stories (examples from films by and about refugees)

Week 6 Representations of refugees in photographic images

Week 7 Border Crossings, politics and policies (selected readings from newspaper and media articles at the time of this assignment)

Week 8 Guest Speaker from Community Refugee Immigration Services

Week 9 Discussion of guest speaker

Week 10 Review of current political policies (Selected reading from *Political Asylum Deceptions0*

Week 11 Student presentations on refugee representation in the media

Week 12 Student presentations on refugee representation in the media

Week. 13 Conclusions