

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

PPA 765

HUMANITARIAN ACTION: CHALLENGES, RESPONSES, RESULTS

Fall 2008

Thursday 2:00 pm – 4:40 pm
Eggers 070

Instructor: Catherine Bertini, Professor of Public Administration
E-mail: cbertini@maxwell.syr.edu
Office phone: (315) 443-1341
Office number: 351 Eggers Hall, Syracuse University
Office hours: Thursday 10:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment, arranged by email

Course description:

This course examines major humanitarian challenges worldwide since 1992, including current crisis. 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 Schine Student Center Bookstore.

Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention, J. Moore, (edt), Rawman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Maryland, 1998 – **to be read by the third class**

The Charity of Nations: Humanitarian Action in a Calculating World, I. Smillie & L. Minear, Kumarian Press 2004 – **to be read before Class 4**

Humanitarian Diplomacy: Practitioners and their Craft, L. Minear and H. Smith (edts), United Nations University Press, 2007. – **to be read by the end of the semester**

Kofi Annan: Center of the Storm, PBS Video, 2002 – **to be watched prior to NYC arrival (will be available on bus)**

Additional required readings such as articles, book chapters, and unpublished materials will appear on Blackboard.

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; Midterm 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, at the expense of each student, 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, November 21. 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. Up to two classes this semester may be taught by video link.

Writing

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 and recommending a solution.

Group presentations to Class Members

Students will choose from seven agencies/NGOs and will follow their agency's work during the semester (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UNOCHA, ICRC, Oxfam International, Mercy Corps). Each group will present on how their agency or NGO 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 will be 8 minutes long with 7 minutes for questions. All members of the group should participate. Comment/question time will be at the end of each presentation.

Final Oral Presentations to Professor Bertini

Each group 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 USAID or the Japanese aid agency, or DFID (UK humanitarian arm) or a UN agency or 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. Their presentation should be ten to fifteen minutes, and they will be interrupted, as questions arise. All students will be asked to sign up for 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 Dec 5th and the week of Dec 8th.

Statement on Plagiarism

All students are expected to follow Syracuse University's rule against plagiarism. 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).

Grading:

Class attendance and participation	15%
Class group presentations (2 of those assigned will be graded)	30%
2 Paper/memos assignments (15% each)	30%
Final oral presentation	<u>25%</u>
Final grade	100%

Course Outline and Required Readings

Session 1: Orientation/Introduction

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

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: <http://www.oxfam.org>

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

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

1) "A Call to Alms: Humanitarian Action and the Art of War" by Hugo Slim

<http://www.hdcentre.org/files/Call%20to%20alms.pdf>

2) Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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

3) 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)

4) Humanitarian Charter & Minimum Standards in Disaster Response

<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/GHARKit/sphere/SphereIndex4.htm>

Assignment:

During the first class, students will be divided into seven groups. Each group will be assigned a major humanitarian organization (WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA, ICRC, Oxfam International, Mercy Corps) to follow during the semester. In addition, each group will present in the second class, an introduction of the strategic issues facing the assigned organizations and the related challenges they face during the next four months (ungraded).

Session 3: Moral Dilemmas

Readings for Session 3:

Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention, J. Moore, (edt), Rawman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Maryland, 1998

SESSIONS 4, 5, 6 -- NATURAL DISASTERS

Session 4: Food Crisis

1) Financial Times: A 10 Point Plan for Tackling the Food Crisis, Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank, May 2008:

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d1a2981c-2da7-11dd-b92a-000077b07658.dwp_uuid=a955630e-3603-11dc-ad42-0000779fd2ac.html?nclick_check=1

2) Robert Zoellick speech to Rome World Food Security Summit, June 2006:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21788511~pagePK:34370~pIPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

3) Center for Strategic and International Studies: A Call for Strategic US Approach to the Global Food Crisis, July 2008:

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

Session 5: Droughts, Floods, Earthquakes

Readings for Session 5:

Tackling Drought Crucial in Finding Food Crisis Solution

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26462&Cr=food&Cr1=crisis>

1) “Fighting Famine – Steps Out of Crisis” – IFPRI 2002

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/ib/ib8.pdf>

2) Catherine Bertini, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on the drought in the Greater Horn of Africa, Summary of findings and recommendations of the Special Envoy’s mission to Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya, 11-19 April 2000

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

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

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

4) Thomas, Dan - Much Done, More to Do: Indian Ocean tsunami recovery, two years on, UNICEF, December 2006

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/tsunami_2-year_2006.pdf

5) U.S. Forces Aid Tsunami Relief Efforts in Southeast Asia, U.S. Department of Defense, 2005

<http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/tsunami/>

6) Shannon Doocy, 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

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.0361-3666.2005.00321.x>

7) BBC, South Asia earthquake: One Year On, Oct 2006

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/5392908.stm

8) OCHA-GENEVA, Natural Disaster Highlights, OCHA, January – April 2006

<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2006/ocha-gen-30apr.pdf>

Outside of Class

(Video) PBS Jim Lehrer News Hour -- Interview with Catherine Bertini re: Horn of Africa Drought (9 June 2000)

Asian Tsunami 2004/2005

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3912/is_200610/ai_n16810493

Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarian_response_to_the_2004_Indian_Ocean_earthquake
Hurricane Katrina, USA, 2005

(Video) WFP Flood Operations in Mozambique (March 2000).

Session 6: Current Disasters and Presentations

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 7: Creation of Humanitarian Policy

The Charity of Nations: Humanitarian Action in a Calculating World. I. Smillie & L. Minear, Kumarian Press, 2004.

