Class Times & Location: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:30-11:35 Forsyth 129

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00-1:00 pm
Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm
TA office hours by appointment


Additional readings will be posted on the Blackboard web page for the course.

Course Description:
The trafficking of persons for sex or labor through force, fraud or coercion has become an increasingly serious problem in modern society. Federal, state and local authorities have been tasked with the responsibility of identifying and rescuing trafficking victims and prosecuting their perpetrators. This course provides an overview of the phenomenon of human trafficking in its various forms. It emphasizes understanding the experiences and needs of trafficking victims and the methods of operation of traffickers and their networks across various cultural contexts. Throughout the course, students will critically evaluate the social and cultural practices that give rise to and support human trafficking in the United States and around the globe.
Throughout the course, students will:

- Locate modern forms of slavery within their historical and geographic contexts;
- Become familiar with the internationally-agreed upon definitions of human trafficking;
- Understand the role of interest groups and the media in defining human trafficking as an emerging social problem both internationally and domestically;
- Understand the challenges associated with identifying and measuring the prevalence of human trafficking;
- Understand the causes and consequences of human trafficking;
- Identify and assess the challenges of combating human trafficking in a global society.

Class Requirements

Critical film review – students will watch a feature length film/documentary about human trafficking and write a 3-5 page double spaced critical review. The review should be similar to an academic book review. Students should briefly summarize the film/documentary and provide a critical review of the depiction of human trafficking. The review should identify how human trafficking has been framed in the film or documentary and critically examine how the portrayal of trafficking may influence public perceptions of the problem and expectations about the responses of the state and civil society. Films should be chosen from the list provided on Blackboard or approved by the instructor if not on the list (15 percent) Due February 25th.

Quizzes - five in-class and/or blackboard pop-up quizzes will be given throughout the term to assess knowledge gained through the weekly readings. (20 percent).

Country/state assessment paper and presentation – students will be assigned a project group to work with throughout the semester. Each group will select a country (other than the U.S.) that experiences human trafficking (selection due January 21st). Throughout the semester each project group will turn in three white papers related to their chosen country.

- The first paper will explain how the problem of human trafficking is defined in the local context, provide estimates of prevalence of human trafficking, and describe the risk factors for trafficking importation or exportation (due February 22nd).
- The second paper will describe country government and non-governmental organization responses to the problem. This paper should identify structural and cultural factors that impede or facilitate effective problem response (due March 24th).
- The final paper will identify the main gaps in the government/civil society response to human trafficking and recommend responses (due April 20th).

All white papers should use original research on the local context of the country. The papers should analyze the trafficking situation beyond what is described in the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report (we will discuss this report in class). Each white paper should be roughly 8-10 double spaced pages in length. Written papers are due at three times during the semester. Each project group will make a brief presentation of their white papers throughout the semester. Groups will make a formal presentation of their country-specific recommendations during the final exam period (Each white paper worth 15 percent, presentations 10 percent, total 55 percent).

Class discussion and participation. Students will be expected to come to each class meeting prepared to discuss the assigned materials. Attendance in class is but the first step in active class
participation. During the course of the semester students are also encouraged to attend community-based human trafficking events. (10 percent).

Class Policies

- No early departures are permitted unless previously discussed with your instructor. Systematic tardiness or early departures (defined as being late for class or leaving class early more than 4 times) will lead to a deduction of one grade point from your final course grade.

- Laptop computers are allowed in class for note-taking purposes only. If at any point in the semester I feel that computers are causing distractions, either for certain individuals or for the entire class, I reserve the right to amend this policy to either ban computers in class entirely, or for specific individuals.

- All students must follow Northeastern University procedures regarding academic integrity. For a detailed explanations on what constitutes academic cheating and plagiarism and how such cases are handled by Northeastern University see the Student Handbook (pp. 38-41) or see: http://issuu.com/northeasternuniversity/docs/2014-15_academic_integrity_policy?e=2831976/8316945. Cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment may result in failing grade for the course.

- Students in need of special accommodations should register with the Student Disability Resource Center and provide appropriate documentation.

Class Themes and Schedule

Part 1: The phenomenon of human trafficking. What is it? What are the causes? How big is the problem?

Week 1
January 11th  Class introduction and review of syllabus

January 13th  The historical context of slavery and introduction to human trafficking
Reading: Bales, Chapter 1 “The new slavery” Disposable People.

January 14th  Human trafficking in the modern world
Film: Not My Life (partial)
Reading: Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 1 “The old slavery and the new” The Slave Next Door.

****In-class project group discussion***

Week 2
January 18th  Martin Luther King Observance – No class

January 20th  Causes of human trafficking: Historical roots
Reading: Shelley, Chapter 1 “Why has human trafficking flourished?” Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives.

January 21st  Bales, Chapter 3 “Mauritania: Old times there are not forgotten” Disposable People.

