

AEB4282 - International Humanitarian Assistance

Spring 2026

Class Number: 10146

M,W,F | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM)

MCCA G186

Instructor: Dr. Caleb Stair

Office: 1179 McCarty A Wing

Office Hours: MWF 10:30am-11:30am & 1:00pm-2:30pm; Thursday 11:30am-12:30pm (or by appointment)

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Communications:

I will communicate with you about news, assignments, emergencies, cancellations etc., through the announcements in Canvas. **PLEASE CHECK OUR CANVAS PAGE FREQUENTLY.** If you are struggling in the class, please let me know. My office hours are listed above. Those are times that you can definitely reach me. This does not mean that those are the only times you can meet with me. If those times do not work for you, we will schedule a separate time.

Other Communication:

Undergraduate Advisor: Ms. Michelle Baldwin; 1170B McCarty Hall A; (352) 294-7640; E-mail: baldwin.ma@ufl.edu; [Schedule an appointment](#)

Undergraduate Coordinator: Dr. Misti Sharp; 1189 McCarty Hall A; (352)294-7632; E-mail: mistisharp@ufl.edu; [Schedule an appointment](#)

General Education Designation

General Education Designation: International (N)

This course meets the General Education Student Learning Outcomes for the International (N) designation. A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. Courses intended to satisfy the general education requirement cannot be taken S-U

Course Description:

The course examines the need for emergency assistance in other countries to minimize losses and affect recovery from various circumstances. The topics includes the legal/ethical basis for humanitarian efforts; program designs promoting recovery, rather than dependence; cultural issues, including gender; and technical aspects. Students will identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures or processes that have direct implications for international humanitarian assistance. They will also develop global and intercultural awareness about practices and efforts surrounding humanitarian assistance.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:¹

This course is part of the International General Education subject areas. After the successful completion of AEB 4282, a typical student should be able to:

- 1) Construct opinions through research and articulate these opinions to others concerning humanitarian issues.
- 2) Evaluate current and past humanitarian crises, their purported causes, and possible solutions.
- 3) Analyze the macro issues regarding the systems in place to provide humanitarian assistance: How do the individual “pieces” like governmental organizations, private entities and citizens, the political landscape, cultural values and norms, economic systems, etc., fit together in the larger scheme of things?
- 4) Create philosophical / ethical concepts and positions that can be convincing to others about actions, practices, and policies which you would like to see implemented.

Required Texts:

There is no textbook required for this class. Instead, I will pull notes from several different sources and occasionally assign readings for class. All readings are located in the CANVAS class files for the course. Even lacking a “book” or set of books, however, THERE IS A LOT OF REQUIRED READING FOR THIS COURSE. In our modules look for items that say **READ**. These are required readings for the course.

Grades:

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Exam	200	20%
Humanitarian Interview	50	5%
Crisis Presentation	150	15%
Humanitarian Fact Sheet	150	15%
UN Taskforce	200	20%
Humanitarian Negotiations Simulation	150	15%
Participation	100	10%
<u>Total</u>	<u>1000</u>	
<i>Extra Credit: Contemporary Issue Discussions</i>	40	

¹See the following link for the General Education Objectives for this subject area.

<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>

1. *Exam (200pts)*
 - The exam is comprehensive and includes multiple choice and short answer questions that will cover the lectures as well as the readings.
2. *Humanitarian Interview (50pts)*
 - Conduct an interview with an organization that directly or indirectly addresses a humanitarian issue. Details provided in canvas.
3. *Crisis PowerPoint Presentation (150pts)*
 - Choose a humanitarian crisis (can be an ongoing one, a historic one, one discussed in class, or one that we do not discuss). You will give a 2min persuasive speech addressing this issue. You may use one slide that includes a graph or picture (no large descriptive text). You may not use other aids.
4. *Humanitarian Fact Sheet (150pts)*
 - Research and develop a Global Humanitarian Fact Sheet that provides an overview of current global humanitarian crises, key statistics, affected regions, and organizations involved in humanitarian assistance (a detailed rubric will be provided).
5. *UN Taskforce (200pts)*
 - Early in the semester you will be assigned to a country which is part of a UN taskforce. There are two taskforce groups concerning different areas that relate to humanitarian issues. You will then be tasked with representing your country as part of that taskforce meeting. Components of this activity include an opening statement, evaluation of other representatives, and an instructor evaluation. Details will be provided through Canvas. **These taskforce meetings will be held the last week of class.**
6. *Humanitarian Negotiation - Simulation - (150pts)*
 - During the humanitarian negotiations' unit, you will be sorted into a team and tasked with crafting an AI prompt to be used in a simulation of negotiations with a country experiencing a civil war. **The assignment graded based on your attendance during the module, the negotiations simulation, and a reflection. It is due on the date of our final exam.**
7. *Participation - (20 @ 6.25pts)*
 - Throughout the semester we will have twenty in-class participation activities. **Your four lowest scores will be dropped.**
- *Extra Credit (40pts) – Contemporary Issue Discussions*

