Migration and Displacement Studies Correlate Sequence

2024-2025 Handbook
Vassar College

Welcome & Overview

According to the UNHCR, there are more than 117.3 million forcibly displaced persons in the world as of 2024. The large-scale forced movement of people is a defining element of our collective global future. Institutions of higher learning play a distinct and pivotal role in supporting displaced communities as well as educating and preparing future generations to engage with these global and local events.

The Migration and Displacement Studies correlate sequence takes a global, transdisciplinary approach to investigating forced migration past and present. Students engage with macro-level theoretical perspectives about nation-state formation, border policy, economic factors, and sovereignty, as well as with personal, first-hand narratives of displacement. Because the categories of student, scholar, and migrant often overlap, learning is multidirectional, informed not only by scholarly research but also by community generated knowledges and personal experiences. The MDS correlate sequence exemplifies the capacity of the liberal arts to prepare students for meaningful experiences after graduation. Students interested in fields such as law, public health, education, public policy, and others will find that their classroom and hands-on experiences as MDS correlates prepare them for a range of professional pathways.

This correlate draws together resources from across Vassar's curriculum to address migration and displacement on a global and local scale. Building on INTL 109: A Lexicon of Forced Migration (offered each spring), the correlate offers a multivalent understanding of this long-standing dynamic and contemporary challenge, adapted to students' interests. MDS students are encouraged, but not required, to pursue community-engaged work, study away from Vassar, and/or language study.

The correlate in Migration and Displacement Studies, housed in Vassar's International Studies Program, grew out of the Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education, a five-college partnership and multinodal educational network funded by the Mellon Foundation, which was housed at Vassar from 2018-2024. While the Consortium has come to a close, the MDS correlate carries on its work and benefits from the investment of time and resources through the CFMDE.

Requirements for Correlate Sequence

The correlate in Migration and Displacement Studies requires 6.0 units of work. No more than 1.0 unit of overlap is allowed between the correlate and the student's major and/or other correlate sequence(s). The requirements are:

1) INTL 109: A Lexicon of Forced Migration

This introductory course explores the history and stakes of the words we use to describe the political realities of forced migration, and provides a grounding in the multidisciplinary field of migration and displacement studies.

2) Four Units of Approved MDS Courses

Four units from a selection of approved courses, chosen in consultation with the Correlate Sequence Advisor, of which no more than one unit should be at the 100-level. One of these four units is encouraged to be community engaged and/or away from Vassar's campus (international or not) if at all feasible. Students are encouraged to select courses for regional and disciplinary variety.

3) Senior Capstone Project

Students pursuing a Correlate in Migration and Displacement Studies are required to complete a 1.0 unit senior tutorial project at the 300-level, to be proposed by the student in consultation with the Correlate Sequence Advisor. Students preparing a mandatory senior thesis in another department may consider a joint or interdisciplinary project with a migration and displacement component, pending the approval of both programs or departments. The capstone project should not be considered a second thesis. It may be a traditional research paper, or it can be non-traditional, for example, an arts project or a community engaged learning project. The capstone is to be completed during a correlate student's senior spring.

Study Away & Language Study

The Migration and Displacement Studies Correlate does not have a formal requirement for study away, but if students wish to pursue professional work related to (im)migration and displacement, competence in a non-English language, as well as broad cultural competencies, are highly pertinent. We strongly encourage students interested in Migration and Displacement Studies to view language study as an essential component of both their correlate sequence and a well-rounded liberal-arts education. Students studying away from Vassar may apply up to 2.0 units from this study towards their MDS correlate. Numerous study away programs incorporate coursework and experiential learning related to migration and displacement.

For more information on study away, consult with the Correlate Sequence Advisor & Kerry Stamp, Assistant Dean for Global Partnerships and International Programs (kstamp@vassar.edu).

