

AEB4282 - International Humanitarian Assistance

Fall 2021

Class Number: 10136

MWF | Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM)

Room: FLG 0270

Instructor: Dr. Caleb Stair

Office: 1193 McCarty A Wing

Office Hours: MWF 3pm – 4pm; Tuesday & Thursday (via zoom) 11:00pm – 3pm
(Also, by appointment)

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Communications:

DO NOT COMMUNICATE VIA CANVAS MESSAGES!!

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.

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.

Course Goals:

Students will:

- 1) Construct opinions through research and articulate these opinions to others concerning humanitarian issues.
- 2) Develop an understanding of current and past humanitarian crises, their purported causes, and possible solutions.
- 3) Understand the "big picture" 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) Learn 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. The readings are starting points for our discussions.

Grades:

1. Discussion Posts (3) - (15%)

- Throughout the semester there will be three discussion questions based off the notes and topics we cover. For each question you will be graded for an initial post (60%) of approximately 250 words and a response to a fellow classmate (40%) of at least 150 words. The response **must be to a viewpoint that you disagree with** or at least find a portion of their response disagreeable to receive full credit. Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion. Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary appropriate for a university level course. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be tolerated.

2. Midterm Exam - (15%)

3. Crisis PowerPoint Presentation - (15%)

- Choose a humanitarian crisis (can be an ongoing one, a historic one, one discussed in class, or one that we do not discuss). Create a PowerPoint presentation of approximately 15 slides that address the overall issue, current and past attempts to remedy the situation, and what you would suggest as future steps (a detailed rubric will be provided).

4. Mock UN Project

The primary activity of this course is a Mock U.N. Each of you will be assigned a country with two representatives per country. The project is broken into three main components: country prep; Mock U.N.; and a news article.

- *Country Prep – (20%)*
 - *Country Overview*
 - General information about the country you are assigned. Submitted with teammate. The grade for this assignment will be based on 50% my score for your country and 50% your evaluation of your teammate.
 - *Country Economics*
 - Information specific to the economic systems and current economic status of the country you are assigned. Submitted with teammate. The grade for this assignment will be based on 50% my score for your country and 50% your evaluation of your teammate.

- *Country International Relations*
 - Who are your countries allies? Who are your countries adversaries? Is the country at war? Submitted with teammate. The grade for this assignment will be based on 50% my score for your country and 50% your evaluation of your teammate.
- *Country Position on Topic*
 - Craft a 250 – 300-word position statement concerning the chosen final class topic. Submitted with teammate. The grade for this assignment will be based on 50% my score for your country and 50% your evaluation of your teammate.
- *Mock UN - (10%)*
 - The final week of class will be devoted to a mock U.N. activity. You will represent your country while the issue is discussed. You will be expected to represent the ideals of your constituency at least partially. The grade for this assignment will be based on 50% my score for your country and 50% your evaluation of your teammate. In addition you will be expected to upload your notes for the proceedings each day.
- *News Article - (15%)*
 - Write a one-page summary of the proceedings of the Mock UN activity. Treat this like a news article showing highlights of the final decisions. This assignment is individual (not submitted with a teammate).

5. *Participation - (10%)*

- Randomly throughout the semester we will have 10 in-class activities. Your two lowest scores will be dropped.

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

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.
- Late writing 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. Late writing assignments will receive only half credit and writing assignments that are not submitted or that are submitted more than two days after the deadline will receive a 0.
- 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*
- COVID-19
 - We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions. Understand that this is an evolving situation so these policies may be updated as the semester progresses.
 - Masks are **strongly recommended** (regardless of vaccination status) while in the classroom.
 - 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.
 - Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
 - If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/frequently-asked-questions/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>
 - 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.

Academic Honesty and the UF Honor Code

The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards, and we encourage students to read the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040-1), so they are aware of our standards. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action. The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium. The honor code can be found at <http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/4.040-1.pdf>

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled.

The only allowable purposes are: (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

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.

Students with Disabilities:

Resources for Disabled Students: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible to set up the appropriate arrangements. Please do not wait until an assignment is due to request accommodations. Further information can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>.

