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International Association of Universities

Course manual
Joint Master's Programme in
International Humanitarian Action

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN WORLD POLITICS
Part 1

Module 201

Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) Ruhr-University Bochum

version 12 August 2016

RUHR UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

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Credits awarded:	5 ECTS, equivalent to 125 work hours (1 ECTS = 25 hours)
Venue:	IFHV lecture room, 4.46-47

Part I	2 SWS/ 2 ECTS	The Governance of Humanitarian Action in World Politics
04.10.2016	*Behmer*	Introduction to Basic Course
10.10.2016	*Andersen*	Understanding World Politics I: Historical Development
10.10.2016	*Andersen*	Understanding World Politics II: IR Theories
11.10.2016	*Andersen*	Understanding World Politics III: Actors
11.10.2016	*Andersen*	International Development: Theories, Actors & Politics
11.10.2016	*Andersen*	MDG's & SDG's
11.10.2016	*Andersen*	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development (LRRD)
19.10.2016	*Behmer*	Humanitarian Interventions & R2P
19.10.2016	*Behmer*	Civil Military Relations
18.10.2016	*Behmer*	Security Governance & Human Security
18.10.2016	*Behmer*	Women, Peace and Security & Gender Mainstreaming in HA
25.10.2016	*Behmer*	(New?) Donor Politics
25.10.2016	*Behmer*	Closing Session: Politics of Humanitarian Aid
Part II	2 SWS/ 2 ECTS	Specialization
08.11.2016 – 21.12.2016	*Hirschmann*	tba
Module Examination		
Presentation	40 % grade	In session 1-12 of course I or II
Paper	60 % grade	Submission before 20. January 2016

1. Introduction

All humanitarian action and development aid is intertwined in a complex web of political interactions among states and non-state actors, such as international organizations (IO's) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as citizens e.g., local communities and beneficiaries. Grasping the interaction and interests of these actors is a prerequisite for understanding why humanitarian action succeeds or fails.

This module is divided in two parts: The first part will provide a basic understanding of humanitarian action in world politics. The second part is a specialization and will cover a recent topic more in detail, such as migration, peacebuilding or health governance.

Part one aims to understand and explain international politics and governance in our complex world. The IR perspective on humanitarian action looks at the evolution of the international system as we know it today. It introduces the students to key concepts, major theoretical approaches and developments in political science in general and IR in particular. Moreover, it looks at the behavior of actors in the humanitarian system and the broader context of international politics. Thus, it looks beyond the major operational components of the humanitarian system. It takes a closer look at different IO's on global level, such as the UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions, on regional level, such as the EU, as well as NGO's and their growing importance in shaping and governing world politics in the humanitarian domain. We will discuss the interrelation of short-term humanitarian action and long-term development cooperation. It thus examines the crosscutting issues between international relations, humanitarian action and development policy. It explains, for example, the concept of Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) which connects short-term, crises-oriented humanitarian action with long-term development activities. Furthermore it includes the study of states, as donors and in their role as affected states, limiting access to victims of humanitarian crisis or seeking to exploit humanitarian aid for national interests. Moreover, IR seeks to understand how the relations between those different actors influence humanitarian action and are influenced by trends and developments in world politics. For instance we look at good governance, securitization, emerging donor politics and civil-military relations.

2. Learning outcomes

The overall learning objective is to familiarize students with the key theories and concepts of IR as they relate to International Humanitarian Action. In order to achieve this objective the NOHA programme is officially based on competence-based learning in accordance with the requirements for future humanitarian workers, as well as with regard to scientific research. In particular, students will acquire the following competencies and capacities as developed by NOHA Curriculum Development:

a) Has shown familiarity with the main approaches and concepts of international relations;
b) Has shown the ability to anticipate new crisis situations in international political settings;
c) Has shown adequate capacity for (self-) reflection on academic argumentation;
d) Has demonstrated the capacity to identify the roots and causes of conflicts/complex emergencies in a particular case;
e) Has shown the ability to apply certain key concepts of International Politics to concrete disaster situations;
f) Has shown to be able to transfer acquired knowledge to other humanitarian situations;
g) Has demonstrated a clear understanding of the international humanitarian system in world politics, with an emphasis on the power relations between actors;
h) Has developed basic skills for acting in and reacting to intercultural contexts.

In order to acquire these competencies, the sessions will focus on one main topic each. They consist of a combination of lectures, teacher-class dialogue, student presentations, and individual and team working phases. In each session, students will provide a presentation on a specific topic, which will be further elaborated in the final written paper due at the end of the semester.

