

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

### AEB 4282 – Spring 2020

**Class time and location:** Mon, Wed, and Fri 12:50-1:40pm (6<sup>th</sup> period)  
109 Little Hall

**Instructor: Prof. Maira Reimão** [maira.reimao@ufl.edu](mailto:maira.reimao@ufl.edu)

Office hours: Mon 2-4pm and Tues 3-4pm; other times can be scheduled by email  
Office location: 1123 McCarty B

**TA: Benjamin Avuwadah** [bavuwadah@ufl.edu](mailto:bavuwadah@ufl.edu)

Office hours: Wed 10:30-11:30am; Thurs 11am-12pm  
Office location: 1094 McCarty B

### Course Description:

*On course catalog:* Emergency assistance to developing countries to minimize losses and affect recovery. Includes legal/ethical bases; program designs promoting recovery, rather than dependence; cultural issues, including gender; and technical aspects. (3 credits)

*More detailed:* This course is an examination of humanitarian aid, or actions and funding decisions intended to “save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of emergencies”.<sup>1</sup> These emergencies may be the result of natural disasters, such as an earthquake, a drought, or a cyclone, or man-made, as in the case of armed conflict, terrorist attacks, or political decisions. They may be contained within a country or spill across borders.

AEB 4282 will cover the origins and principles of humanitarian assistance as well as related legal, political, and economic considerations. The practice of humanitarian work, along with real challenges, complexities faced, and lessons learned will be explored through case studies.

**Course Objectives:** The goal for this course is that by successful completion students will be:

- Familiar with the humanitarian aid landscape – having a general knowledge of its history and related international laws, able to identify major actors and donors and to explain the (sometimes complex) distinction between humanitarian assistance and international development work;
- Knowledgeable about specific humanitarian crises in recent history and able to present and discuss a chosen crisis, including its context and the humanitarian response or relevance, and to assess the quality of response;
- Able to process press coverage on humanitarian affairs critically and contextually, accounting for the various actors, political pressures, history, and logistic challenges that come into play.

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<sup>1</sup> Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative, 2003.

If you have any difficulties accessing the e-learning website, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or email [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

In this course, students can earn up to 250 points, divided as follows:

- These points will be converted to a letter grade according to this table:

**Exams:** A midterm will be administered during class time, tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**. A second exam will be administered during class time, tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**, and is *not* cumulative. If either of these dates need to be changed, students will be notified at least two (2) weeks in advance. Students are expected to take the exams individually, with no collaboration. For their final grade, students will be assigned the sum of their points earned through the two exams *or* their final exam grade, whichever is highest. There is no make-up date for either of these exams, as students that miss one of these (other than for university-approved reasons) still have the option of taking the final exam.

**Writing assignments:** There will be 6 writing assignments in this course, each requiring that students submit a written document 1-2 pages long. Each of these is designed to encourage students to reflect on the topic covered and develop their thinking and writing skills. These assignments will be practical in nature, such as asking students to imagine their position as a

humanitarian assistance practitioner, donor, or government representative and produce portions of a grant application, memorandum, or report.

Writing assignments must be submitted through the class website and are due at the beginning of class (12:50pm; with a 10-minute grace period until 1pm). *Late assignments:* 3 points will be deducted for each 24-hour period of delay after the deadline. At the end of the semester, the lowest 2 writing assignment grades for each student will be dropped.

***In-Class Presentation:*** The bulk of the course will be based on case studies on humanitarian assistance, and students will sign up to present on different aspects of a humanitarian crisis case. Each presentation will be 7-10 minutes long, and can be done individually or in groups of up to 3 students. Everyone in a group will receive the same score.

***Participation/Discussion Session:*** During the semester, we will have 3-4 discussion sessions, where students will be required to prepare by watching a video or podcast and then participate in a discussion board on the course website. Participation in these will be tracked.

### **Course Outline:**

Week 1 (Jan 6-10)	Humanitarian Principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, and Independence
Week 2 (Jan 13-17)	History/Origins of Humanitarian Aid Institutions in Humanitarian Assistance Faith-Based NGOs
Week 3 (Jan 22-24)	International Humanitarian Law * Jan 24: Homework 1 due
Week 4 (Jan 27-31)	International Humanitarian Law Rwandan Genocide and Displacement (1994)
Week 5 (Feb 3-7)	Rwandan Genocide and Displacement (1994) Sphere Standards * Feb 5: Homework 2 due
Week 6 (Feb 10-14)	Sphere Standards Haiti Earthquake (2010)
Week 7 (Feb 17-21)	Haiti Earthquake (2010) Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (2014-16) * Feb 19: Midterm Exam

Week 8 (Feb 24-28)                      Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (2014-2016)

\* Feb 26: Homework 3 due

Mar 2-6: Spring Break

Week 9 (Mar 9-13)                      Famines

Week 10 (Mar 16-20)                      Humanitarian Journalism

Role of the military in humanitarian work/ Afghanistan

\* Mar 25: Homework 4 due

Week 11 (Mar 23-27)                      Role of the military in humanitarian work/ Afghanistan  
Crisis in Venezuela

Week 12 (Mar 30 – Apr 3)                      Natural disasters and humanitarian work in the United States  
Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh/ Myanmar (2017-current)

\* Apr 8: Homework 5 due

Week 13 (Apr 6-10)                      Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh/ Myanmar (2017-current)  
Humanitarian Crises and the Environment

Week 14 (Apr 13-15)                      Economic and Financial Considerations in Humanitarian Aid

\* April 15: Second Exam

Apr 17: no class

Week 15 (Apr 20-22)                      Economic and Financial Considerations in Humanitarian Aid

\* Apr 22: Homework 6 due

\* Apr 29: Final Exam

*There is some buffer purposefully built in for guest lecturers and current events.*

*The professor reserves the right to change this as the class progresses, and students will be notified at least one week in advance of any significant changes.*

## University Policies and Resources:

**Attendance and Make-ups:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Students with Disabilities:** The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. For exams, I receive a notification from the DRC with any requests and can approve these through their portal. For more information, please contact the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)).

**Campus Wellness and Mental Health Resources:** Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to use the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- U Matter, We Care (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) offers a wide range of tools and access to resources for addressing concerns related to your wellbeing.  
umatter@ufl.edu  
352-294-2273
- University Counseling & Wellness Center ([www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc)) has several services at no cost to UF students, including crisis services, individual counseling, couples counseling, groups and workshops, and services relating to alcohol and drugs.  
3190 Radio Road, Gainesville, FL  
352-392-1575
- Career Resource Center ([www.career.ufl.edu/](http://www.career.ufl.edu/))  
First Floor JWRU  
352-392-1601

**Academic Honesty:** As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: **"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."**

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the

University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

**International Scholars Program:** This course fulfills one of the coursework requirements for the International Scholars Program (ISP). To learn more about “internationalizing” your degree and how you can obtain an ISP graduation medallion and diploma, visit <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/global-learning/international-scholars-program>.

**Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**Software Use:** All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Class grade to GPA:** For information on how your final grade for this class converts into grade points, and current UF policies for assigning grade points more generally, please see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>