

IREL 260: Humanitarianism

Spring 2013

Wed & Friday, 8:30-9:52 AM

Location: Coleman 056



INSTRUCTOR:

Jason Cons

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Office: Coleman 013

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 3-4:30 & by appointment

Course Overview:

What is humanitarian intervention? What are the responsibilities of those who intervene in crises around the globe? How are responses to crises planned and carried out? And what political considerations govern how humanitarian workers interact with those they seek to help? This course offers an exploration of these and other questions related to humanitarianism and humanitarian intervention. Students will explore the history of international relief, the logics of intervention in various crises, and key challenges and debates around issues such as sovereignty, neutrality, victimhood, and empowerment.

Bucknell University Honor Code:

As a student and citizen of the Bucknell University community:

1. I will not lie, cheat or steal in my academic endeavors.
2. I will forthrightly oppose each and every instance of academic dishonesty.
3. I will communicate directly and promptly with any person or persons I believe to have been dishonest in academic work.
4. I will let my conscience guide my decision on reporting breaches of academic integrity to the appropriate faculty or deans.

Bucknell University expectations for academic engagement:

“Courses at Bucknell that receive one unit of academic credit have a minimum expectation of 12 hours per week of student academic engagement. Student academic engagement includes both the hours of direct faculty instruction (or its equivalent) and the hours spent on out of class student work. Half and quarter unit courses at Bucknell should have proportionate expectations for student engagement.”

Academic Responsibility:

Please, review Bucknell’s policies regarding:

Academic Integrity:

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1340.xml>

Avoiding Plagiarism:

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Unauthorized Collaboration:

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1344.xml>

Bucknell Resources for Research & Writing:

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1342.xml>

Course Format:

This is largely a discussion-based course, although I will provide framing lectures and will generally start off and close each class with some remarks that help to contextualized course topics and readings. We will occasionally work in small groups to explore specific cases. We will cover a range of different materials including academic writings, policy documents, case studies, and films. I expect your full, active, and professional participation in class

Email Policy:

Please, feel free to contact me. However, please also keep in mind that I am as busy as you. Make sure you consult the course syllabus, other handouts, and the course Moodle site BEFORE sending an e-mail. Note that e-mail should NOT be seen as an alternative to meeting with me during office hours. Nor should e-mail be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials or to explain material that was covered in classes you missed (those are your responsibility to obtain from your peers). I will endeavor to respond within 24 hours.

Moodle and Required Texts:

Most of the readings for this course will be posted on Moodle. This is also where you will submit papers, reading responses, etc. Additionally, students should purchase copies of:

Barnett, M. 2011. *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Cornell University Press.

Poleman, L. 2010. *The crisis Caravan: What’s Wrong with Humanitarian Aid*. Picador.

Copies are available in the campus bookstore and at various online sites.

Learning Objectives/ Goals Unique to this course: Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Explain the various historical and contemporary politics of humanitarian intervention
- Identify and explain contemporary debates over humanitarian practice and ethics (around issues such as sovereignty, neutrality, etc.)
- Use a series of key theoretical and analytical concepts related to humanitarianism (sovereignty, victimhood, witnessing, etc.)
- Analyze the challenges and complexities of humanitarian intervention from a range of different standpoints (theoretical, policy, etc.)

Learning Objectives/Goals overlapping with the Learning Goals of the IR Department:

- *Understand the major concepts of international relations*
- *Understand and critically evaluate the theories and approaches to international relations*
- *Identify the key actors in international relations*
- *Demonstrate a knowledge of the key dimensions, events and processes of international relations within their historic context*
- *Demonstrate knowledge of the multi-disciplinary nature of international relations*
- *Demonstrate skills of critical analysis and written and oral communication*

Assignments:

- **Class Participation: 20%**
(active and respectful participation, informed understandings of readings, leadership in class, etc.)
- **Mid-Term Take-home Essay: 25%**
(5-8 page prompt-based paper)
- **Reading Responses (10): 15%**
(2 Page discussions of readings complete with a discussion question.)
- **Final Paper: 40%**
(16-20 page research paper).

This is a Global Connections Course:

We live in a world in which globalization is reshaping politics and economics as well as social and cultural relations. Global Connections courses expose students to those questions of difference that have evolved over time, between peoples and social systems across the global community, as well as the interdependence that underscores the very nature of such studies.

Global Connections courses, including some study abroad experiences, provide students with the necessary tools to identify and explore different cultural perspectives and the interrelationships between and across cultures. Global Connections courses provide students with the requisite knowledge to understand and analyze problems, policies and issues from their interdependent points of view.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will use concepts and tools of inquiry to examine the beliefs, history, social experiences, social structures, artistic or literary expressions, and/or traditions of one or more cultures or societies located outside the United States.

OR

2. Students will use appropriate tools of inquiry to understand the interdependent nature of the global system and the consequences this interdependence has for political, economic and social problems.

