



The School of Law and Government

Key Issues in International Relations

Humanitarian Studies

LG 329

Spring 2023

Dr Volkan Yilmaz

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Lectures

Mondays btw 3-4 pm @ GLA.QG27

Thursdays btw 12-1 pm @ GLA.C115

Office hours

Thursdays btw 4-6 pm @ GLA.CG47 or
online

Always by appointment, please use
this link to book a slot **at least one**
day before the meeting:

<https://calendly.com/volkan-yilmaz/office-hours-for-volkan-yilmaz>

Module description

What is the function and purpose of the international humanitarian system? What do humanitarian organisations do? What challenges does the international humanitarian system face today? How and to what extent can humanitarian action contribute to durable solutions for people affected by disasters and conflict? What are the benefits and limits of humanitarian action in addressing the needs of the affected people and ensuring their human rights are realised? Addressing these questions, the Humanitarian Studies module will help students to explore the fundamental issues, concepts and themes in contemporary humanitarian studies. Throughout the module, the students will be invited to reflect on the link between conceptual elements and case studies. After completing this module, the students should have adequate knowledge of the diversity of current humanitarian challenges and conceptual frameworks as well as courses of action to address these challenges.



Austrian prisoners of war in Italy during the First World War. Source: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Library / RR / hist-02540-11a

Module organisation

Complementing theoretical and conceptual elements with empirical and practical ones, the module is organised as a series of lectures and class discussions.

Learning objectives

- LO1 – Gain familiarity with key concepts, principles and courses of action in international humanitarian action. (Knowledge-based)
- LO2 – Identify the difference between humanitarian and development policy, and its importance. (Knowledge-based)
- LO3 – Describe key tenets and stakeholders of the international humanitarian system. (Knowledge-based)
- LO4 – Learn to apply different frameworks, methods and courses of action for analysing a range of humanitarian challenges such as needs assessment, situation analysis and results matrix. (Skills-based)

Assessment Overview

I expect you to read or listen to the material assigned each week before the lecture, attend lectures and class discussions regularly and follow The New Humanitarian (<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/>) to keep yourself updated on current developments in the humanitarian field. Formal module assessment is based on two elements:

- 1) You are expected to submit a **logical framework matrix (log frame) for your dream humanitarian project as a group project** (maximum 5 students in a group) (40%) Start off by forming your group and informing me about this via e-mail until **February 20 at midnight**. An online lecture on developing a log frame in the humanitarian sector will be delivered by a guest lecturer (Dr Talita Cetinoglu, University of Groningen) on **February 20**. A concrete guideline for log frames will be published at the end of the reading week (**March 6**). The deadline for submitting your log frames via Loop is **6 pm on May 5**. A basic log frame looks like this:

| | PROJECT SUMMARY | INDICATORS | MEANS OF VERIFICATION | RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS |
|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Goal | | | | |
| Outcomes | | | | |
| Outputs | | | | |
| Activities | | | | |

Photograph: Piroaska Bisits Bullen/Tools4dev

- 2) Two in-class tests (30% each = 60%). These will assess whether the first three learning objectives had been met. In-class tests will take place during the following regular class meetings (**February 23** and **April 13**).

Grading scale: HI = 70% or above (Excellent); H2.1 = 60-69% (Very Good); H2.2 = 50-59% (Good); H3 46-49% (Satisfactory); H3 40-45% (Sufficient); Fail 30-39% (Fail – some work required); Fail 29% or below (Fail – considerable further work required)