Student Counseling and Support:

Several resources are available on campus for students. <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>

- Honors Advising
 - <http://www.honors.ufl.edu/current/advising/>
 - 343 Infirmary Building
 - (352) 392-1519
- Dean of Students
 - <http://www.dso.ufl.edu>
 - P202 Peabody Hall
 - (352) 392-1261
- Counseling and Wellness Center
 - <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
 - 2190 Radio Road
 - (352) 392-1575
- Student Health Care Center
 - <http://shcc.ufl.edu>
 - Infirmary Building
 - (352) 392-1161
- Career Resource Center
 - <http://www.crc.ufl.edu>
 - 1st Floor, Reitz Union
 - (352) 392-1601
- International Center
 - <http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/>
 - Suite 170, Hub Building
 - (352) 392-5323

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

TENTATIVE DISCUSSION TOPICS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Topic	Due
8/23/2021	Monday	Syllabus Day	
8/24/2021	Tuesday		
8/25/2021	Wednesday	International vs. Domestic Humanitarian Assistance	
8/26/2021	Thursday		
8/27/2021	Friday	What is International Humanitarian Assistance	
8/30/2021	Monday	What is International Humanitarian Assistance	
8/31/2021	Tuesday		
9/1/2021	Wednesday	Humanitarian Organizations	
9/2/2021	Thursday		
9/3/2021	Friday	Humanitarian Organizations	Country Assigned
9/6/2021	Monday	Labor Day	
9/7/2021	Tuesday		
9/8/2021	Wednesday	Humanitarian Organizations	Discussion #1 due
9/9/2021	Thursday		
9/10/2021	Friday	The United States & Foreign Aid	
9/13/2021	Monday	Humanitarian Law	
9/14/2021	Tuesday		
9/15/2021	Wednesday	Humanitarian Law	
9/16/2021	Thursday		
9/17/2021	Friday	Humanitarian Law	
9/20/2021	Monday	Human Rights	
9/21/2021	Tuesday		
9/22/2021	Wednesday	Human Rights	
9/23/2021	Thursday		
9/24/2021	Friday	Country Prep Explained	Country Prep #1 due
9/27/2021	Monday	Human Rights	
9/28/2021	Tuesday		
9/29/2021	Wednesday	Education	
9/30/2021	Thursday		
10/1/2021	Friday	Education	

10/4/2021	Monday	Gender Equality	
10/5/2021	Tuesday		
10/6/2021	Wednesday	Gender Equality	Discussion #2 due
10/7/2021	Thursday		
10/8/2021	Friday	Homecoming	
10/11/2021	Monday	Food Security	
10/12/2021	Tuesday		
10/13/2021	Wednesday	Food Security	
10/14/2021	Thursday		
10/15/2021	Friday	Food Security	Country Prep #2 due
10/18/2021	Monday	Access to Water	
10/19/2021	Tuesday		
10/20/2021	Wednesday	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
10/21/2021	Thursday		
10/22/2021	Friday	Access to Water	
10/25/2021	Monday	Natural Disasters	
10/26/2021	Tuesday		
10/27/2021	Wednesday	Natural Disasters	
10/28/2021	Thursday		
10/29/2021	Friday	Natural Disasters	
11/1/2021	Monday	Access to Healthcare	
11/2/2021	Tuesday		
11/3/2021	Wednesday	Access to Healthcare	Discussion #3 due
11/4/2021	Thursday		
11/5/2021	Friday	Access to Healthcare	Country Prep #3 due
11/8/2021	Monday	Class Decision on Mock U.N. Topic	Class Decision
11/9/2021	Tuesday		
11/10/2021	Wednesday	Violence	
11/11/2021	Thursday	Holiday	
11/12/2021	Friday	Violence	
11/15/2021	Monday	Violence	
11/16/2021	Tuesday		
11/17/2021	Wednesday	Refugees	

11/18/2021	Thursday		
11/19/2021	Friday	Refugees	
11/22/2021	Monday	Refugees	
11/23/2021	Tuesday		
11/24/2021	Wednesday	Thanksgiving	
11/25/2021	Thursday	Thanksgiving	
11/26/2021	Friday	Thanksgiving	
11/29/2021	Monday	The Future of Humanitarian Assistance	Crisis PowerPoint Due
11/30/2021	Tuesday		
12/1/2021	Wednesday	The Future of Humanitarian Assistance	Country Prep #4 due
12/2/2021	Thursday		
12/3/2021	Friday	Mock UN	Day #1 Notes due
12/6/2021	Monday	Mock UN	Day #2 Notes due
12/7/2021	Tuesday		
12/8/2021	Wednesday	Mock UN	Day #3 Notes due
12/16/2021	Thursday	Final Exam Day	News Article Due