Introduction: Humanitarian Intervention as Power and Practice

Wednesday, January 16--Course Introduction

Histories and Presents of Humanitarianism

Friday, January 18: Humanitarian Intentions

- Barnett, M. "Introduction: The Crooked Timber of Humanitarianism." In *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Pp. 1-18.
- Calhoun, C. "The Imperative to Reduce Suffering: Charity, Progress, and Emergencies in the Field of Humanitarian Action." In *Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics*. Pp.73-97.

Recommended:

- Herman, J. 2011. "Humanitarian Challenges: A Matter of Principles." *The Broker*. Pp. 4-8.
- Ignatieff, M. 2002. "Mission Possible? A Review of *A Bed for the Night*, by David Rieff." *The New York Review of Books*. December 19.
- Reiff, D. 2002. "The Hazards of Charity." In *A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis*. Pp. 57-91.

Wednesday, January 23: Humanitarian Crisis? 1

- Polman, L. Chapters 1-5 of *The Crisis Caravan: What's Wrong with Humanitarian Aid?* Pp. 1-105.

Friday, January 25: Humanitarian Crisis? 2

- Polman, L. Chapters 6-Afterward of *The Crisis Caravan: What's Wrong with Humanitarian Aid?* Pp. 106-179.
- Gourevitch, P. "Alms Dealers: Can You Provide Humanitarian Aid without Facilitating Conflicts?" *The New Yorker*. October 11, 2010.

Wednesday, January 30: Humanitarianism: What is it (Good) For?

- Barnett, M. "Co-Dependence: Humanitarianism and the World." In *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Pp. 19-46.
- Fassin, D. 2007. "Humanitarianism as a Politics of Life." *Public Culture*. Vol 19, No 3. Pp. 499-520.

Friday, February 1: Humanitarian Past

- Feldman, I. "Difficult Distinctions: Refugee Law, Humanitarian Practice, and Political Identification in Gaza." *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol 22, No 1. 129-169.

Recommended:

- Barnett, M. "Saving Soldiers and Civilians During War." In *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Pp. 72-94.

The Humanitarian Everyday: Shaping Humanitarian Interventions

Wednesday, February 6: Humanitarianism and/or Human Rights?

- Hilton, M. 2012. "International Aid and Development NGOs in Britain and Human Rights since 1945." *Humanity*. Vol 3, No 3. Pp. 449-472.
- SKIM: ActionAid. "Training Manual: Learning About Rights--Module 2."

Friday, February 8: The Gift of Aid

- Bornstein, E. 2012. "Philanthropy." In *Disquieting Gifts: Humanitarianism in New Delhi*. Pp. 23-58.

Wednesday, February 13: Donor Imperatives

- Barrett, C and D. Maxwell. 2005. "11 Myths about Food Aid." In *Food Aid After 50 Years: Recasting Its Roles*.
- Walker, P. and D. Maxwell. 2008. "States as Responders and Donors." In *Shaping the Humanitarian World*. Pp. 79-96.

Recommended:

- Bellion-Jourdan, J. 2007. "Are Muslim Charities Purely Humanitarian?: A Real but Misleading Question." In *Nongovernmental Politics*. Pp. 647-657.
- Hopgood, S. 2008. "Saying 'No' to Wal-Mart? Money and Morality in Professional Humanitarianism." In *Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics*. Pp. 98-123.

Friday, February 15: Humanitarianism and Everyday Politics

- Ticktin, M. 2006. "Where Ethics and Politics Meet: The Violence of Humanitarianism in France." *American Ethnologist*. Vol 33, No 1. Pp. 33-49.

The Logic of Intervention: Neutrality as/or Politics

Wednesday, February 20: The Dilemmas of Neutrality

- Barnett, M. "Humanitarianism during Wartime." In *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Pp 132-170.
- Redfield, P. 2010. "The Impossible Problem of Neutrality." In *Forces of Compassion: Humanitarianism Between Ethics and Politics*. Pp. 53-70.

Recommended:

- Allen, T. and D. Styan. 2000. "A Right to Interfere? Bernard Kouchner and the New Humanitarianism." *Journal of International Development*. Vol 12. Pp. 825-842.

Friday, February 22: Ethiopia and Humanitarian Crisis

- Weizman, E. "Arendt in Ethiopia" In *The Least of All Possible Evils: Humanitarian Violence from Arendt to Gaza*. Pp. 27-62.

Recommended:

- de Wall, A. 1997. "Northern Ethiopia: Revolution, War-Famine & Two Models of Relief." In *Famine Crimes: Politics & the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa*. Pp. 106-132.

Wednesday, February 27: Neutrality and Reckoning

- Barnett, M. "The UN Security Council, Indifference, and Genocide in Rwanda." In *The International Humanitarian Order*. Pp. 111-139.

- de Waal. 1997. "Humanitarian Impunity: Somalia 1993 & Rwanda 1994." In *Famine Crimes: Politics & the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa*. Pp. 159-178.

