The Middle East Refugee Crisis: Local and Global Responses

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This course will examine the roots and routes of current and past migration crises originating in the Middle East. How are these outflows of refugees and asylum-seekers similar to other forced displacements. The course will highlight the responsibilities, policies and methods of governments, international agencies (like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees), NGOs and local actors as the world responds to these refugee crises. We shall analyze and assess the effectiveness of the management of these refugee flows and identify best practices, lessons learned and also explore the resulting political reactions in the region and beyond. Examples will be drawn from Libya, Syria and Afghanistan and the course will include input from the local offices of non-profit organizations and government agencies. The Final Project will be a collective White Paper prepared for the Office of Immigrant & Refugee Assistance (ORIA), a division of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.