

**Description of the course:** (Five sentences at most)

The past three decades have witnessed a major transformation of humanitarian action. Geopolitical changes have profoundly changed the environment in which humanitarian action, at a time when internal scandals have shaken the system and pointed to the need for change. The global COVID-19 pandemic has changed things even more. This class will challenge students to consider the principles, analytical perspectives, and the actions required to protect the lives, livelihoods, and human dignity of crisis-affected people. It introduces students to a broad range of research and evidence that constitutes our collective knowledge on humanitarian action in complex emergencies, to the key ethical and policy debates, and to the practical dilemmas that surround contemporary humanitarian action.

**Organization of the course:**

**Teaching Format Definitions:** *Online*=course offered remotely either asynchronously or synchronously; *Hybrid*=Course offered remotely asynchronously or synchronously with some optional classroom on-campus components; *In-person*=Course offered only in the classroom on-campus

- Online
- Hybrid
- In-person

- Recorded/Posted on Canvas
- Livestreamed

**Details:**

Given the prevailing public health situation this year, the class will meet in a combination of formats:

1. All lectures/presentations will be on-line, and can be viewed “asynchronously” at any point during the week prior to the scheduled class meeting time: Monday at 3:15 pm Boston time.
2. In lieu of class discussion, there will be two on-line chat forums to be used asynchronously.
  - a. The first forum can be used specifically to ask questions of clarification about the presentations or the readings for the week. The instructor and TA will monitor these closely.
  - b. The second forum will be used for a class discussion. Several questions will be posed some questions each week. Each member of the class will respond to each question, and the reply to at least two other responses. The point here is to have a discussion or debate— asynchronously but in near-real time. The instructor and TA will also monitor these chat forums but they are intended as a class discussion, not just a Q&A session.
3. The other part of the class session will be “synchronous” or live. Whether this “live” portion is on line or in person will depend on the wishes and constraints of the students.
  - a. For students who are in Boston, and willing to try meeting in-person, we will plan to meet at School of Nutrition, Jaharis Room 118 at 3:15 pm on Mondays.
  - b. For those not in Boston or who don’t feel safe meeting in a classroom, we will meet live on line, via Zoom, and use break-out groups, screen sharing and other technology.
  - c. Both of these “live” sessions will include small group discussions and exercises, case studies, simulations and debates.
  - d. The timing for the “live, on-line” group will be figured out in consultation with students. If there are students in multiple time zones, we may have to have different groups meeting at different times. All these sessions will be synchronous (live) not recorded videos, and would be planned to last about an hour and fifteen minutes.
4. The first meeting of the class will be completely on line. Each student will be requested to make a short (one minute or less) video that can be uploaded to the Canvas site for the course. We will watch these introductions as a class, and then take a minute to follow up with that member of the class.