CRIM 1400
Human Trafficking
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Northeastern University

Class Times & Location: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:15-10:20
Behrakis Health Sciences Center 315

Contact Information:
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Office Hours:
Monday 10:30-11:30
Wednesday 3:30-4:30

Required Texts:


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. Human trafficking is a complex problem of migration, economic inequality, crime and human rights. This course provides an overview of the phenomenon of human trafficking. Throughout the course, we will examine various forms of human trafficking victimization including sex trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor, domestic servitude and chattel slavery in the U.S. and throughout the world. We will explore the role of the state, media, culture and criminal networks in both creating the conditions under which human trafficking exist and eradicating the problem of trafficking.

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. (15 percent) Due February 26th.

Quizzes - five in-class and/or blackboard 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 22nd). 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.
• 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.
• The final paper will recommend responses to the problem in the specific country. 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. 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](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.

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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 12th  
Class introduction and review of syllabus

January 14th  
The historical context of slavery and introduction to human trafficking  
Reading: Bales, Chapter 1 “The new slavery” *Disposable People*.

January 15th  
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*.

**Week 2**

January 19th  
*Martin Luther King Observance – No class*

January 21st  
Causes of human trafficking: Historical roots  
Reading: Shelley, Chapter 1 “Why has human trafficking flourished?” *Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives*.

January 22nd  
Bales, Chapter 3 “Mauritania: Old times there are not forgotten” *Disposable People*.  
*** Project group country decisions due ***

**Week 3**

January 26th  
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 28th  **Causes of human trafficking: Organized crime**

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


Week 4  **The business of human trafficking**
Reading: Shelley, Chapter 4 “The business of human trafficking” *Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives.*
Film: Frontline Sex Slaves (partial)

February 2nd  **Estimating the prevalence and patterns of human trafficking**

February 5th  *** Time for group work/meeting with Professor about first white paper ***

Week 5  **Forms of trafficking: Sex trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
Guest speaker Donna Gavin, Boston Police Department

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

February 11th  Film: Very Young Girls
Reading Bales, Chapter 2 “Thailand”

February 12th  **Causes of sex trafficking**

**Week 6**

February 16 Presidents Day Observed – No Class

February 18th **Causes of sex trafficking continued – commercial sex markets**

Guest speaker Meredith Dank, Urban Institute, Washington D.C.


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

February 19th **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 23th 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 25th **Framing human trafficking**


Framing experiment quiz (assigned to watch one of five anti-trafficking PSAs)

February 26th **Politics of anti-trafficking framing**

(Blackboard)

*** Critical film review due ***
**Week 8**

March 2nd  
**International human trafficking frameworks**
Reading: Shelly, Chapter 6 and 7 “Trafficking in Eurasia and Eastern Europe” and “Trafficking in Europe”

March 3rd  
**U.S. human trafficking frameworks – The TVPA and State Law**
Readings: Shelly, Chapter 8 “Human trafficking in the United States”
Polaris Project, TVPA Fact Sheet (Blackboard)

March 4th  
*** Time for group work/meeting with Professor about second white paper**

**March 9-13th  ***
*** Spring Break – No Classes ***

**Week 9**

March 16th  
**Enforcement of anti-trafficking policies**
Readings: Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 8, “States of confusion” The Slave Next Door.
Polaris Project, State Laws Fact Sheet (Blackboard)

March 18th  
Reading: Farrell, Amy, Colleen Owens and Jack McDevitt. New laws but few cases: Understanding the challenges to the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases. Crime, Law and Social Change (Blackboard).

March 19th  
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 23rd  
**Demand reduction**
http://g.virbcdn.com/_f/files/40/FileItem-149406DeconstructingtheDemandForProstitution.pdf
Listen: http://wgbhnews.org/post/prostituted-women-mass-pay-greater-price-johns

March 25th  
**Supply chains and labor trafficking**
Reading: “Labor Trafficking in Supply Chains,” Global Freedom Center (Blackboard)  
http://globalfreedomcenter.org/LaborTraffickinginSupplyChains.pdf
Manpower Group Case Study (Blackboard)  

March 26th  
Slavery Footprint discussion.
*** Take quiz in advance of class at: http://slaveryfootprint.org/ ***
*** Second white paper due ***
Part III: What Can Be Done? Formulating Responses to Human Trafficking
Week 11

March 30th  **Meeting the needs of victims**
Reading: Shelley, Chapter 2 “The diverse consequences of human trafficking” Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives


April 2nd  Guest speaker, Lisa Goldblatt Grace, My Life, My Choice

Week 12

April 6th  **The potential harms of anti-trafficking policies**

April 8th  Legalization, decriminalization and market-based solutions
What is the Nordic Model, Equity Now.


Week 13

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

April 15th  Reading: Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 10, “A future without slavery” The Slave Next Door.

April 16th  *** Final Group Presentations in Class ***

Week 14

April 20th  Patriots Day – No Class

April 22nd  *** Final Group Presentations in Class ***

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