International Humanitarian Assistance
AEB 4282 – Section 11FA – 3 credits
Spring Semester, 2013

INSTRUCTOR: Diego Valderrama.
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Tel: (352) 294-7678
Email: dvalderrama@ufl.edu

CLASSROOM: Carleton Auditorium, room 0100.

CLASS MEETINGS: Tuesday - 2nd – 3rd period, 8:30 to 10:25 AM.
Thursday - 2nd period, 8:30 to 9:20 AM.

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, Thursday immediately following class, or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A course covering the global system of humanitarian assistance and aid. The course is designed to inform students about salient issues within humanitarian aid such as the interplay between aid and politics, conflict-related crises, and the effectiveness of development assistance. Instructional techniques will include lectures, electronic media, and assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: The main objective of this course is to assist students in developing skills critical to understanding or pursuing professional activities in and around the field of humanitarian assistance. Specifically, the students will learn about:

i. The role of and the difference between development assistance and humanitarian aid.
ii. The organizations which oversee and operationalize international humanitarian assistance.
iii. The types and scopes of emergencies requiring international humanitarian assistance.
iv. Laws and conventions governing international humanitarian assistance, including those addressing the limits of national sovereignty and standards for relief.
v. The on-the-ground requirements and realities of sourcing, transporting, and distributing assistance.
vi. The effectiveness and/or repercussions of aid programs.

vii. How actors within the humanitarian assistance system –donors, multilateral agencies, NGOs and peacekeepers– intervene in the lives of local people, societies, cultures, states, and international communities.
REQUIRED READINGS: There is no required textbook for this class. Required readings will be posted in the class website. The course readings are drawn from a variety of sources, including scholarly writings, NGO papers, and reports by international agencies.

The following two books are listed as Suggested Readings for the course:


COURSE GRADING: Grades in this course will be determined by the result of two in-class exams, a final exam (not comprehensive), a series of homework assignments, a brief in-class presentation, and class attendance and participation. Weighting of these activities will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Your final score in the course will be calculated based on the percentage grade earned on each of the course activities listed above, multiplied by the weighting listed for each activity. Letter grades will be assigned based on your final course score as follows:

- 92 to 100 = A
- 88 to 91.99 = A-
- 85 to 87.99 = B+
- 82 to 84.99 = B
- 78 to 81.99 = B-
- 75 to 77.99 = C+
- 72 to 74.99 = C
- 68 to 71.99 = C-
- 65 to 67.99 = D+
- 62 to 64.99 = D
- 60 to 61.99 = D-
- Less than 60 = E
Exams:

There will be two (2) in-class exams (each worth 25% of the final course grade) and a final exam (worth 25%) in this course. The final exam is NOT comprehensive.

Proposed dates for the in-class exams are indicated in the class schedule section of this syllabus. Any changes to these proposed dates will be announced in class at least one week in advance.

Homework assignments:

Homework assignments for the course will represent 15% of your course grade. There will be two or three of these assignments, each of which will require students to prepare a two-page, professional assessment of an assigned international humanitarian assistance issue or problem. These homework assignments are intended to help students hone their thinking and writing skills – skills that will be especially important regardless of your chosen professional field or career path following graduation. Grading on the assignments will be based upon the extent to which your papers reflect thoughtful consideration of the issue being addressed and the utilization of concepts contained in course readings and presented and discussed in class in preparing your response.

Assignments will not need to be more than two pages in length (single-spaced, in a 12 point font). Hard copies of homeworks are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the assigned due date.

Policy regarding homework assignments turned in late: you will be given your homework assignments at least one week before they are due to be turned in, which should be plenty of time to think about and prepare a two-page response. While I will accept late assignments, THERE WILL BE A DEDUCTION OF 10 PERCENTAGE POINTS FROM THE SCORE ON YOUR ASSIGNMENT FOR EVERY DAY THAT AN ASSIGNMENT IS LATE!

In-class presentation:

Each student will be required to participate in an in-class presentation which will be worth 5% of your course grade. Each presentation will highlight a specific humanitarian issue or the humanitarian assistance work of a specific NGO.

Presentations only need to be about five-ten minutes in length, and a few minutes will be allowed for questions following the presentation. Students will pair up into teams of two or three. If you are having difficulty finding someone to team-up with, please see me after class and I will help.

Each team will sign up in advance for a date to make their in-class presentation. Presentations will be made at the beginning of class. All students in a group are expected to actively participate in the presentation. During the second week of the course, I will begin class with examples of the sorts of presentations I am expecting. Student presentations will begin in week 3 of the course.
Class attendance and participation:

Please note that class participation and attendance count for 5% of your grade. The class is designed to be participatory. Keeping up with class lectures and assignments is critical for success in this course and students are responsible for all materials presented in lecture.

If a student accumulates more than three unexcused absences in the semester, he/she will forfeit 5% of his grade.

CLASS SCHEDULE*

*(subject to change)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Exam Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>UNIT 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION</td>
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<td>Introduction to International Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
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<td>Development vs. Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Humanitarian Crises &amp; Disaster Types</td>
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<td>Global Trends in Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>UNIT 2: THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM</td>
<td>Exam I</td>
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<td>The UN System</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors</td>
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<td>Sphere Handbook – The Humanitarian Charter</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>UNIT 3: HUMANITARIAN CRISES AND DISASTERS</td>
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<td>Natural Disasters – Sudden Onsets</td>
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<td>Haiti and Chile Earthquakes (2010)</td>
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<td>Pakistani Floods</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Hurricanes - Tsunamies</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Natural Disasters – Slow Onsets</td>
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<td>African Famines</td>
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Spring Break
Week 9  March 12  Man-made Disasters – Sudden Onset
          Terrorist Attacks
          Man-made Disasters – Slow Onset
          Political Crises – Refugee Crises
          Humanitarian Principles and Human Rights
          UNHCR - IDP

Week 10 March 19  Sudan

Week 11 March 26  The Rwandan Genocide

Week 12 April 2

Week 13 April 9  UNIT 4: TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL
                  HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
                  Exam II
                  Logistics
                  Performance Evaluation
                  Civil-Military Relations

Week 14 April 16  Criticisms to the Humanitarian System
                  Training Opportunities - Education

Week 15 April 23  Class recap

FINAL EXAM IS ON THURSDAY MAY 2, – 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM!
UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

**Academic Honesty:** The University of Florida requires all members of its community to be honest in all their endeavors. Students are required to commit themselves to academic honesty by signing a prescribed basic statement, including the Student Honor Code, as part of the registration process. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge are diminished by cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty. In addition, every dishonest act in the academic environment affects other students adversely, from the skewing of the grading curve to giving unfair advantage for honors or for professional or graduate school admission. Therefore, the University will take severe action against dishonest students. Similarly, measures will be taken against faculty, staff, and administration members who practice dishonest or demeaning behavior.

**UF Services:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling; and
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students WILL be asked to supply a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities to assist in planning accommodations. Please see instructor outside of class time to discuss any accommodations you might need.