

**Department of Public Administration
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Syracuse University**

PPA 765

HUMANITARIAN ACTION: CHALLENGES, RESPONSES, RESULTS

Fall 2009

Thursday 2.00pm – 4.40pm
Eggers 070

Instructor: Catherine Bertini, Professor of Public Administration
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Office hours: Thursday 9.30am – 11.30am or by appointment, arranged by email

Course description:

This course examines major humanitarian challenges worldwide since 1992, including current crises. It reviews disasters caused by nature and by man, including conflicts and major economic stress. While the course is organized around those themes, it also discusses the key challenges for women and children, for refugees, for displaced people, and reviews the involvement of governments, UN agencies, NGOs, militaries, donors, the press and others. Student presentations will focus on current humanitarian crises. Preparation for class includes readings from books, articles, and websites. Classes are a combination of lecture, discussion, presentations, and videos. Students will be graded on their class participation, memos, and group and individual presentations.

Course materials:

Books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore in the Schine Center.

Required:

Minear, Larry & Smith, Hazel (ed), *Humanitarian Diplomacy, Practitioners and Their Craft*. New York: United Nations University Press, 2007

Walker, Peter & Daniel Maxwell. *Shaping the Humanitarian World*. New York: Routledge, 2009

Smillie, Ian & Larry Minear, *The Charity of Nations: Humanitarian Action in a Calculating World*. Bloomfield: Kumarian Press, 2004

Recommended:

Moore, Jonathan (ed). *Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention*. Maryland: Rawman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1998

Kofi Annan: Center of the Storm, PBS Video, 2002

Additional required readings such as articles, book chapters, and unpublished materials will appear on the reserve list on Blackboard and the professor's website. <http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/cbertini/>

Class readings are available on the web as indicated for each session in the syllabus. Additional class readings will be handed out during the semester.

Course requirements:

Class materials; Active class participation; Following current humanitarian events; Group presentations to class; Memos; trip to the UN in NY. Final individual oral presentation to the professor.

One-day trip to the UN Headquarters:

There will be a mandatory class trip to the United Nations in New York City. Bus transportation will be provided for travel from Syracuse and back in one day. Students may travel independently to and from the city if they choose not to travel with the class on the bus. The trip is currently planned for Friday, October 30th. Students who enroll in this course must be able to participate in this trip.

Class Attendance and Participation:

This class is heavily participatory. There will be instructor presentations, but much learning occurs through active engagement rather than through passive listening. For this reason, your presence and active participation will be expected at *all sessions*. Class attendance and participation will be a component of the grade. Your participation shall reflect your careful reading and consideration of each week's works on the syllabus. Participation is active involvement in discussion, but also careful listening, consideration and respect for the opinions of members of the class. The class will be divided into small groups representing humanitarian agencies. Many class activities will revolve around the work of these agencies. One class this semester may be taught by video link.

Writing Memos:

Writing clearly and succinctly is an important skill for those who progress in careers in international organizations. It will also be a key component of the course work for this class. Approximately one third and two thirds through the course, each student will be asked to write a brief memo (maximum 3 pages) to his/her agency head, describing a key problem relating to a current natural disaster and recommending what the agency should do to assist. Sample memos will be available. **First Memo Due: October 22nd / Second Memo Due: November 19th**

Group presentations to Class Members:

Students will choose from six agencies and will follow their agency's work during the semester (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UNOCHA, ICRC, and a NGO). Each group will present on how its agency is focusing on a current humanitarian crisis and/or its follow-up. The groups will show the challenges faced by the organization and how they are handling the challenges. Presentations should be 8-10 minutes long with 5-7 minutes for questions, for a total of 15 minutes. All members of the group should participate. **Presentations Due: September 10th (ungraded), October 1st (graded), December 3rd (graded)**

Class Simulation: The class will be given a scenario for a humanitarian emergency. Students will be asked to play roles to provide support for the impacted population. **Class Simulation: November 5th**

Final Oral Presentations to Professor Bertini:

Each student will be asked to convince the professor, in the guise of an organization which funds humanitarian operations, that his/her specific project deserves some of her resources. The student

decides to whom he/she is presenting. Prof. Bertini could be the head of a national aid agency, a UN agency, or a NGO. The presentations should be designed to convince her of the reasons why her organization should fund the student's project. What is the main purpose? How does it fit into the funding priorities of the donor country? What will be the result? How can we insure that the resources will be spent where they should be? What will happen if the funding doesn't come through? What is the total budget of the project and how much do you expect from this donor? By six pm the day before the presentation, the student should turn in a one page outline, so the organization head has an idea of what will be presented. Each student will sign up for a half hour slot. The presentation should be ten to fifteen minutes, and may be interrupted, as questions arise. All students will be asked to participate in three time slots: one for their presentation, and two as Ms. Bertini's staff members, also asking questions of the presenter, and spending a few minutes with Bertini afterward, analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments. Grades will be assigned based on how well the student understands her/his organization, the coherence of the project proposal, the realism of the funding, and the clarity of the presentation. **Final presentations will be scheduled for December 11th and the week of December 14th.**

Statement on Plagiarism:

The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort.

