

DUKE UNC CONSORTIUM FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES OUTREACH PROGRAM

“**Arab Refugee Crisis in the 21st Century: Conference & Workshop for Educators**”

**Reading Guide**

Name:

Date:

**Instructions:** To receive an additional .1 CEU credits or 1 Professional Development Contact Hour, please complete the three readings listed below and reading guide. Reading guides can be turned in at the program on January 29, or you may email or mail this completed document to Emma Harver by Friday, February 5 (yes this is after the workshop!). *It would be best* to read prior to the date of the conference, if your schedule allows.   
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**Readings:**

* Majedis, Ziad. “Preliminary Conclusions: What are the Challenges after the Revolutions?" *The Arab Spring: Revolutions for Deliverance from Authoritarianism Case Studies.* Ed. Hassan Krayem. Liban: L'Orient des Livres, 2013. 269-280. Retrieved from:

<http://ademocracynet.com/Uploads/2014-08/DPDF75.pdf>.

* Bhabha, Jaqueline. “When Water is Safer Than Land.” *Harvard Magazine* January-February 2016. Retrieved from <http://harvardmagazine.com/2015/12/when-water-is-safer-than-land>.
* Davis, Rochelle and Taylor, Abbie. “Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon: A Snapshot from Summer 2013.” Georgetown: Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS). n.d.

1) Majedis’ chapter in “The Arab Spring: Revolutions for Deliverance from Authoritarianism Case Studies” (2013) places the situation in Syria in the greater context of revolution in the Arab world. Describe the root causes of the continued conflict in Syria. What prompted the Syrian people to launch an uprising? What factors have contributed to the refugee crisis?

2) Jaqueline Bhabha writes, “We are witnessing tragic symptoms of a now-broken international system.” What are the complications with the language from the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees labeling people as either *“refugees”* with a “well-founded fear of persecution” *or* spontaneous *“economic migrants.”* How is this related to global inequality?

3) The report by Rochelle Davis and Abbie Taylor found that the majority of Syrian refugees interviewed expressed that their biggest hope for the future was to return and rebuild their homes, their everyday lives, family and friends in Syria. Their biggest fear was being unable to return to their country and forced to live a future of uncertainty in an alternative homeland as refugees for the rest of their lives. Imagine that you are Syrian and you have embarked on the extremely dangerous journey to flee Syria. After several months of uncertainty, illegally crossing borders, and spending hundreds of dollars, you are now waiting for asylum in Europe. How would you feel about returning to Syria? What emotions do you feel? Comment on the idea of ‘right of return’ as a human right.