The course examines the growth of human smuggling and trafficking and the areas where there is most evident change. We will examine both labor and sex trafficking. It studies human trafficking in both the real and the virtual world.

Human trafficking is analyzed in terms of major international policy issues; the reasons for the growth of these phenomena; the social, political and economic consequences in regions across the globe, and the transnational crime dimensions of the problem. Human trafficking and smuggling are examined in conflict regions, developed, developing, and transitional societies. Particular emphasis will be places on understanding human trafficking during the COVID pandemic. We will examine the convergence of human trafficking with other illegal activity. We will look at the diverse challenges of addressing human trafficking globally and the many kinds of policy responses that are needed from government, civil society and the private sector.

The new challenges will be discussed: the impact of climate change and the role of technology in facilitating human trafficking. We will also examine what we learn about racial discrimination and human trafficking and the reason the US has so many domestic victims of human trafficking. The policies that have been and should be applied to discuss human trafficking will be discussed throughout the class. Prominent guest speakers will be brought in throughout the semester.

Course Requirements:
Students are expected to keep up with each week’s required readings and to participate in class discussions.

Grading:

Class Participation including discussion board (30 %)
Midterm exam (25 %)
Presentation (20 %)
Term Paper (25 %)

Class Participation (25%)

Readings and discussion: Assigned readings and visual and oral materials are the foundation of the class. The class readings combine reports, scholarship, case files and some journalistic accounts. There are also some webinars and films included. The more effort put into the readings and assignments the better one typically performs on the midterm, presentation, and term paper. Students who read ahead, tend to stay ahead. Conversely, students who fall behind typically have difficulty catching up. I encourage you to take advantage of the assigned readings so that class discussions are lively and thought provoking. Students are expected to do the assigned readings in advance of the class, as the class will presume knowledge of the readings assigned for that week. We will also have different videos to watch on human trafficking that we will discuss in class. Also, students are expected to keep up with current news on human
smuggling and trafficking and to discuss the recent developments in class each week.

**Powerpoints and some readings will be loaded on blackboard but for most sources there are links that you can use without accessing blackboard.** There will be a discussion board question each week that you are to answer in 250 to 500 words and then briefly comment on a classmate. On weeks when there is a recommended webinar, You can watch that instead and write a 250 to 500 word write up of that instead. The discussion board question will be up at least week in advance.

**Attendance:** Students will be expected to attend the whole class. We will check online attendance. Your grade will be reduced for unexplained, unexcused, or excessive absences. Please inform us if you will be absent from a class as we understand there are many problems people are facing with the COVID epidemic.

**Grading of Class Participation:** The Class Participation will include your online participation as well as your writings on the discussion board. I would also like you to find articles in the media on human trafficking and to bring these into the class discussion each week. You will be expected to write a post each week and then respond to the post of at least one of your classmates.

**Midterm Exam (25%)**
There will be an **EXAM ON NOVEMBER 23rd.** It will combine short identifications and long essays. The exam will draw on the readings, class lectures, and legal cases. discussions.

**Presentation (20%)**
Presentations will be chosen on Week 3 on. The class presentations will draw on actual prosecuted cases of human trafficking. These will include discussions of American and foreign human trafficking and will also include the prosecution of online human trafficking. You will be broken into small groups to do the presentation. **These will be group presentations with each group member speaking a max of 5 min.** Class presentations should use a group PowerPoint. Each person in the group should submit 2 pages on their subtopic double-spaced. This concise analysis should accompany the PowerPoint that makes the topic understandable to those who are not specialists in human trafficking.

**Term Paper (30%)**
**TERM PAPERS DUE on DECEMBER 14th:** length 15-20 pages, standard reference format
The topic will be chosen after consultation with the instructor. An outline of the topic and a suitable bibliography containing reports and journal articles needs to be submitted with the outline on **OCTOBER 13TH.** It can use insights that are obtained from the oral presentation. It should discuss a topic related to human smuggling and trafficking and should have policy relevance. You can choose to focus on a particular area, region, or strategy that can be used to address the issue. For some outstanding papers there will be a possibility of publication. The kinds of topics that might be suitable include the following: Conflict in X country and human trafficking, Labor trafficking in region X, climate Change, Displacement and Human Trafficking, The Arab Spring and Human Smuggling, Policing of Human Trafficking in the US. Please include policy recommendations to address the problems identified in the analysis. Please use a standard format such as University of Chicago.
Recommended online Sources for the Class:


2. Protocol Against Human Trafficking,
   http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx
   www.osce.org/cthb/24342. They also have other work on human trafficking (see below)