- Throughout the semester we will have three discussions regarding contemporary issues in humanitarian assistance. **You may participate in up to two of these for extra credit.** You will receive the dates in advance and these will be held outside of class hours.

Course grades:

A = 93 – 100 points
 A- = 90 – 92.9 points
 B + = 87 – 89.9 points
 B = 83 – 86.9 points
 B- = 80 – 82.9 points
 C+ = 77– 79.9 points
 C = 73 – 76.9 points
 C- = 70 – 72.9 points
 D+ = 67 – 69.9 points
 D = 63 – 66.9 points
 D- = 60 – 62.9 points
 F = below 59.9 points

Note: A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Course Policies:

- I expect you to abide by standards of civility and professionalism in this course. It has a large discussion-based component and several of the topics may elicit passionate debate about the subject at hand. Debates can be passionate; however, a lack of civility or professionalism is unacceptable.
- Plagiarism is unacceptable in this class. I will use the plagiarism database Turnitin.com to check submitted work. While I will cover some aspects of plagiarism and how to avoid it in class UF also has resources that can provide assistance in avoiding plagiarism in your writing and citing styles at <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=147797&p=967443>
- For the most part, notes will be provided via Canvas along with short videos concerning the subjects. I will post these to our CANVAS website as the semester progresses. If you read the Canvas notes and are still confused, please contact me and we can discuss any issues.
- If for some reason you need to submit an assignment via email, make sure that in the subject line please you state the course number and assignment title. Also, please save your documents as AEB4282_*AssignmentTitle_YourNameHere*
- Late Policy
 - Late assignments will only be accepted up to two days after the due date. If an assignment is issued on Thursday and is due in a week it must be submitted by 11:59pm the following Thursday. Assignments submitted at 12:00am Friday are considered one day late.

- Without an extension late assignments will receive only half credit and assignments that are not submitted or that are submitted more than two days after the deadline will receive a zero.
- Any assignment submitted after the last day of class will receive a zero.
- **Illness**
 - We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - **Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies below.**

COURSE TOPICS

Topic	Topic Overview
Why International?	Justification for why humanitarian aid should be international
The Ethics of International Humanitarian Assistance	Delves into the intricate ethical considerations that guide the principles, practices, and challenges within the realm of humanitarian assistance.
Sources of Aid	Explores the diverse origins, mechanisms, and implications of funding and support within the realm of humanitarian aid. Students will critically analyze the multifaceted landscape of aid sources, assessing their impact, dynamics, and ethical considerations in addressing global crises and disasters.
Human Rights	Explores the intersection of human rights principles with humanitarian aid, emphasizing the essential role of upholding and protecting human rights in crisis response and relief efforts and a rights-based approach to humanitarian aid.
Humanitarian Law	Provides an overview of the legal frameworks governing humanitarian assistance in times of crisis. This explores the principles, treaties, and conventions that regulate the conduct of parties involved in these issues and their implications for humanitarian aid operations.

The Economics of Humanitarian Crisis	Examines the economic dimensions of humanitarian emergencies, exploring challenges and strategies involved in responding to and recovering from crises. This aims to provide an overview understanding of the economic aspects of humanitarian aid, addressing resource allocation, funding mechanisms, and long-term recovery strategies.
Types of Humanitarian Crisis	Provides an exploration of various humanitarian emergencies, encompassing a range of crises including natural disasters, conflicts, pandemics, and complex emergencies. This addresses the diverse nature, characteristics, and unique challenges associated with different types of humanitarian crises.
Humanitarian v. Development Aid	Explores the distinctive approaches, objectives, and methodologies of humanitarian assistance and development aid. This course aims to elucidate the contrasts, overlaps, and synergies between these two sectors while exploring the challenges and opportunities in integrating both for sustainable and effective outcomes.
Humanitarian Negotiations	Humanitarian negotiations aim to facilitate operational access to reach populations in need. This unit serves to help to provide a framework for humanitarian workers to successfully negotiate to protect humanitarian space and contribute to broader initiatives, such as humanitarian corridors and ceasefires. These negotiations are conducted in a principled manner with purely humanitarian objectives: they should not legitimize or show support to any actor.
Effective v. Ineffective Aid	Explores the unintended consequences inherent in humanitarian aid. We examine the pitfalls and potential negative impacts of aid interventions and identify the characteristics, strategies, and impacts that differentiate successful and unsuccessful humanitarian interventions.