3.   WORKLOAD

Attendance of classes and seminars (contact hours)	40 hours
Required reading	30 hours
Individual assignment during the semester (input presentation)	15 hours
Preparation of final paper	40 hours
Total	**125 hours**

4.   GRADING

Criteria for assessment

Course attendance and active participation in discussions is mandatory. The grading is based on two elements: (1) input presentations (counting 40% of the individual grade) and (2) written assignment input presentation or topic of choice (counting 60% of the individual grade).

1   Presentation

During the semester, each student will take over an assignment in form of an input presentation. The presentations will either focus on one central issue of the thematic sessions or on a selected case study. All presentations need to include a theoretical approach or concept. There will be one presentation in each session. Students should provide a one-page handout (or a PPP), which is to be handed in one week in advance (except for the first session). At the beginning of the semester the topics for the input presentations will be distributed.

Criteria for assessment of the presentations:
* Content
* Argumentation
* Review of the relevant literature (state of the art)
* Presentation skills

2   Paper

Students are required to write a paper of approximately 10-12 pages on the topic/case study of their input presentation or another relevant topic of their choice. ***The written assignments are due on 20 January 2017***.

Requirements for the written assignment:
* Clear structure, distinctive methodological and theoretical approach and review of the relevant literature (state of the art)
* Adhere to rules and principles of scientific writing (e.g., referencing)
* Arguments (be critical and express your own opinions, as distinct from merely describing what is in cases, documents, or authors' opinions) Word count (approximately 7000 words maximum)
* Understandable and correct use of language
* Form, typography and layout

The **following criteria** will be used for grading the written assignments:
* Content and arguments
* Structure and composition
* Command of research skills
* Formal requirements of scientific writing, incl. correct and appealing use of language
* Originality

Elements		Due date	Share
Input presentation		In session 1-12 of Part I or II	**40%**
Written assignment		20.01.2017	**60%**
Individual Grade			**100 %**

5. COURSE ORGANIZATION AND READINGS Part A				
	Date	Lecturer	Session/Required Reading	Student presentation
S				
	29.09.2016	Behmer	**Introduction to Basic Course**	-
1	10.10.2016	Andersen	**Understanding World Politics I: Historical Development** (Karns, Mingst 2010a)	-
2	10.10.2016	Andersen	**Understanding World Politics II: IR Theories** (Karns, Mingst 2010c)	(Neo) realism vs. (Neo) liberalism: Main assumptions, arguments and today's relevance for analyzing humanitarian action in world politics (Lamy 2006), (Dunne, Schmidt 2006), (Dunne 2006)
				Social constructivism: Main assumptions, arguments and today's relevance for analyzing humanitarian action in world politics (Barnett 2006)
				World system theory: Main assumptions, arguments and today's relevance for analyzing humanitarian action in world politics (Hobden, Jones)
3	11.10.2016	Andersen	**Understanding World Politics III: Actors** (Koch 2011)	Regional vs. global humanitarian governance: Case studies ECHO vs. OCHA (Zyck 2013), (Orbie et al. 2014), (Weiss 2015)
4	11.10.2016	Andersen	**International Development: Theories, Actors & Politics**	
5	11.10.2016	Andersen	**MDG's- & SDG's**	What is the relevance of the SDG's for humanitarian actors? (Easton 2016)
6	11.10.2016	Andersen	**Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development (LRRD)** (Mosel, Levine 2014)	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development: Concept & challenge from the perspective of humanitarian actors (Mosel, Levine 2014)
7	18.10.2016	Behmer	**Humanitarian Interventions & R2P** (Alex J. Bellamy and Nicholas J. Wheeler 2009)	R2P from idea to norm: Benefit or danger for humanitarian action? (Thakur, Weiss 2009)
8	18.10.2016	Behmer	**Civil Military Relations**	Civil military relations in humanitarian emergencies: challenges and obstacles (United Nations 2007)
9	19.10.2016	Behmer	**Security Governance & Human Security** (Karns, Mingst 2010b)	Human security & humanitarian action (Sascha Werthes 2006)

10	19.10. 2016	Behmer	**Women, Peace and Security & Gender Mainstreaming in HA**	Gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action (Case Studies) (Mazurana 2015)
11	25.10. 2016	Behmer	**(New?) Donor Politics**	Emerging donors (Case Studies) (Binder, Meier 2011)
12	25.10. 2016	Behmer	**Closing Session: Politics of Humanitarian Aid** (Barnett 2013)	What can critical theory contribute to the study of humanitarianism? (Rieff 2002)

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Recommended Literature

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