SESSIONS 8, 9, 11: MAN-MADE DISASTERS: WAR, CIVIL STRIFE, INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, GENOCIDE, REFUGEES & ECONOMIC

Session 8: North Korea

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 (*Hard Copy Reserve*)
- 2) Noland, Marcus, Famine in North Korea, 2007
Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 (*Hard Copy Reserve*)
- 3) Smith, Hazel, Hungry for Peace, 2005
Introduction, Chapters 4, 6, 8 (*Hard Copy Reserve*)

Session 9: Afghanistan/Gaza/West Bank

Readings for Session 9:

- 1) Memorandum submitted to UK House of Commons- London, November 15, 2001
http://www.wfp.org/BertiniBio/bertini/speeches/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=3#
- 2) Mission Report Executive summary- 11-19 August 2002, Catherine Bertini, Personal Humanitarian Envoy of the Secretary-General, and Bertini Report, 19th August 2002 Information and Press Library, Resource Library
<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2002/un-opt-19aug.pdf>
- 3) Update- Assistance to the Palestinian People-
[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2004.nsf/FilesByRWDocUNIDFileName/UOCH-66N83T-unga-opt-29jun.pdf/\\$File/unga-opt-29jun.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2004.nsf/FilesByRWDocUNIDFileName/UOCH-66N83T-unga-opt-29jun.pdf/$File/unga-opt-29jun.pdf)
- 4) Humanitarian Monitoring Report 2003-
[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2003.nsf/FilesByRWDocUNIDFileName/OCHA-64CBNQ-ocha-opt-31aug.pdf/\\$File/ocha-opt-31aug.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2003.nsf/FilesByRWDocUNIDFileName/OCHA-64CBNQ-ocha-opt-31aug.pdf/$File/ocha-opt-31aug.pdf)

5) Humanitarian Update for Palestinian Territories 2005-

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MHII-66V3TX?OpenDocument&query=bertini&cc=isr>

Session 10: Staff Issues & Funding

Readings for Session 10:

- 1) Catherine Bertini, *Protecting the Protectors*, Chapter 4, p. 64, in Sharing the front line and the back hills, New York, Baywood Publishing Company Inc., on behalf of United Nations, Danieli Yael (2002) (*Blackboard*)
 - 2) Catherine Bertini speech – United Nations: Open Debate on Security of UN Humanitarian and associated Personnel, New York, February 9, 2000;
http://www.wfp.org/BertiniBio/bertini/speeches/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=3#
 - 3) UNHCR (2000) Handbook for Emergencies, UNHCR, Geneva; 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
 - 4) Security in the Field, United Nations, 1998 (copies from Professor Bertini for each group)
 - 5) Carol Bergman, Another Day in Paradise: International Humanitarian Workers Tell Their Stories, 2003; Chapter 4, “Invincible,” by Christine Darcas and Chapter 8, “The Tremor Within,” by Paul Ares (*Ch. 4: Hard Copy Reserve, Ch. 8: Blackboard*)
-

Session 11: Group Presentations to Class

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

Session 12: UN Trip

Friday, November 21

Mandatory trip to the UN in NYC. Bus transport will be available for those who wish to pay the fee, otherwise it is expected that you will organize your own transportation.

Session 13: Gender Issues & logistics

Readings for Session 13:

1) Guidelines for Gender based violence interventions in humanitarian settings; Focusing on prevention of and response to sexual violence in emergencies, June 2005 Inter Agency Standing Committee

http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/subsidi/tf_gender/gbv.asp

2) Catherine Bertini speeches: Women 2000: Gender equality, Development and Peace For the Twenty First Century, New York, U.S., June 5, 2000

http://www.wfp.org/BertiniBio/bertini/speeches/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=3#

3) Men wage war: Women and Children Suffer the Consequences, - 27th International Conference of the Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, Switzerland, November 1, 1999

http://www.wfp.org/BertiniBio/bertini/speeches/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=3#

Session 14: Summary & Discussion

Reading: Humanitarian Diplomacy: Practitioners and their Craft, L. Minear and H. Smith, (edts), United Nations University Press, 2007.

Bibliography (interesting, but not required materials):

Books:

UNHCR:

Ogata Sadako, (2005), The Turbulent Decade,

Newman, E., Van Selm, J., (2003), Refugees and forced displacement: international security, human vulnerability, and the state / Tokyo; New York: United Nations University Press

Gil Loescher (2001), The UNHCR and World Politics, A Perilous Path, Oxford University Press, Oxford

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, (2001), The Third Freedom, Ending Hunger in our time, Simon and Shuster, New York

John Shaw (2001), The UN World Food Program and the Development of Food Aid

Ingram, James, (2006), Bread and Stones: Leadership and the Struggle to Reform the United Nations World Food Programme, BookSurge, LLC, North Charleston, South Carolina

ICRC:

Lijnzaad, L, van Sambeek and Tahzib_Lie, B, (2004), Making The Voice of Humanity Heard, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Leiden, Boston

Ingram, James (2006). Bread and Stones: Leadership and the Struggle to Reform the United Nations World Food Program. BookSurge Publishing, South Carolina.

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://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fullMaps_Af.nsf/luFullMap/B257C9A98AE4F51C8525748D00763841/\\$File/usaid_PRG_afr080721.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fullMaps_Af.nsf/luFullMap/B257C9A98AE4F51C8525748D00763841/$File/usaid_PRG_afr080721.pdf?OpenElement)

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>