

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

### AEB 4282 – Spring 2021

*Please note that this course is usually taught in person and has been adapted for hybrid instruction in the Spring 2021 semester.*

**Class time and location:** Tuesday 11:45am-1:40pm (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period)  
and Thursday 12:50pm-1:40pm (6<sup>th</sup> period)  
Tuesday sessions will be given in person at Larsen Hall 0310 (for those authorized to attend in person), while Thursday sessions will usually be online through zoom. Recordings will be posted on canvas after lectures.

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

Office hours: Mon 9-10am and Thurs 2-4pm; other times can be scheduled by email  
Office location: zoom

**TA: Simon Codjo** [scodjo@ufl.edu](mailto:scodjo@ufl.edu)

Office hours: Wed 10-11am  
Office location: zoom

### **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;

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

- 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.

**Required Readings:** There is no required textbook for the class. The required readings will largely be excerpts from books, newspapers, and technical reports, and will be posted on the class website on <http://elearning.ufl.edu> at least 3 (three) days in advance. The address for AEB 4282 is <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/418131>.

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).

**Course Assignments and Grading:**

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

- 2 Exams 60 points each = 120 points
- 6 writing assignments 20 points each, keep 4 highest = 80 points
- Presentation 30 points
- Participation (online) 20 points

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

		A	230+	A-	220-229
B+	212-219	B	205-211	B-	195-204
C+	187-194	C	180-186	C-	170-179
D+	163-169	D	155-162	D-	150-154
F	less than 150				

**Exams:** There are two “take-home” exams scheduled for this class. The first is tentatively scheduled to be **due on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The second is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. As part of adapting to hybrid classes this semester, these exams will be released to students at noon (12:00pm) the day before, and students will have until 11:59pm on the due date (for a total of 36 hours) to submit their answers.

If the date for the first exam needs to be changed, students will be notified at least two (2) weeks in advance. The date for the second exam is set by the university, and the exam is *not* cumulative. These exams are open book, open notes, open internet, but students are expected to take the exams *individually*, with no collaboration.

**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 canvas by 11:59pm on the due date. *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.

**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 should 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.

As part of adapting to hybrid instruction in the Spring 2021 semester, students will be allowed to present during the regular class time through zoom or to record and upload their presentation on canvas. Recorded presentations are **due by April 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**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 Structure and Outline:**

Uniquely in the Spring 2021 semester, this course will be delivered as a hybrid course, with some students (a maximum of 18) attending in person on in-person days, and the remainder of students attending all of our sessions online.

In general, Tuesday sessions will be given in person at Larsen Hall 0310 (for those authorized to attend in person), while Thursday sessions will usually be online through zoom. Students enrolled in section 10265 of this course should plan on attending Tuesday lectures (periods 5 and 6) in person *if cleared by UF, while wearing a mask and sitting in assigned distanced seats*. Students enrolled in section 25329 (as well as any student in section 10265 who is *not* cleared) should attend through zoom.

On Thursdays, lectures will generally be given online through zoom for students in both sections. There are various reasons for this set-up, including a balance between learning in person and our safety, and providing some equity in the learning experience between students who signed up for section 10265 and those in section 25369. Because Tuesdays are our two-period days, students enrolled in 10265 will nonetheless receive instruction “primarily in person” this semester. Those in section 25369 will be fully online.

All sessions will be recorded and posted on canvas, but I do encourage all of you to attend the lectures synchronously, as learning in this class is enhanced by questions and discussion.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

Week 1 (12–14 Jan)                      Humanitarian Principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, and Independence

Week 2 (19–21 Jan)                      History/Origins of Humanitarian Aid  
Institutions in Humanitarian Assistance  
Faith-Based NGOs

Week 3 (26–29 Jan)                      International Humanitarian Law

\* 26 Jan: Homework 1 due

Week 4 (2–4 Feb)	International Humanitarian Law Rwandan Genocide and Displacement (1994)
Week 5 (9–11 Feb)	Rwandan Genocide and Displacement (1994) Sphere Standards * 11 Feb: Homework 2 due
Week 6 (16–18 Feb)	Sphere Standards Haiti Earthquake (2010)
Week 7 (23 Feb)	* 23 Feb: Midterm Exam * 25 Feb: UF “Recharge Day” – no class
Week 8 (2–4 Mar)	Haiti Earthquake (2010) Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (2014-2016) * 2 Mar: Homework 3 due
Week 9 (9–11 Mar)	Famines
Week 10 (16–18 Mar)	Humanitarian Journalism Role of the military in humanitarian work/ Afghanistan * 16 Mar: Homework 4 due
Week 11 (23–25 Mar)	Role of the military in humanitarian work/ Afghanistan
Week 12 (30 Mar–1 Apr)	Natural disasters and humanitarian work in the United States Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh/ Myanmar (2017-current) * 1 Apr: Homework 5 due
Week 13 (6–8 Apr)	Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh/ Myanmar (2017-current) Humanitarian Crises and the Environment
Week 14 (13–15 Apr)	Economic and Financial Considerations in Humanitarian Aid * 15 Apr: Homework 6 due
Week 15 (20 Apr)	Economic and Financial Considerations in Humanitarian Aid * 27 Apr: 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:**

**Recordings and Privacy:** Most of the lectures for this class (with the possible exception of guest lectures) will be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend during the scheduled time. Students who are taking the course in person or who are online and participate with their camera engaged or use a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are taking this course online and are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you do not consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

**Attendance and Make-ups:** I do not take attendance for this class, and, in the Spring 2021 semester, all lectures will be recorded for those who are unable to attend during the scheduled time. 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>