The *Syracuse University Bulletin* defines plagiarism as “the representation of another's words, ideas, programs, formulae, opinions, or other products of work as one's own, either overtly or by failing to attribute them to their true source.” (*Syracuse University Bulletin* 2003-2004: p. 2).

For more information and the complete policy, see the [Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures \(PDF\)](#).

Disability Statement:

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services(ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Grading:

Class attendance and participation	20%
Class group presentations (2 of those assigned will be graded)	20%
2 Paper/memos assignments (15% each)	30%
Class Simulation	10%
Final exam/ individual oral presentation	<u>20%</u>
Final grade	100%

Course Outline and Required Readings:

SESSION 1: ORIENTATION/INTRODUCTION - September 3rd

Housekeeping

1. Review of Syllabus
2. Discussion of course requirements
3. Choice of agencies and NGOs

Introduction

1. Definitions, types and organization of humanitarian agencies
2. Recent historical trends in humanitarian action
3. Main players and actors in humanitarian aid

SESSION 2: BASIC INFORMATION - September 10th

Readings for Session 2:

Familiarize yourself with the following organizations:

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): <http://www.reliefweb.org>

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF): <http://www.unicef.org/>

World Food Programme (WFP): <http://www.wfp.org/>

UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR): <http://www.unhcr.ch>

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): <http://www.icrc.org>

Oxfam International: www.oxfam.org

Mercy Corps: <http://mercycorps.org>

Save the Children: <http://savethechildren.org>

CARE: <http://care.org>

1) The United Nations. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

2) International Committee of the Red Cross. "What is International Humanitarian Law?"

[http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/humanitarian-law-factsheet/\\$File/What_is_IHL.pdf](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/humanitarian-law-factsheet/$File/What_is_IHL.pdf)

3) The Sphere Project. "Humanitarian Charter & Minimum Standards in Disaster Response"

(Familiarize yourself with the Sphere website; in particular the Handbook)

<http://www.sphereproject.org/content/view/full/27/84/lang,english/>

Assignment:

During the first class, students will be divided into six groups. In the second class, each group will present an introduction of the strategic issues facing the assigned organizations and the related challenges they face during the next four months (ungraded).

SESSION 3: OVERVIEW - September 17th

Readings for Session 3:

Walker, Peter & Daniel Maxwell. *Shaping the Humanitarian World*. New York: Routledge, 2009

Moore, Jonathan (ed). *Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1998 – Chapter 8 (*Blackboard*)

SESSIONS 4, 5 & 6 – NATURAL DISASTERS

SESSION 4: FOOD CRISIS – September 24th

Readings for Session 4:

1) Bertini, Catherine & Dan Glickman. “Farm Futures: Bringing Agriculture Back to U.S. Foreign Policy”, *Foreign Affairs* May/June 2009, pages 93-105 (*Blackboard*)

2) Zoellick, Robert, President of the World Bank. “A 10 Point Plan for Tackling the Food Crisis”, *Financial Times: May 2008*

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d1a2981c-2da7-11dd-b92a-000077b07658,dwp_uuid=a955630e-360311dc-ad42-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1

3) Center for Strategic and International Studies: “A Call for Strategic US Approach to the Global Food Crisis: A Report of the CSIS Task Force on the Global Food Crisis Core Findings and Recommendations”, July 2008

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080728_food_security.pdf

4) The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. “Renewing American Leadership in the Fight Against Global Hunger and Poverty,” February 2009:

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment/pdf/gadp_final_report.pdf

SESSION 5: CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON WORLD FOOD NEEDS – October 1st

Class presentations on world food crisis. Each class group makes a presentation on how their UN entity or NGO is focusing on the current world food crisis. (Graded)

SESSION 6: DROUGHTS, FLOODS, AND EARTHQUAKES – October 8th

Readings for Session 6:

1) Bertini, Catherine, UN Secretary General. “Summary of findings and recommendations of the Special Envoy's mission to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Kenya”, 11-19 May 5, 2000

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/ACOS-64DGGR?OpenDocument>

2) Morris, J., Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Humanitarian Needs in Southern Africa. “Report of the First Mission to Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Zambia” Rome, Sept. 2002

<http://www.fao.org/hivaid/publications/sesa.pdf>

- 3) International Food Policy Research Institute. “Fighting Famine – Steps Out of Crisis”, IFPRI 2002
<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ib8.pdf>
- 4) UN News Centre. “Tackling Drought Crucial in Finding Food Crisis Solution –UN” April 25, 2008
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26462&Cr=food&Cr1=crisis>
- 5) PBS Jim Lehrer News Hour Interview with Catherine Bertini, Horn of Africa Drought, June 9, 2000
http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/cbertini/media_video.html?videoID=J-9qqKmCD0mdd4n60zPLmg
- 6) UNICEF. “Tsunami Disaster - Countries in Crisis”
http://www.unicef.org/emerg/index_46894.html
- 7) Doocy, Shannon, Michael Gabriel, Sean Collins, Courtland Robinson, Peter Stevenson, “Implementing Cash for Work Programmes in Post-Tsunami Aceh: Experiences and Lessons Learned,” *Disasters, Volume 30 Issue 3, September 2006*, p. 277-296
(Skim this article but please read the Recommendations and Solutions carefully)
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.0361-3666.2005.00321.x>
- 8) United States Department of Defense. “U.S. Forces Aid Tsunami Relief Efforts in Southeast Asia,”
<http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/tsunami/>
- 9) Mozambique Operation
http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/cbertini/media_video.html?videoID=sUaNVBpFGUilDNHTmwonyw
- 10) NBC Nightly News. “The Challenge of Rebuilding China”
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/24840947#24840947>
- 11) United Nations Office for The Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. “OCHA Natural Disaster Bulletin,” October 2007
<http://ochaonline.un.org/OchaLinkClick.aspx?link=ocha&docId=1078652>

- **NO CLASS: OCTOBER 15th (To be replaced by UN Trip)**

SESSION 7: CREATION OF HUMANITARIAN POLICY – October 22nd

- ***First Memo Due***

Smillie, Ian & Larry Minear, *The Charity of Nations: Humanitarian Action in a Calculating World*.
Bloomfield: Kumarian Press, 2004

SESSIONS 8, 10, and 11: MAN-MADE DISASTERS: WAR, CIVIL STRIFE, INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, GENOCIDE, REFUGEES & ECONOMIC

SESSION 8: NORTH KOREA – October 29th

Readings for Session 8:

- 1) Natsios, Andrew. *The Great North Korean Famine: Famine, Politics, and Foreign Policy*, United States Institute of Peace Press, 2001; Chapters 1, 2 and 8 (*Blackboard*)
- 2) Haggard, Stephan & Marcus Noland. *Famine in North Korea: Markets, Aid and Reform*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2007; Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 (*Blackboard*)
- 3) Smith, Hazel. *Hungry for Peace: International Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Social Change in North Korea*, Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2005; Introduction, Chapters 4, 6, 8 (*Blackboard*)

SESSION 9: UN TRIP – Friday, October 30th

SESSION 10: CLASS SIMULATION – November 5th

SESSION 11: AFGHANISTAN/PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES/SOMALIA/RWANDA – Nov. 12th

Readings for Session 11:

- 1) Bertini, Catherine. *Memorandum submitted to UK House of Commons*, London, United Kingdom November 15, 2001
(*The memo will soon be available on the Professor's website.*)
- 2) USAID, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). *Afghanistan – Complex Emergency*, Situation Report #2 Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, August 19, 2009
[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2009.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MYAI-7V42PV-full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2009.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/MYAI-7V42PV-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf)
- 3) Bertini, Catherine, Personal Humanitarian Envoy of the Secretary-General. *Mission Report 11-19 August 2002*, 19th August 2002 Information and Press Library, Resource Library
<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2002/un-opt-19aug.pdf>
- 4) United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory. *The Humanitarian Monitor*, July 2009
http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_the_humanitarian_monitor_2009_june_english.pdf
- 5) United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory. *Humanitarian Monitoring Report*, August 2003
[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2003.nsf/FilesByRWDocUNIDFileName/OCHA-64CBNQ-ocha-opt-31aug.pdf/\\$File/ocha-opt-31aug.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2003.nsf/FilesByRWDocUNIDFileName/OCHA-64CBNQ-ocha-opt-31aug.pdf/$File/ocha-opt-31aug.pdf)
- 6) Moore, Jonathan (ed). *Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1998; Chapter 4 & 5 (*Blackboard*)