Meet the Faculty

Kirsten Wesselhoeft (Correlate Sequence Advisor)
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Sole Anatrone	Italian Department
April Beisaw	Anthropology Department
Simona Bondavalli	Italian Department
Carollyn Costella	Vassar College Library
Jaime Del Razo	Education Department
Alberto Gelmi	Italian Department
Maria Hantzopoulos	Education Department
Tracey Holland	Latin American and Latino/a Studies Department
Richard Jones	Earth Science and Geography Department
Timothy Koechlin	International Studies Program
Raquel Madrigal	American Studies Department
Daniel Mendiola	History Department
Tom Pacio	Creative Arts Across Disciplines (CAAD)
Peipei Qiu	Chinese and Japanese Department
Mariam Rashid	International Studies Program
Eréndira Rueda	Sociology Department
China Sajadian	Anthropology Department
Jodi Schwarz	Biology Department
Kerry Stamp	Office of International Programs
Susan Trumbetta	Psychological Science Department
Kirsten Wesselhoeft	Religion Department
Kimberly Williams-Brown	Education Department
Eva Woods	Hispanic Studies Department

Courses on Migration and Displacement at Vassar

AFRS/ANTH/MEDS 287 - Images of Displacement in the Middle East This intensive course is a collective experiment in visual inquiry that examines displacement in the Middle East from

an ethnographic perspective. It introduces students to diverse examples of ethnographic and narrative film from North Africa and the Levant since the 1970s, including works by Merzak Allouache, Omar Amiralay, Mustafa Abu Ali, Soudade Kaadan, Leila Kilani, Mai Masri, and Tewfik Saleh, among others. 0.5 unit. (*Offered Spring 2025*)

AFRS/EDUC 322 - Caribbean Spaces: Discourses of West Indian resistance, love, and hope - Caribbean Spaces centers the English speaking West Indies and its diverse people, food and customs. This course explores themes of resistance, love and hope across the diaspora called the Caribbean through anti-slave narratives, independence and economic struggles, language and customs, education, tourism, sexuality, etc. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*

AMST/HIST/LALS 222 - Politics of Borders - This course interrogates the construction and meaning of nation-state borders using a comparative approach relating Latinx studies to Indigenous feminist perspectives. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

ANTH 236 Native North America - This course explores Native American lifeways in North America for the last 10,000 years, including how knowledge of the past is constructed and how cultures persist through times of extreme hardship and stress. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

ANTH 260 - Current Themes in Anthropological Theory and Method
Topic: *Anthropology of Human Rights* - This course examines human rights from an anthropological perspective and explores the history of human rights, current topics in the field, and the practice of human rights work. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

ANTH 360 - Problems in Cultural Analysis
Topic: *Anthropology of Displacement, Migration and Transnationalism* - Through scholarly texts, film, and literature across a wide range of regional contexts, this course offers advanced students a multidisciplinary and multidimensional understanding of how human (im)mobilities are governed, contested, and experienced across the world – and how these conditions shape the possibilities and limits of transnational solidarity today. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

EDUC/LALS/URBS 256 - Bilingualism and/in K-12 Education Learning - This course examines the issue of education for English Language Learners through a field based experience in Poughkeepsie Schools. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

EDUC 261 - Intensive - Intergroup Dialogue on Race and Migration - This course brings together students from Vassar and Poughkeepsie High School in critical dialogue with the intention of examining power and power structures in our experiences and the world around us concerning race and migration. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*

EDUC/LALS 270 - Undocumented, Unapologetic, Unafraid - This introductory immigration course is about undocumented people in the U.S. and is situated within a historical, academic, legal, political, social, cultural, and economic context. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

EDUC/INTL/LALS/MEDS/WMST 271 - Hello, Dear Enemy: Mounting an Exhibition of Picture Books on Experiences of War and Displacement - Students will study war and displacement, journalism and photography, and young adult literature, and then mount an exhibition in the Collaboratory of photographs and books that will travel to area schools and libraries, where Vassar students serve as docents. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*

EDUC/AMST/ASIA 273 - **Critical Ethnic Studies Curricula for Secondary Schools** - Students will work with the professor to develop curricula for a new AAPI Digital Textbook being published by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center. We will develop lesson plans and activities for the chapter on Chinese immigrant garment workers in New York and consider developing curricula for a similar project on SWANA studies for high schoolers. Students will travel to NYC for meetings with historians writing the chapter. 1.0 units (*Offered Spring 2025*)

ENGL 257 - The Novel in English after 1945
Topic: *Out of Place: The Migrant Novel* - This course might be considered a traveling companion to Post-Colonial Literature. Rather than tell stories of resistance and reclamation, the authors assembled here describe a life on the move. 1.0 units (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

