Meeting Times & Location: Monday 5:45-8:15
Room 301 Churchill

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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-5:00
Wednesday 2:00-3:00


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 as defined in the United Nations Protocol and the United States Victims of Trafficking Violence Prevention Act with emphasis on understanding the experiences and needs of trafficking victims and the methods of operations of traffickers and their networks. 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 both the U.S. and international contexts. 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 contexts;
- Become familiar with the internationally-agreed upon definitions of human trafficking and the key factors that separate it from related phenomena such as smuggling;
- 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;
- Critically assess legal and policy responses to the problem of human trafficking in the United States and internationally.

Class Requirements

**Critical film review** – students will watch a feature length film/documentary about human trafficking and write a 3-5 page 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 10th.**

**Academic book review** – students will write a 3-5 page review of a monograph about human trafficking that is approved by the instructor. Your review should incorporate material from the class materials and discussion. Academic book reviews are expected to follow the format of similar reviews published in peer reviewed journals. For example, see the book review sections of *Crime, Law and Social Change* and *International Criminal Justice Review* as examples. (15 percent) **Due March 24th.**

**County/state assessment paper and presentation** – students will select a county or state in the U.S. and complete an analytic paper examining: 1) how the problem of human trafficking is defined in the local context; 2) risk factors for trafficking importation of exportation; 3) state/country government responses to the problem; 4) non-governmental responses to the problem; and 5) recommended responses to the problem in the specific county/state. This paper should use original research on the local context of the country or state. The paper should analyze the trafficking situation beyond what is described in the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report. A formal presentation of the assessment paper will be made at the end of the semester (40 percent)

**Reading reflection journal.** To facilitate discussion of course materials, students will be asked to keep a journal with your reflections on the assigned readings and course materials each week. This course has a significant reading load. Your journals are not intended to review each article or chapter, but rather to critically discuss a theme or issue that resonates with you across the readings. The journal should reflect how your changing understanding of human trafficking throughout the semester. Journals will be turned in to the instructor for review at three time points throughout the semester. (20 percent).
Class discussion and participation. This is a graduate seminar course. As a result 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. (10 percent).

Class Themes and Schedule

The phenomenon of human trafficking
This section of the course will provide a general introduction to human trafficking. We will examine what human trafficking is and what acts the definitions of human trafficking cover. We will examine legal definitions of human trafficking as separate from related phenomena such as smuggling and commercial sex work. Root causes of trafficking such as poverty, gender inequality, economic insecurity and displacement through war and conflict will be discussed. We will also discuss evidence (or lack thereof) of the link between human trafficking and organized crime.

January 6th  The historical context of slavery and introduction to human trafficking
Bales, Chapter 1 “The new slavery” Disposable People.
Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 1 “The old slavery and the new” The Slave Next Door.

January 13th  Causes of human trafficking
Shelley, Chapter 1 “Why has human trafficking flourished?” Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives.
Bales, Chapter 3 “Mauritania: Old times there are not forgotten” Disposable People.
Bales and Soodalter, Chapters 2 and 3 “House slave” and “Slaves in the pastures of plenty” The Slave Next Door.

January 20th  Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed - No class
Shelley, Chapter 3, “Human trafficking as organized crime” Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives.

January 27th  The financial side of human trafficking
** Peter DiMarzio–Homeland Security Investigations – Myths of Human Trafficking 11:45-1:25
** Human trafficking awareness month at Northeastern University – Screening of “Not My Life” and panel discussion 3:15-5:15, 240 Dockser Hall, NU Law School

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

Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 4 and 5 “Supply and demand and “The new business model” The Slave Next Door.


*** Slaveryfootprint.org exercise in advance of class***

*** First journal due ***

*** One page description of final project due ***

Measuring the prevalence of human trafficking
This section of the course will examine the scope and dimensions of human trafficking in the U.S. and internationally. We will critically explore the challenges of measuring human trafficking victimization.

February 3rd  Estimating the prevalence and patterns of human trafficking


Framing the problem of human trafficking
We will examine the key actors responsible for framing the human trafficking problem and developing anti-trafficking responses. We will look at the role of the media in raising awareness about human trafficking and explore public opinion about human trafficking problems.

February 10th  Framing the problem and alternative frames


*** Critical film review due ***

**Anti-trafficking legal and policy frameworks**

This section of the course examines the types of laws that have been passed and policies enacted to prevent human trafficking, prosecute perpetrators and protect victims. We will look at the role of the state in combatting trafficking.

**February 17th**  
*President's Day – No class*

*International human trafficking frameworks*


Shelly, Chapter 6 and 7 “Trafficking in Eurasia and Eastern Europe” and “Trafficking in Europe” *Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives*.

**February 24th**  
*U.S. human trafficking frameworks – The TVPA and State Law*

Shelly, Chapter 8 “Human trafficking in the United States” *Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives*.

Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 8, “States of confusion” *The Slave Next Door*.


***Second journal due***

March 3rd  
Spring Break – No class

**Forms of trafficking**

This section of the course takes a look at trafficking occurring in commercial sex markets. We will explore specific risk factors for sex trafficking and the relationship between sex trafficking and prostitution. We will separately examine labor trafficking across a variety of venues and explore the distinctions between exploitive and unfair working conditions and labor trafficking.

March 10th  
*Sex trafficking and history of exploitation in commercial sex markets/ Legalization and regulation of commercial sex as a response to human trafficking*

Bales, Chapter 2 “Thailand: Because she looks like a child” *Disposable People.*


March 17th  
*Labor trafficking and labor exploitation*

Bales, Chapter 5 and 6 “Pakistan: When is a slave not a slave?” and “India: The ploughman’s lunch” *Disposable People.*

Bauer, Mary (2007). *Close to slavery: Guestworker programs in the U.S.* Montgomery, AL: Southern Poverty Law Center


March 24th  
*Traffickers and their networks*


***Book report due***
Consequences of Human Trafficking

March 31st  Trauma and survival

Guest speaker Jose Hildago, MD, Forensic Psychiatry Fellow, MGH Law and Psychiatry Service

Shelley, Chapter 2 “The diverse consequences of human trafficking” Human Trafficking: Global Perspectives


Institutional responses to human trafficking

In this section of the course we examine the role of intergovernmental and non-governmental groups in responding to human trafficking. Particular attention will be paid to critically assessing the institutional response to human trafficking in the U.S.

April 7th  Enforcement of anti-trafficking policies

Guest speaker Kim Henry, former director of the Massachusetts Interagency Human Trafficking Policy Task Force

Bales and Soodalter, Chapter 9 “The Feds” The Slave Next Door.


*** Third journal due ***

April 14th  What can be done? The potential harms of anti-trafficking policies

Bales, Chapter 7, “What can be done” Disposable People.


***Final projects due***
***Final project presentations***

Week of April 21st
***Final project presentations***