*** Project group country decisions due ***

**Week 3**

**January 25th**

**Causes of human trafficking: Economic inequality**

Reading: Bales and Soodalter, Chapters 2 and 3 “House slave” and “Slaves in the pastures of plenty” The Slave Next Door.


**January 27th**

Listen: Kevin Bales, TED talk http://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_bales_how_to_combat_modern_slavery/transcript?language=en

*** Time for group work/meeting with Professor about first white paper ***

**January 28th**

**Causes of human trafficking: Organized crime**


**Week 4**

**February 1st**

**The business of human trafficking**

Reading: Shelley, Chapter 4 “The business of human trafficking” Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives.

Film: Frontline Sex Slaves (partial)

**February 3rd**

**Estimating the prevalence and patterns of human trafficking**


**February 4th**

*** Time for group work/meeting with Professor about first white paper ***

**Week 5**

**February 8th**

**Forms of trafficking: Sex trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
Guest speaker Detective, Boston Police Department

Listen: WGBH Report: Advocates Say Children Forced Into Prostitution 'Business As Usual'

February 10th
Film: Very Young Girls
Reading Bales, Chapter 2 “Thailand”

February 11th Causes of sex trafficking


Week 6
February 15th Presidents DayObserved – No Class

February 17th Causes of sex trafficking continued –commercial sex markets
Guest speaker Meredith Dank, Urban Institute, Washington D.C.

Reading: The Hustle
http://apps.urban.org/features/theHustle/index.html

Listen to NPR report on sex trafficking and booming oil fields
http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&tt=1&islist=false&cid=265698046&m=269924900

February 18th Causes of labor trafficking and labor exploitation
Readings: Bales, Chapter 5 and 6 “Pakistan: When is a slave not a slave?” and “India: The ploughman’s lunch” Disposable People

Hidden in Plain Sight
http://datatools.urban.org/Features/us-labor-trafficking/trafficked.html

Week 7
February 22nd Readings: Bauer, Mary (2007). Close to slavery: Guestworker programs in the U.S. Montgomery, AL: Southern Poverty Law Center (Blackboard)

Film: The Men of Atalissa (POV)

*** First white paper due ***
Part II: Anti-trafficking legal and policy frameworks

February 24th **Framing human trafficking**
Framing experiment quiz (assigned to watch one of five anti-trafficking PSAs)

February 25th **Politics of anti-trafficking framing**

*** Critical film review due ***

Week 8
February 29th **International human trafficking frameworks**
Reading: Shelly, Chapter 6 and 7 “Trafficking in Eurasia and Eastern Europe” and “Trafficking in Europe”

March 2nd **U.S. human trafficking frameworks – The TVPA and State Law**
Readings: Shelly, Chapter 8 “Human trafficking in the United States”


March 3rd *** Time for group work/meeting with Professor about second white paper**

March 7-11th *** Spring Break – No Classes ***

Week 9
March 14th **Enforcement of anti-trafficking policies**
Readings: Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 8, “States of confusion” *The Slave Next Door*.


March 16th Readings: Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 9 “The Feds” *The Slave Next Door*.
*** Time for group work/meeting with Professor about second white paper**
**Week 10**  
**March 21st**  
**Demand reduction**  
[http://g.virbedn.com/f/files/40/FileItem-149406 DeconstructingtheDemandForProstitution.pdf](http://g.virbedn.com/f/files/40/FileItem-149406 DeconstructingtheDemandForProstitution.pdf)  
“Backpage.com Accused of Helping Pimps in Child Sex Trade”  
**March 23rd**  
**Supply chains and labor trafficking**  
Reading: “Labor Trafficking in Supply Chains,” Global Freedom Center (Blackboard)  
*Manpower Group Case Study* (Blackboard)  
**March 24th**  
Slavery Footprint discussion.  
*** Take quiz in advance of class at: [http://slaveryfootprint.org/](http://slaveryfootprint.org/) ***  
*** Second white paper due ***

**Part III: What Can Be Done? Formulating Responses to Human Trafficking**  
**Week 11**  
**March 28th**  
**Meeting the needs of victims**  
Guest Speaker – Elizabeth Bouchard, Boston SEEN Network  
Reading: Shelley, Chapter 2 “The diverse consequences of human trafficking” *Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives*  
**March 30th**  
**March 31st**  
**Protection or paternalism?**  
**Week 12**  
**April 4th**  
**The potential harms of anti-trafficking policies**  
***Time for group work on third white paper***  
**April 6th**  
Legalization, decriminalization and market-based solutions
What is the Nordic Model, Equity Now.


Week 13
April 11th  Moving forward: creating effective anti-trafficking policies
Readings: Bales, Chapter 7, “What can be done” Disposable People


April 13th  Reading: Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 10, “A future without slavery?” The Slave Next Door.

April 14th  *** Final Group Presentations in Class ***

Week 14
April 18th  Patriots Day – No Class

April 20th  *** Final white paper due ***
*** Final Group Presentations in Class ***

Finals Week  *** Final Group Presentations in Class ***