Recommended:

- Reiff, D. "Rwanda." In *A Bed for the Night: Humanitarianism in Crisis*. Pp. 155-193.

Humanitarianism and Sovereignty

Friday, March 1: Sovereign States or Sovereign Interventions?

- Barnett, M. 2011. Chapters 8-10 in *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Pp. 161-219.

Wednesday, March 6: Sovereign States or Sovereign Interventions 2?

- Barnett, M. 2010. "The New United Nations Politics of Peace: From Juridical Sovereignty to Empirical Sovereignty." In *The International Humanitarian Order*. Pp. 45-62.
- Elden, S. 2006. "Contingent Sovereignty, Territorial Integrity and the Sanctity of Borders." *SAIS Review*. Vo. XXVI, No. 1. Pp. 11-24

Recommended:

- Weiss, T. 2004. "The Sunset of Humanitarian Intervention? The Responsibility to Protect in a Unipolar Era." *Security Dialogue*. Vol 35, No 2. Pp. 135-153.

MID-TERM PAPERS DUE THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Wednesday, March 20: Humanitarian Spaces

- Collinson and Elhawary. 2012. *Humanitarian Space: A Review of Trends and Issues*. Humanitarian Policy Group Report 32.
- Hilhorst, D. and B. Jansen. 2010. "Humanitarian Space as Arena: A Perspective on the Everyday Politics of Aid." *Development and Change*. Vol 41, No 6. Pp. 1117-1139.

Friday, March 22: Questioning Humanitarian Sovereignty

- Agier, M. 2010. "Humanity as an Identity and Its Political Effects (A Note on Camps and Humanitarian Government)." *Humanity*. Vol. 1, No. 1. Pp. 29-45.
- Pandolfi, M. 2010. "From Paradox to Paradigm: The Permanent State of Emergency in the Balkans." In *Contemporary States of Emergency: The Politics of Military and Humanitarian Intervention*. Pp. 335-356.

Humanitarian Compassion: Witnessing and Suffering

Wednesday, March 27: Social Suffering?

- Fassin, D. and Rechtman, R. 2009. "Humanitarian Psychiatry." In *The Empire of Trauma: An Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood*. Pp. 163-188.

Friday, March 29: What is a Victim?

- Meyers, D. 2011. "Two Victim Paradigms and the Problem of "Impure" Victims." *Humanity*. Vol. 2, No. 2. Pp. 255-276

- de Waal, A. 2008. "The Humanitarian Carnival: A Celebrity Vogue." *World Affairs*. Fall. 43-55.

Wednesday, April 3: The Consumption of Suffering

- Sontag, S. 2004. excerpts from *Regarding the Pain of Others*.

Humanitarianism and the Techno-Politics of Implementation

Friday, April 5: Theories and Practices

Guest Lecture by Erin Lentz, Research Support Specialist, Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University

- Levine, S. and Chastre, C. 2004. "Missing the Point: An Analysis of Food Security Interventions in the Great Lakes." *Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI*.

Wednesday, April 10: Strategies of Deployment

- Redfield, P. 2008. "Vital Mobility and the Humanitarian Kit." In *Biosecurity Interventions*. Pp. 147-172.

Friday, April 13: Planned Interventions or Adhocracy?

Guest Lecture by Elizabeth Dunn, Department of Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Dunn, E. 2012. "The Chaos of Humanitarian Aid: Adhocracy in the Republic of Georgia." *Humanity*. Vol 3, No 1. Pp. 1-33.

Militarization and Humanitarianism

Wednesday, April 17: Managing Risk

- Duffield, M. 2012. "Risk Management and the Bunkering of the Aid Industry." *Development Dialogue: The End of the Development Security Nexus? The Rise of Global Disaster Management*. No. 58. Pp. 21-36.

Recommended:

- Gelot, L. and F. Söderbaum. 2012. "Rethinking Intervention and Interventionism." *Development Dialogue: The End of the Development Security Nexus? The Rise of Global Disaster Management*. No. 58. Pp. 131-150.

Friday, April 19: *Three Cups of Tea* and The Ethics of Intervention

- Mortenson, G. and D. Relin. 2006. Selections from *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*.
- Ali, N. 2010. "Books vs Bombs? Humanitarian Development and the Narrative of Terror in Northern Pakistan." *Third World Quarterly*. Vol 31, No 4. Pp. 541-559.

Wednesday, April 24: Friday, April 19: On the Ground Militarism

Guest Lecture by Joe Bryan, Department of Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Bryan, J. Mimeo. *TBD*

Recommended:

- Plemmons, D. and R. Albro. 2012. "Practicing Ethics and Ethical Practice: The Case of Anthropologists and Military Humanitarians." *Humanity*. Vol 3, No 2. Pp. 179-197.

Friday, April 26--Course Conclusion

Tuesday, May 7: Final Paper Due at 2:45