3. Familiarize yourself with important websites in the human trafficking area:
   a. International Sources:
      International Organization for Migration, counter-trafficking https://www.iom.int/counter-trafficking
      i. OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)Combating Trafficking in Human Beings www.osce.org/cthb

   b. U.S. Government Sources:

   c. Academic Sources:
      i. The Initiative on Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery (Babson University), http://www.babson.edu/academics/teaching-and-research/the-initiative-on-human-trafficking-and-modern-slavery/ (see webinars)
      ii. Human Trafficking Center (University of Denver), http://humantraffickingcenter.org

iv. *Historians Against Slavery*, reference section,


d. NGOs:

i. Verité, https://www.verite.org/ (labor trafficking)


iii. Human Trafficking Institute, https://www.traffickinginstitute.org/


v. World without Exploitation, https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/about (see all the NGOs that belong to this group)

vi. Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project


viii. Thorn (Digital technology against Child Sex Abuse) https://www.thorn.org/

ix. Just Ask (Northern Virginia), https://justaskprevention.org/


xii. Responsible Business Alliance, http://www.responsiblebusiness.org/


xv. Human Trafficking Legal Center (http://www.htlegalcenter.org/)

xvi. Human Trafficking Data--https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/


https://globalinitiative.net/page/2/?s=human+trafficking
xviii. Slave Free Today https://slavefreetoday.org/


Required Books and Readings:


**Required readings not in the required books are available through the web or through the library e-reserves**

Classes:

Week 1 – August 24: Introduction

See images of modern day slavery: https://www.cfr.org/interactives/modern-slavery#!/section3/item-14
Data on human trafficking: https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/

Week 2- August 31 Is Human Trafficking Modern Day Slavery?

Human trafficking is often referred to a modern day slavery? Is this true? We will read Bales’ work that has popularized this concept as well as other writings that can help us place the problem of human trafficking today in the United States and globally in a historical perspective. From an American point of view, it will help us understand, this important issue as we grapple with the enduring racism in our society and the Black Lives Matter movement.


Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls’ Story, 2019

Listen to this webinar: Past is Present: The historical effects of the sex trade on women and girls of color today with: Cherice Hopkins (Rights4Girls)—https://vimeo.com/416106659 (start at 9- min. into the video ends at 54)

No Class September 7th Labor Day

Week 3 – September 14 Human Trafficking and Smuggling Today: the Victims, the Pandemic and Human Trafficking

(Cherise Hopkins of Rights4Girls whose webinar you heard from August 31st will speak)

Human trafficking and smuggling are still present everywhere in world. In fact, the motivation to emigrate is greater in this crisis and the isolation and financial difficulties are making individuals more vulnerable to human trafficking in the pandemic. We will look at the impact of the pandemic on these phenomena in the United States and elsewhere.


Webinar to Listen to Jayne Bigelson of Covenant House, No Shelter in Place: Sexploitation of homeless youth and their increased vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 crisis, https://vimeo.com/439046268 (starting at 24 min to 39 min.)

Recommended:

Week 4 – September 21: Trends in Human Trafficking; The Forms and Victims of Human Trafficking

We will examine the conditions that have contributed to human trafficking and the impact it has on the victims. We will focus on some of the conditions that create victims (with particular reference to the US) and the problems they face having been victims and the difficulties they face in leaving their exploiters. We will also examine the health consequences of human trafficking. The class will focus on the disproportionate victimization of minorities in the United States and elsewhere.


2. Voices of the victims:

3. https://www.worldwithoutexploitation.org/about (there are 14 bios on the site—divide up and discuss)

4. Watch this brief video: https://thelifestory.org/

Selection of Group Topics

Week 5 – September 28: The Growth of Human Trafficking and Smuggling: Conflict and Climate Change

(Jamille Bigio of CFR and one of the week’s authors to speak)

We will examine how human trafficking is growing and how the rise of conflicts in the post-Cold War period and the problems of climate change are driving migration. This is an acute problem in Central America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Bay of Bengal but it not sufficiently recognized. In some regions both conditions are operating simultaneously.

2. UNODC, Human trafficking and Conflict Situations, 16-21


**See video:** Bangladesh and climate change:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wanGCUT8FG4

**Weeks 6 – October 5 The Business of Human Trafficking, Human Trafficking and Technology**

Guest speaker Ross Delston, Attorney and Expert Witness specializing in anti-money laundering, on Jeffrey Epstein, and his financial dealings with Deutsche Bank.

Human trafficking is a business that is estimated to generate $150 billion in revenue annually from all different forms of trafficking. Traffickers have taken enormous advance of the new technology to advance their businesses. This is true not only in the US but elsewhere in the
world. The business of human trafficking is also significantly facilitated by the corruption of government officials.