FFS 295 - Intensive - Voices of Exile and Migration - This Intensive delves into narratives of exile, migration and immigration, whether forced or chosen and considers the political and aesthetic effects of writing about, and from, exile. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

FFS 392 - Intensive - Exile, Migration, and Community - This Intensive utilizes students' French skills to help local migrants through partnerships with community organizations and through other independent work. 0.5 units. (*Offered Spring 2025*)

GEOG/LALS 246 - The U.S.-Mexico border: Nation-State and Nature - This course focuses on the economic growth, demographic expansion and ethno-cultural interaction, and the capitalist production, state-making, and nation building on both sides of the International divide. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*

HISP 206 - Reading and Writing about Hispanic Culture
Topic: *Migrant Latin America* - This course explores texts, films, and photography that record experiences of events of migration into Latin America. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

Topic: *Dreaming and Displacement: Migration Cinema and Literature* - This course

explores colonial and postcolonial migration, displacement and narratives of liberation through the close analysis of written and visual texts. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

HIST/LALS 263 - Conquest and Borderlands in Colonial Latin America - This course explores the parallel processes of conquering and bordering in Latin America, beginning with examples in the ancient Americas and continuing through the end of the 18th century. 1.0 units. (*Offered Spring 2025*)

HIST/LALS 363 - Bordering the Americas - This course examines the creation and proliferation of national bordering regimes throughout the Americas, and addresses how constraining migration affects people, including those who contest borders. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

INTL 109 A Lexicon of Forced Migration: the Gateway to the Correlate Sequence
This introductory course explores the history and stakes of the words we use to describe the political realities of forced migration, and provides a grounding in the multidisciplinary field of migration and displacement studies. 1.0 units. (*Offered Spring 2025*)

INTL 283 - The Art of Translation - In this course, we look at pivotal moments in the history of translation and the intellectual debate surrounding it. While providing theoretical insights into the larger social, cultural, and political ramifications of translation, in an age where language diversity is under peril, this class also offers moments of interaction with professional translators and hands-on, peer-to-peer practice sessions in the art of translation. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

INTL 290 Community Engaged Learning - CEL opportunities pertaining to migration and displacement can be pursued through INTL 290, with the supervision of the MDS Correlate Advisor.

INTL/EDUC 376 - Critical Inquiries into Refugee Resettlement and Education - The goal of this course is for students to critically analyze notions of refugee resettlement and resettlement education in relation to the colonial and historical processes that re/produce and re/construct refugees. Drawing on diasporic feminisms, black studies, and black feminist thought, students will analyze and critique existing gendered and racialized resettlement policies and practices and move towards possibilities for reimagining resettlement anew. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*

ITAL 340 - Italy and its Migrations: Stories of Italian Emigration and Immigration -
This course studies Italian emigration and immigration through novels, poetry, cinema, theater, letters and media coverage. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

LALS/SOCI 253 - Children of Immigration - This course examines how children of immigrants are reshaping America, and how America is reshaping them, by examining key topics such as the impact of immigration on family structures, gender roles, language maintenance, academic achievement, and identity, as well as the impact that immigration reforms have had on access to higher education, employment, and political participation. 1.0 units. (*Offered Spring 2025*)

POLI 362 - Seminar in International Politics: Migration and Citizenship - This seminar addresses the causes and consequences of movement from countries such as Jamaica, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Algeria, Morocco, Syria, Afghanistan, China and Mexico to post-industrial countries in Europe, and the United States. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*

RELI/AFRS 211 - Islam, Europe, and the Americas - This course explores Muslim encounters with and experiences in Europe and the Americas, from the Middle Passage to the present. The course explores the relationship of religion to migration, race, and ethnicity. 1.0 units. (*Not offered in 2024/25*)

PSYC/STATS 384 - Grand Challenges in Global Mental Health - This seminar examines empirical literature related to each of the nine grand challenges of global mental health identified by Bajbouj et al. (2022), which include health in conflict and crisis settings, access to treatment and medical services, public trust and health literacy, health disparities, mental health care in pandemics, health and climate crisis, new technologies, education of health workers, and child and adolescent health. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*

WMST/INTL 251 - Global Feminism - This course is premised on the intersections between the key terms “migration,” “citizenship,” and “feminism” through a study of literature, film, and theoretical texts. 1.0 units. (*Offered Fall 2024)*