SESSION 12: MANAGEMENT ISSUES & FUNDING – November 19th

• *Second Memo Due*

Readings for Session 12:

- 1) Bertini, Catherine. “Protecting the Protectors.” In *Sharing The Front Line and The Back Hills: Peacekeepers, Humanitarian Aid Workers and the media in the Midstof Crisis*, ed. Yael Danieli, 64-71. New York: Baywood Publishing Company Inc., 2002 (*Blackboard*)
- 2) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Handbook for Emergencies*, Geneva, 2002; Chapter 22, “Coping with Stress,” pp. 318-323, Chapter 23, “Staff Safety,” pp. 324-332
http://www.the-ecentre.net/resources/e_library/doc/han_Em.pdf
- 3) Basic Security in the Field, Staff Safety, Health and Welfare: United Nations, 2003 (CD’s from Professor Bertini provided for each group)
- 4) Darcas, Christine “Invincible,” and Paul Ares “The Tremor Within.” In Carol Bergman, *Another Day in Paradise: International Humanitarian Workers Tell Their Stories*, UK: Earthscan Publication, 2003; Chapter 4 & Chapter 8, (*Blackboard*)
- 5) Inter-Agency Standing Committee. “Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies,” Geneva: Inter-Agency Standing Committee, September 2005
(*The link to the Guidelines is on the right-hand side of the page*)
http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/subsidi/tf_gender/gbv.asp
- 6) Moore, Jonathan (ed). *Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention*. Maryland: Rawman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1998; Chapter 16 (*Blackboard*)

SESSION 13: GROUP PRESENTATIONS TO CLASS – December 3rd

Group presentations on aspects of manmade disasters. Same principles as before apply. Each class group makes a presentation on how their entity is focusing on a current manmade disaster (graded).

SESSION 14: SUMMARY & DISCUSSION – December 10th

Reading for Session 14:

Minear, Larry & Smith, Hazel (ed), *Humanitarian Diplomacy, Practitioners and Their Craft*. New York: United Nations University Press, 2007

Bibliography (useful, but not required materials):

Books:

UNHCR:

- Ogata Sadako, *The Turbulent Decade*, 2005
- Newman, E., Van Selm, J., *Refugees and Forced Displacement: International Security, Human Vulnerability, and the State*, New York: United Nations University Press, 2003
- Gil Loescher, *The UNHCR and World Politics: A Perilous Path*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2001

UNICEF:

- Varindra Tarzie VittachiI (1993), *Between the Gund: Children as a Zone of Peace* ISBN 0 340 60231 7
- Maggie Black, (1996) *The Children and the Nation: The Story of UNICEF, Past and Present*, UNICEF, New York

WFP:

- George McGovern, *The Third Freedom: Ending Hunger in Our Time*, New York: Simon and Shuster, 2001
- Shaw, John. *The UN World Food Program and the Development of Food Aid*, 2001
- Ingram, James, *Bread and Stones: Leadership and the Struggle to Reform the United Nations World Food Programme*, South Carolina: BookSurge, LLC, 2006

ICRC:

- Lijnzaad, L, van Sambeek and Tahzib Lie, B. *Making The Voice of Humanity Heard*, Leiden, Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2004
- International Committee of the Red Cross. "Addressing the Needs of Women Affected By Armed Conflict," An ICRC Guidance Document, March 2004
[http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/p0840/\\$File/ICRC_002_0840.PDF!Open](http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/p0840/$File/ICRC_002_0840.PDF!Open)

VIDEO/DVD:

Black Hawk Down; Hotel Rwanda; The Interpreter; The Constant Gardener; Blood Diamond

Useful Maps:

<http://www.idpproject.org/maps/maps.htm>

http://www.wfp.org/country_brief/hunger_map/map/hungermap_popup/map_popup.html

Israel Map: <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/israel.pdf>

USG Humanitarian Assistance in the Horn of Africa:

<http://reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AHAA-7KXTGV?OpenDocument>

North Korea:

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fullMaps_Sa.nsf/luFullMap/5894EF33B11A3E5F852572F800519B27/\\$File/who_REF_prk060214.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fullMaps_Sa.nsf/luFullMap/5894EF33B11A3E5F852572F800519B27/$File/who_REF_prk060214.pdf?OpenElement)

Useful info source:

<http://www.reliefweb.int>