Recommended for those interested in technology and trafficking:
(Network-Theoretic Information Extraction Quality Assessment in the Human Trafficking Domain)  

Webinar (optional but very interesting for those interested in the topic):
https://go.chainalysis.com/human-trafficking.html

Case: Backpage and beyond:
Backpage’s online facilitations of sex trafficking:
https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-congress-trafficking-idUSL2N16P1N4

**Week 7 – October 13 (Tuesday class) Human Smuggling**

Human smuggling is a distinct phenomenon from human trafficking but unfortunately many those who pay smugglers become victims of human trafficking. Human smuggling is a complex phenomenon as its causes are many and the motivations to move are increasing. We will examine migrant smuggling in different regions of the region. We will examine the barriers to legal migration that cause individuals to turn to smugglers.

3. Fransje Molenaar and Thibault van Damme, ”Irregular Migration and Human Smuggling Networks in Mali”, 2017, Clingendael Center, pp. 5-11, (on blackboard)


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**Week 8 – October 19 : Trafficking and Smuggling In Asia**

**Guest speaker:** Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, author of National Geographic article on human trafficking

Asia is the epicenter of human trafficking and smuggling. This is explained by the very large populations of Asia as well as long traditions of smuggling and both sex and labor trafficking. The activities of smugglers and traffickers from these regions are no longer confined to Asia but are global. We will examine the diverse elements of the phenomenon as well as some of the activism against the problem.

7. Siddharth Kara, Tainted Carpets. Slavery and Child Labor in India’s hand-made carpet sector (2014), 6-7, 40-43 (look at pictures, not just text)
8. Mustafa Kadri, The UAE’s Kafala System: Harmless or Human Trafficking,”
https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/07/07/uae-s-kafala-system-harmless-or-human-trafficking-pub-82188 (labor migration and exploitation in the Middle East)
9. Yudhijit Bhattacharjee, National Geographic, September 2020
10. Global Report on Human Trafficking, Asian section, 64-70,

Case trafficking of Rohingya:

Term Paper Outline Due

Week 9 – October 26: Sex and Labor Trafficking in Eurasia
(Ruth Pojman, Senior Adviser, The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery
to guest lecture by zoom from Vienna)

The unprecedented rise in human trafficking at the end of the Soviet Union raised the global consciousness of human trafficking. This was clearly organized crime run activity. Much less attention has been paid to the labor trafficking that is very widespread in the former Soviet Union particularly from Central Asian countries.


**Video:** Building Baku: Modern Slavery in the Heart of Azerbaijan, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpUbBGuknn8

**Week 10 – November 2: Trafficking and Smuggling in Europe**

Europe is a major destination for human smugglers and traffickers. The massive southern coastlines of Europe as well as the Schengen agreement that facilitated movement within the EU have contributed to the significant rise of all forms of trafficking as well as smuggling. The conflicts in the Middle East and the collapse of Libya have provided conditions conducive to the rise of illegal population movements. The EU has tried many different strategies to arrest this population movement into Europe.


Recommended:

Case: Labor Trafficking in Italy (Romanian women)
Case Study: Labor exploitation and sexual abuse of Romanian women in Ragusa (Southeast Sicily), Italy

Week 11– November 9: Smuggling and Trafficking in and from Africa

Week 12 – November 16 Trafficking and Smuggling in Latin America and Central America

Guest Speaker Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, Schar School, GMU

Trafficking and smuggling from Latin America and Central America are driven by many factors including poverty, violent crime, conflict and climate change. The problem has been increasing within Latin America as the structural causes have not been addressed. A whole class could easily be taught on just this one topic, therefore the readings and discussion will focus on the reasons for smuggling and trafficking, the dynamics, the traffickers and smuggler and the victims. There will be some discussion of policy implications.


Week 13 November 23 Midterm Exam

Week 14 November 30: Human Smuggling and Trafficking to and within the US


6) Corporate Involvement in human trafficking—Backpage, Backpage.com’s Knowing Facilitation of Online Sex Trafficking, 1-6, https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/hearings/backpagecoms-knowing-facilitation-of-online-sex-trafficking (then scroll down and go to joint staff report)


**Podcast:**

**Videos:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTbbLzFvMZk PBS labor trafficking from C. America
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnGjQKdJrPU (Human trafficking from women in prison)


**Week 15 December 14: Final Paper Due**

**Plagiarism:** University standard policies on plagiarism apply.

**SPP Plagiarism Policy:**
The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional
accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career. The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.

Important Student Information:
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.