

**Department of Public Administration
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Syracuse University
Spring 2006**

PPA 730-19

HUMANITARIAN ACTION: CHALLENGES, RESPONSES, RESULTS

Wednesday 9:30 am – 12:15pm

Eggers 209

Instructor: Catherine Bertini, Professor of Public Administration

E-mail: cbertini@maxwell.syr.edu

Office phone: (315) 443-1341

Office number: 332 Eggers Hall, Syracuse University

Office hours: Tuesday 10am - 12 noon or by appointment, arranged by email

Course description:

This course examines major humanitarian challenges worldwide since 1992. 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. 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 SU Bookstore in Schine Student Center (on campus).

- Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention, J. Moore, (edt), – **to be read within the first two weeks of the semester**

- Another Day in Paradise, Carol Bergman (edt)

Reader includes additional required readings such as articles, book chapters, and unpublished materials. *Reader is available at the Syracuse Copy Center in the Marshall Square Mall.*

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

Course requirements:

Class materials; Active class participation; Following current humanitarian events; Group presentations to class; Midterm memos; Final individual oral presentation to the professor.

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.

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

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 these challenges. Presentations should be 10 minutes long. All members of the group should participate. Comment/question time will be at the end of each presentation.

Individual 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 their specific project deserves some of her resources. The student decides to whom s/he is presenting. Professor Bertini could be the head of USAID, a Japanese aid agency, DFID, a UN agency, or whatever agency the student chooses. 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.

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 exam/ individual oral presentation:	<u>25%</u>
Final grade:	100%

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).

Course Outline and Required Readings

SESSION 1 & 2: INTRODUCTION

Introduction

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

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>

Each student will be asked preferences for an assignment to one organization for the semester.

Readings for Sessions 1:

- 1) Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention, J. Moore.
- 2) The United Nations: An Introduction for Students
<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/unintro/unintro.asp>
- 3) The UN millennium Goals <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- 4) Catherine Bertini's speech "Feeding the Poor: Are we Facing a Global Crisis?" Chicago Council on Foreign Relations from June 7, 1995;
http://www.wfp.org/BertiniBio/bertini/speeches/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=3#

Assignment:

During the first class, students will be divided into 4 groups. Each group will be assigned a major humanitarian organization (WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA) to follow during the semester and will choose an international NGO to follow as well. 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).

Readings for Sessions 2:

- 1) Continued: Hard Choices, Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention, J. Moore.
- 2) A Call to Alms: Humanitarian Action and the Art of War by Hugo Slim, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue <http://www.hdcentre.org/datastore/files/Calltoalms.pdf>
- 3) Sen Amartya, What's the point of Press Freedom, World Press Freedom Day 2004
http://www.internews.org/wpfd/wpf_day_2004_sen.htm
- 4) Sen, A. Public Action to Remedy Hunger, Tanco Memorial Lecture, August 1990, London
<http://www.thp.org/reports/sen/sen890.htm>
- 5) Banik, Dan, Democracy, drought and starvation in India: Testing Sen in theory and in practice,

Doctoral Thesis submitted to the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, November 2002,
<http://folk.uio.no/danbanik/phdthesis.htm>

6) "Partnerships in Protection" by Larry Minear

http://hwproject.tufts.edu/publications/electronic/e_pipa.html

7) Minimum Standards in Disaster <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/GHARkit/sphere/SphereIndex4.htm>

SESSION 3: STAFF ISSUES: RECRUITMENT, LIFESTYLE, SECURITY

Readings for Session 3:

1) Another Day in Paradise Chapter 4 "Invincible" & Chapter 8 "The Tremor Within"

2) 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 (ed) (2002) (*Reader*)

3) 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#

4) UNHCR (2000) Handbook for Emergencies, UNHCR, Geneva; Chapter 22, Coping with Stress, pp. 318-323, *Chapter 23, Staff Safety*, pp. 323-333

http://www.sheltercentre.org/shelterlibrary/items/pdf/UNHCR_handbook_emergencies.pdf

5) WFP Emergency Field Operations Pocket book, 2002 (distributed in class)

6) *Security in the Field*, United Nations, 1998 (*will be distributed in class*)

SESSIONS 4, 5, 6: NATURAL DISASTERS

SESSION 4: DROUGHTS

Readings for Session 4:

1) Another Day in Paradise Chapter 1: Sudan

2) "Fighting Famine – Steps Out of Crisis" – IFPRI 2002 (*Reader*)

3) 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 (*Reader*)

4) Catherine Bertini Speech- United Nations Consolidated Appeal, Geneva, January 30, 2001

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

5) 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 (*Reader*)

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

SESSION 5: FLOODS

Hurricane Katrina, USA, 2005; Asian Tsunami 2004/2005

(*In-Class Video*) WFP Flood Operations in Mozambique (March 2000).

