Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Study time</th>
<th>Contact hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>150 h</td>
<td>45.0 h</td>
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

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

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

De Cordier, Bruno  PS05  lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

- Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Political Science)  5  A
- Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies  5  A
- Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences  5  A

Teaching languages

English

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 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.

The latter topics will (under reservation) be attached to (a) practical seminar(s) in cooperation with an external partner. Finally, there will be a special ‘open lecture’ about the possibilities and realities of working in the humanitarian sector.

(Approved)
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 and case studies, 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. If we identify a suitable external partner for this, (a) more practical working seminar(s) will (possibly - t.b.c.) be organized about specific operational issues.

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;
- Alternatives humanitaires-Humanitarian alternatives;
- 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 movement- Humanitarian aid on the move, by the Groupe Urgence, Réhabilitation et Développement;
- Forced Migration Review;
- Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge-International Review of the Red Cross.

Standard works:

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

(Approved)
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.