ASYLUM LAW
Fall 2009
Wednesdays – 2:45pm to 4:25pm
Room: 155
SYLLABUS

Adjunct Professor: Regina Germain
Contact: 303-321-4287 ext. 220
rgermain@rmscdenver.org
Office Hours: By Appointment

Texts – *Forced Migration Law and Policy* (West 2007); *UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status* (Handbook will be handed out in class)

Grade is comprised of: Class Participation – 15%; Research Project / Oral Presentation – 15%; and Draft/Final Paper – 70%

Class Assignments


September 16, 2009 – Class presentations; Rethinking the Nexus Requirement. Forced Migration, pp. 292-295. Introduction to gender based asylum claims. Forced Migration, pp. 296-316

September 30, 2009 – Class presentations, and catch-up class if needed. No reading assignment.


October 14, 2009 DRAFT PAPERS DUE - Watch Well-Founded Fear Documentary Film (120 minutes). No reading assignments.


October 28, 2009 – No Class. Professor out of town. Watch Chasing Freedom.


December 7, 2009 – FINAL PAPER DUE.

Research Project / Report - Students will present a 20-minute oral report to the class on an overseas refugee situation. The report should include the following: an overview of the governing legal framework, the number of asylum-seekers or refugees present in the country (or the number of a particular nationality you wish to focus on that is within a country); whether the country is a party to the Refugee Convention or other international or regional conventions or agreements; whether there national legislation governing refugee status determinations; what assistance is provided to refugees and/or asylum seekers; whether their presence a political issue; how they are portrayed in the media; how they are linguistically or culturally related to the native population; what the prospects are for a durable solution.

This is a short research assignment intended to give the class some perspective on the issues facing other countries, in contrast to the United States. You should use
readily available information from human rights organizations, UNHCR, and other reputable sources.

Prepare a summary or outline to distribute to the class. You may use power point or other visuals. Submit a bibliography to the professor – it is not necessary to share this with the class.

**Paper**

The paper should be an original work of publishable quality on a subject related to U.S. asylum law, the U.S. asylum process or asylum seekers in the United States. It should be 15 to 20 pages, including footnotes (and no more than 20 pages). The text should be double spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font. Footnotes should be single spaced, in 10-point font, and should conform to The Blue Book. It should be organized with subheadings, beginning with an introduction and ending with a conclusion. The paper could propose a statutory or policy change, compare U.S. asylum law to the law in other countries, or address an issue facing asylum adjudicators in the United States. The professor will make available to students a list of current problems or issues in U.S. asylum law, proposed by professionals practicing in the field. Students, however, are not required to select a topic from this list.