

**Email Subject: Announcing the Spring 2024 Hopkins Semester D.C. Theme - Global Migration and Refugees**

*Spring 2024 Hopkins Semester D.C.*

# **Global Migration and Refugees**

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We are thrilled to announce the Spring 2024 Theme for the Hopkins Semester D.C. on **Global Migration and Refugees**.

In this immersive and engaging semester, students will take KSAS courses, conduct an independent research project, and complete an internship-all while residing in Washington D.C. and utilizing the new, state-of-the art JHU Bloomberg Center Building. As well, students will participate in a cap-stone trip to the U.S.-Mexico border.

This semester's coursework will explore important and timely questions and debates relating to global migration, refugees, and empire across the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States.

*Students will be required to take the following three courses:*

1. **Applied Practitioner and Scholar Seminar** (Dr. Rina Agarwala, 3 credits) This course introduces students to the cutting-edge research and debates on global migration and refugees. Students will explore immigration *and* emigration to highlight the global nature of the theme and directly engage leading guest speakers from the policy and scholarly communities.
2. **Research Seminar** (Dr. Julian Lim, 4 credits): This course builds students' research, writing, and analytical skills by guiding them through an independent research project in a collaborative classroom environment.
3. **Applied Experience Course** (Dr. Lauren Reynolds, 3 credits) This course builds students' professional, networking, and career planning skills by exploring their experiences in their internship, volunteer, or other immersive experience and engaging practitioners in related professional fields. such as law and social work.

*Students will also be required to take at least one of the following seminars:*

**Seminar 1: Migration and Empire/Imperialism** (Dr. Sabine Mohamed, 3 credits)  
Given that we inhabit a world after European colonialism, some would argue that empires are an artifact of the past. Yet, imperialism continues to shape our

contemporary multipolar world. In this interdisciplinary seminar, students will explore topics ranging from transnational anti-colonial worldmaking projects to (post)colonial infrastructures, to the politics of citizenship and race, contested border regimes, and the rise of far-right movements to focus on the modalities of (im)mobility, subject formation, and how difference and belonging within these often-fraught imperial settings have been both defined and defied. We will also attend to non-European imperial varieties and decenter a Eurocentric perspective on migration and empire.

**Seminar 2: Refugees, Human Rights and Sovereignty** (Dr. Ilil Benjamin, 3 credits)

What is the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee? How has the refugee category been redefined and contested by international bodies since 1951? How are the ambiguities of real-life violence and persecution simplified in asylum adjudication interviews that require clear, factual narratives? This seminar draws on literature from sociology, history, anthropology, and international refugee law in order to understand the capacity (or lack thereof) of human rights discourses and declarations to contravene state sovereignty in the name of protecting the rightless.

*Additionally, students will be invited to participate in an exciting applied experience:*

Pending funding and approval, students will be able to supplement their learnings from their courses, internship, and research with a **participatory trip to the U.S.-Mexico border**, where we will meet with various stakeholders including community organizations supporting migrants as they try to cross the border, organizations fighting to retain bio-diversity in the area in light of the wall construction, health-care workers, and border enforcement officials.

**What will students' weeks be like as a member of the spring cohort?**

*Classes:* Spring HSDC classes will be offered on **Wednesdays and Thursdays (schedule pending)** so that students may conduct research and complete related experiential learning projects including internships, volunteering, and/or intensive professional shadowing on the remaining days of the week.

*Co- & Extracurricular activities:* Cohort activities will include unique and unforgettable activities and experiences that link the theme to activities in DC. Some examples include: trips to exhibits in the Smithsonian museums and various embassies, meals in Chinatown, and alumni discussions with leaders in the field including a senior official from Customs and Border Protection.

*Mentorship* Students benefit from mentorship from faculty, staff, and alums including a dedicated and assigned alumni mentor.

### **Eligibility**

- All students with **any** major or minor in KSAS are eligible from their **sophomore year through graduating/senior spring semester**. HSDC does not count against JHU residency requirements.
- GPA will be considered in light of a student's full application.
- Participation in this program will not cost more than spending a semester on campus at Homewood.
- Students with leases may work with Off Campus Housing, the returning fall HSDC students, and the Hopkins Semester DC Director to navigate lease and subletting challenges.
- In preparation for their applications, students should be ready to discuss why the theme of global migration and refugees matters to them and why they seek to study this theme intensively during their semester in DC
- Students may not take in person classes at the Homewood campus concurrently with their HSDC semester.