The Future of Aid	The future of humanitarian aid is an evolving landscape. There are innovative approaches, technological advancements, and shifting paradigms that will influence the practice and effectiveness of humanitarian aid in the future.
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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	AEB 4282	Due
1/12/2025	Monday	Syllabus Day	
1/13/2025	Tuesday		
1/14/2025	Wednesday	Why International Aid	
1/15/2025	Thursday		
1/16/2025	Friday	The Ethics of Aid	
1/19/2025	Monday		
1/20/2025	Tuesday		
1/21/2025	Wednesday	The Ethics of Aid	
1/22/2025	Thursday		
1/23/2025	Friday	Sources of Aid	Countries Assigned
1/26/2025	Monday	Sources of Aid	
1/27/2025	Tuesday		
1/28/2025	Wednesday	Sources of Aid	
1/29/2025	Thursday		
1/30/2025	Friday	Human Rights	
2/2/2025	Monday	Human Rights	
2/3/2025	Tuesday		
2/4/2025	Wednesday	Humanitarian Law	
2/5/2025	Thursday		
2/6/2025	Friday	Humanitarian Law	Humanitarian Interview Due
2/9/2025	Monday	Types of Humanitarian Crisis	
2/10/2025	Tuesday		
2/11/2025	Wednesday	Types of Humanitarian Crisis	
2/12/2025	Thursday		
2/13/2025	Friday	Types of Humanitarian Crisis	
2/16/2025	Monday	Types of Humanitarian Crisis	
2/17/2025	Tuesday		

2/18/2025	Wednesday	Types of Humanitarian Crisis	
2/19/2025	Thursday		
2/20/2025	Friday	Types of Humanitarian Crisis	
2/23/2025	Monday	Humanitarian v. Development Aid	
2/24/2025	Tuesday		
2/25/2025	Wednesday	Humanitarian v. Development Aid	
2/26/2025	Thursday		
2/27/2025	Friday	Humanitarian v. Development Aid	Humanitarian Fact Sheet Due
3/2/2025	Monday	Aid Traps	
3/3/2025	Tuesday		
3/4/2025	Wednesday	Aid Traps	
3/5/2025	Thursday		
3/6/2025	Friday	Aid Traps	
3/9/2025	Monday	Humanitarian Negotiations	
3/10/2025	Tuesday		
3/11/2025	Wednesday	Humanitarian Negotiations	
3/12/2025	Thursday		
3/13/2025	Friday	Humanitarian Negotiations	Negotiation Prompt Due
3/16/2025	Monday		
3/17/2025	Tuesday		
3/18/2025	Wednesday		
3/19/2025	Thursday		
3/20/2025	Friday		
3/23/2025	Monday	Population	
3/24/2025	Tuesday		
3/25/2025	Wednesday	Population	
3/26/2025	Thursday		
3/27/2025	Friday	The Economics of Humanitarian Aid	
3/30/2025	Monday	The Economics of Humanitarian Aid	
3/31/2025	Tuesday		
4/1/2025	Wednesday	The Economics of Humanitarian Aid	
4/2/2025	Thursday		
4/3/2025	Friday	The Economics of Humanitarian Aid	

4/6/2025	Monday	Crisis Presenation	
4/7/2025	Tuesday		
4/8/2025	Wednesday	Crisis Presentation	
4/9/2025	Thursday		
4/10/2025	Friday	Crisis Presentation	
4/13/2025	Monday	The Future of Humanitarian Aid	
4/14/2025	Tuesday		
4/15/2025	Wednesday	Exam	
4/16/2025	Thursday		
4/17/2025	Friday	The Future of Humanitarian Aid	UN Opening Statement Due
4/20/2025	Monday	Crisis Committee #1	
4/21/2025	Tuesday		
4/22/2025	Wednesday	Crisis Committee #2	

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the terms and dates stated in this course syllabus at any time. Any changes will be communicated on e-learning as an announcement. It is solely the student's responsibility to stay informed of any changes.

******By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to the terms outlined in this syllabus!!******