

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	Dutch	seminar	10.0 h
		lecture	35.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

De Cordier, Bruno	PS05	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Nursing and Midwifery</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Conflict and Development</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Conflict and Development</a>	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

humanitarian aid; emergency relief; food aid; emergencies; natural disasters; armed conflicts and complex political emergencies; institutional and private donors; UN; NGOs; OECD and non-OECD donors; humanitarian cultures; the history of the humanitarian sector; aid economy; refugees and Internally Displaced Persons; current humanitarian contexts; impact of humanitarian aid.

Position of the course

The purpose of this introductory course is to familiarize the students with the emergence, development, content, the operational framework, practices and the various actors of international humanitarian aid and emergency relief. Relation to educational competences: M.1.3., M.1.6., M.2.1., M.2.2., M.2.4., M.3.1., M.3.3., M.3.5., M.4.3., M.5.1., M.5.2., M.5.3.

Contents

The course's central theme is humanitarian assistance, a form of international aid that that is usually, though not only, deployed in response to natural disasters and violent conflict. Contrary to development aid, it is of a more short-term nature, yet it forms an often misestimated component of international relations. More concretely, the following topics will be treated in this course:

- the definition(s) and history of humanitarian aid and of the humanitarian sector;
- the current size and composition of global humanitarian assistance and emergency relief;
- the core actors of humanitarian assistance: governmental donors and the characteristics of their policies; specialized UN agencies; the Red Cross; humanitarian NGOs; the private sector; the authorities of/in the recipient countries;

- and the populations and societies in/of the recipient countries;
- the humanitarian space;
- non-OECD aid actors and –donors;
- future trends of, or affecting, the humanitarian sector;
- operational issues: humanitarian coordination and humanitarian security management.

Students who are enrolled for this course will – provisionally – be offered the opportunity to voluntarily and for a fee the amount of which is to be determined, follow a practice-oriented module on aspects of humanitarian action. This activity, which is organized by the lecturer in collaboration with an external partner organization, will – again, provisionally – take place *extra muros*, during a week-end in the latter part of the semester. Participation will not be included in the overall evaluation and exam, but the partner organization will issue its own certificate to the participants.

Finally, there will be a special ‘open lecture’ during the semester about the possibilities and realities of working in the humanitarian sector.

#### Initial competences

No specific initial competences required, but participants are to have at least a working knowledge of Dutch (which is the language of instruction) as well as French and English (because of literature and audiovisual materials and possible guest lectures in those languages).

#### Final competences

- 1 A thorough insight in the composition, functioning and realities of the humanitarian sector and emergency aid;
- 2 A framework that enables one to estimate the role and impact of the humanitarian sector when one is confronted with contexts with humanitarian presence
- 3 Usable knowledge about the humanitarian sector when one gets employed in that sphere or aspires to be

#### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### Teaching methods

Lecture, seminar

#### Extra information on the teaching methods

Treatment of the above-mentioned issues and chapters on the bases of historical as well as recent examples, case studies and practical examples, possibility for interaction between the lecturer and the participants, and use of audiovisual materials to illustrate issues or to function as an onset for further discussion.

#### Learning materials and price

Course book written by the lecturer (which will cost about 30 EURO); audiovisual productions; digital presentations which will be shared through the usual learning portal (Minerva).

#### References

##### Journals:

- Disasters- The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management, ;
- Revue humanitaire- Enjeux, pratiques, débats, ;
- The European Journal of Development Research, ;
- Humanitarian Exchange, the Working & Discussion Papers, de Briefing Papers en de Research Reports van de Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute, ;
- Humanitaires en mouvement van de Groupe Urgence, Réhabilitation et Développement, ;
- Forced Migration Review, ;
- Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge, .

##### Standard works:

- Clapp, Jennifer (2012), ‘Hunger in the balance. The new politics of international food aid’, Cornell University Press.
- Dijkzeul, Dennis en Herman, Joost (2010), Humanitaire ruimte: tussen onpartijdigheid en politiek’, Academia Press.
- Lieser, Jürgen, Dijkzeul, Dennis (2013), ‘Handbuch humanitäre Hilfe’, Springer Verlag.
- Mac Ginty, Roger, Peterson, Jenny H. (2013) ‘The Routledge companion on

humanitarian action', Routledge.

- Ryfman, Philippe (2016), 'Une histoire de l'humanitaire', La Découverte.
- Tarp, Finn (2002), 'Foreign aid and development. Lessons learnt and directions for the future', Taylor and Francis.

#### Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through the Minerva portal; individual consultation (by appointment); and support and facilities connected to the lecturer's department in the form of access to the library, and the use of research carried out by the department and its two research wings.

#### Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

#### Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

#### Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

#### Extra information on the examination methods

The final exam basically has two parts:

- one that will assess the participant's ready knowledge about basic terms and concepts of/in humanitarian aid (6/20);
- questions that will assess the participant's insight and understanding, in which trends and situations, possibly based on a case study, will have to be explained and framed (14/20)

#### Calculation of the examination mark

- 20/20: final exam
- the usual conditions apply

#### Facilities for Working Students

Possibility of alternative examination date. Conditions apply.