Readings for Session 5:

1) Another Day in Paradise Chapter 3: "Grandmother"

SESSION 6: OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS

Class presentations on natural disasters. Each class group makes a presentation on how their UN entity or NGO is focusing on a current natural disaster. (Graded)

SESSIONS 7, 8, 9: MAN-MADE DISASTERS: WAR, CIVIL STRIFE, INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, GENOCIDE, AND REFUGEES

SESSION 7: OVERVIEW, PLUS SOMALIA/RWANDA

Readings for Session 7:

- 1) Refugees and forced displacement: international security, human vulnerability, and the state / Tokyo; New York: United Nations University Press, 2003, William Maley, Ch. 14 (*Reader*)
- 2) The Turbulent Decade, Ogata Sadako, (2005) – Chapter 5
- 3) Catherine Bertini Speech: Food Aid in the context of conflict - UN Security Council, March 4, 2002 <http://www.wfp.org/BertiniBio/bertini/speeches/SecurityCouncil4Apr2002web.pdf>
- 4) Internal displacement- Global Overview of trends and developments—2004, Norwegian Refugee Council [http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/LHON-6ALGYW/\\$FILE/Global_overview_2004_NRC_Mar_2005.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/LHON-6ALGYW/$FILE/Global_overview_2004_NRC_Mar_2005.pdf?OpenElement)

SESSION 8: SPECIFIC COUNTRIES

Readings for Session 8:

- 1) Another Day in Paradise Chapter 7: "My Testimony" & Chapter 9 "Beyond the Lines"
- 2) Catherine Bertini Speeches: A crisis neglected: The Growing Humanitarian tragedy in Angola, August 23 1999 The Crisis in Sudan- US Congress, July 29 1998 WFP assistance in Northern Uganda, July 29, 1998 http://www.wfp.org/BertiniBio/bertini/speeches/index.asp?section=1&sub_section=3#

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 (*Reader*)
- 3) A Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Press Statement Office of the Spokesman, Washington DC, April 30, 2003 (*Reader*)

SESSION 10: GROUP PRESENTATIONS TO CLASS

Group presentations on aspects of man made 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)

SESSIONS 11 & 12: MAN-MADE DISASTERS - ECONOMIC SECURITY CRISIS

SESSION 11: NORTH KOREA

Readings for Session 11:

Natsios, Andrew, (2001) *The Great North Korean Famine, Famine, Politics, and Foreign Policy*, United States Institute of Peace Press, Washington DC Chapters 1, 2 and 8 (*Reader*)

Noland, Marcus (2003) *Famine and Reform in North Korea*

<http://www.iie.com/publications/wp/03-5.pdf>

Improving Intelligence on North Korea, Hazel Smith, *Jane's Intelligence Review* 2004 (*Reader*)

SESSION 12: DPRK In-class Simulation

Readings for Session 12:

To be determined

SESSION 13, 14: GENDER ISSUES, SAFETY OF STAFF, LOGISTICS, ORGANIZATION, THE PRESS, AND FUNDING OF HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

SESSION 13: GENDER ISSUES

Readings for Session 13:

1) *The Gender Dimension of Internal Displacement: Concept Paper and Annotated Bibliography*, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children Nov 1998

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/VONN5E2GY4/\\$FILE/Gender%20Dimension.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/VONN5E2GY4/$FILE/Gender%20Dimension.pdf?OpenElement)

2) *Save the Children Annual Report: State of the World's Mothers 2005 (will be provided)*

3) *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/IASC%20products/GBV%20guidelines%20Eng%209.13.05.pdf>

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

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: THE PRESS AND FUNDING

Readings for Session 14:

To be determined

BIBLIOGRAPHY (USEFUL, BUT NOT REQUIRED MATERIALS):

OCHA

Protect or Neglect? Toward a More Effective United Nations Approach to the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Simon Bagshaw, Diane Paul (2004), The Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement and The UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division, November 23, 2004

http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/protection_survey.pdf

UNHCR:

Handbook on emergencies, UNHCR, Emergency management section 2, ch. 3

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/LGEL-5E6KLD/\\$FILE/unhcrhandbook.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/LGEL-5E6KLD/$FILE/unhcrhandbook.pdf?OpenElement)

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.

UNICEF:

Varindra Tarzie Vittachi (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.

WFP:

George McGovern, (2001), The Third Freedom, Ending Hunger in Our Time, Simon and Shuster, NY.

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

ICRC:

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

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

Useful Maps:

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

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