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|---|--|
| Jan 16 | Introduction |
| Jan 19 (lecture) Jan 23 (class discussion) | <p>The purpose of and the need for humanitarian action</p> <p>Cristina Churruca-Muguruza (2018) The Changing Context of Humanitarian Action: Key Challenges and Issues, in Hans-Joachim Heintze, HJ and Thielbörger, P. (eds.) <i>International Humanitarian Action</i>, Springer, 3 – 18.</p> |
| Jan 26 (lecture) Jan 30 (class discussion) | <p>International humanitarian system: States, international organisations and non-governmental organisations</p> <p>Uwe Andersen, Katharina Behmer (2018) The Governance of Humanitarian Action in World Politics, in Hans-Joachim Heintze, HJ and Thielbörger, P. (eds.) <i>International Humanitarian Action</i>, Springer, 79 – 101.</p> |
| Feb 2 (lecture) Feb 9 (class discussion) | <p>Humanitarian action in a broader context of power and politics</p> <p>Anna Khakee (2018) Humanitarian Action in International Relations: Power and Politics, in Hans-Joachim Heintze, HJ and Thielbörger, P. (eds.) <i>International Humanitarian Action</i>, Springer, 19 – 29.</p> |
| Feb 13 (lecture) Feb 16 (class discussion) | <p>Humanitarian principles and professionalism in humanitarian action</p> <p>Andrej Zwitter (2018) Principles and Professionalism, in Hans-Joachim Heintze, HJ and Thielbörger, P. (eds.) <i>International Humanitarian Action</i>, Springer, 103 – 120.</p> |
| Feb 20 (online guest lecture) | <p>Managing humanitarian action</p> <p>Pat Gibbons (2018) Managing Humanitarian Action: An Introduction, in Hans-Joachim Heintze, HJ and Thielbörger, P. (eds.) <i>International Humanitarian Action</i>, Springer, 397 – 415.</p> <p>Guest lecture on “<i>Managing humanitarian action</i>”: Dr Talita Cetinoglu (University of Groningen) – Feb 20</p> |
| Feb 23 | In-class test I |

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| <p>Mar 6 (on-campus guest lecture)</p> <p>Mar 9 (class discussion)</p> | <p>International refugee law</p> <p>Hans-Joachim Heintze and Charlotte Lülff (2018) Protection of Refugees and Minorities, in Hans-Joachim Heintze, HJ and Thielbörger, P. (eds.) <i>International Humanitarian Action</i>, Springer, 209 – 218.</p> <p>Guest lecture on “Who is a refugee according to international law?”: Dr Janine Silga (Dublin City University) – Mar 6</p> |
| <p>Mar 13 (lecture)</p> <p>Mar 16 (class discussion)</p> | <p>The quest for durable solutions I: Human rights-based approach to humanitarian programming</p> <p>International Organization for Migration (2015) Rights-Based Approach to Programming, Geneva, 11 – 23.</p> |
| <p>Mar 20 (on-campus guest lecture)</p> <p>Mar 23 (class discussion)</p> | <p>The quest for durable solutions II: Resilience and humanitarian action</p> <p>Dorothea Hilhorst (2018) Classical humanitarianism and resilience humanitarianism: making sense of two brands of humanitarian action. <i>Journal of International Humanitarian Action</i>, 3(1), 1 – 12.</p> <p>Guest lecture on “Coping strategies and resilience: Evidence from two informal settlements in Nairobi, Kenya”: Dr Desire Mpanje (University College Dublin) – Mar 20</p> |
| <p>Mar 27 (lecture)</p> <p>Mar 30 (class discussion)</p> | <p>The quest for durable solutions III: Protracted conflict and the humanitarian – development divide</p> <p>International Committee of the Red Cross (2021) Intercross Podcast Episode #115 Protracted Conflict, http://traffic.libsyn.com/d19a74fa-ef4b-4df8-969f-8b5732c30b5c/1004780614-user-940374434-protracted-conflict.mp3</p> |
| <p>Apr 3 (lecture)</p> <p>Apr 6 (class discussion)</p> | <p>The quest for durable solutions IV: Localisation in humanitarian action</p> <p>Kristina Roepstorff (2020) A call for critical reflection on the localisation agenda in humanitarian action. <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 41(2), 284 – 301.</p> <p>Guest lecture on “Working with local partners in the field: the case of child protection in Türkiye”: Sezen Yalcin (UNICEF Türkiye) To be confirmed. – Apr 6</p> |
| <p>Apr 13</p> | <p>In class test II</p> |