

GW Humanitarian Efforts Work Group Recommendation:
Educational Opportunities

Title: Educational Opportunities

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Objectives:

- Resource inventory
- Develop academic operational framework

The Humanitarian Working Group (HWG), after multiple meetings and preparation of shared documents, suggests the following dual opportunities for student involvement in humanitarian efforts.

1. Partnerships with selected NGOs and other humanitarian organizations that offer both advocacy and life saving support around the world, with particular emphasis on Gaza. Such partnerships may include fundraising, social media outreach or other marketing and “platforming” activities, internships, and volunteering.
2. Educational options within the GW community which already exist in our curricula and which may be enhanced for interested students.
3. Series of Panels/Conferences: On-campus learning opportunity to allow for students, staff, and faculty to debate/dialogue with various NGO’s, International Committee of Red Cross, UNRWA, USAID, etc. as well as faculty/subject matter experts.
 - a. Planned event with high profile marketing—large auditorium event
 - b. Workshop on Humanitarian Standards (Sphere Project)—Certification can be offered to anyone interested that NGO’s seek out for potential applicants to collaborate with them. (i.e., training workshop on nutrition, health, water sanitation, shelter)
 - i. The Sphere Project, now known as Sphere, was created in 1997 by a group of humanitarian non-governmental organizations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to improve the quality of their humanitarian responses and to be accountable for their actions. The Sphere philosophy is based on two core beliefs:
 1. People affected by disaster or conflict have the right to life with dignity and, therefore, the right to assistance; and
 2. All possible steps should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of disaster or conflict.

This memo describes potentials under option 2.

Educational opportunities fall into three potential categories—existing coursework, potential additions to that coursework—both for credit and not-for-credit, and the possible creation of a “badging” or “certificate” program for participants in these educational undertakings.

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Existing Coursework/Educational Opportunities

The HWG has created a working list of related courses offered in the various schools at GWU. That list is attached as **Exhibit A**. HWG suggests that such a course list be curated for students and available in a single location (likely on a web page) for easy access and assessment by students registering for coursework. This could be a “universal” page for the entire university to access, or unique to each school or unit.

Academic deans and advisors would be encouraged to highlight these opportunities and be prepared for discussion with interested students regarding registration, requirements, and the like.

Adding Coursework/Educational Opportunities

HWG suggests that additional opportunities for coursework be considered—some of which could be provided by existing HWG members. Dr. James Cobey, for example, can teach a course on Humanitarian Law. Steven Hansch already teaches in the humanitarian efforts curriculum in the Milken Institute School of Public Health. Hiba Anver is an immigration lawyer who teaches at the law school as an adjunct professor.

In addition to in-person and synchronous coursework, HWG suggests that teaching modules might be pre-recorded for students to access asynchronously. These modules need not be prepared to provide instruction for credit, but might be a series of informational modules for students to access on their own time. Such modules might be strongly suggested or required for those who wish to partner with an NGO or other humanitarian organization as a fundraiser, intern, or volunteer.

Certification or Badging Option

HWG also recommends that students who take a certain amount of coursework, review the teaching modules, and demonstrate a certain number of hours of fundraising, volunteering, or interning be eligible to receive a certificate or “badge” which indicates that they have earned an accolade for humanitarian work.

This certificate or badge again might be a university honor—awarded by the university as a whole, or may be individualized by school or unit. The award could be given at an end-of-year ceremony for those who have completed the requirements.

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EXHIBIT A

Humanitarian Efforts Working Group--List of Educational Opportunities Related to Humanitarian Efforts

COURSE OFFERINGS about HUMANITARIAN AID AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, FALL 2024

GW offers a wide range of courses about humanitarian aid, more than any other area university and perhaps more than any college in the country. Courses are now offered or have been offered via the schools of international affairs, anthropology, public health, engineering, and geography. This summer, three sections of the Milken School of Public Health's online course about humanitarian aid and health are currently in full swing.

Selected offerings this Fall at GW include:

IAFF 6138 Humanitarian Governance & Policy

IAFF 6138 Gender, Disaster & Development

IAFF 6378 Refugees & Displaced People in the Middle East

IAFF 6502 Technology for International Crisis Response

IAFF 3190 Refugee & Migrant Crisis

Communication: SMPA 6270 Development & Humanitarian Communications

EDUC 6610 Education in Emergencies

EMSE 6320 International Disaster Management

GEOG 6309 GIS for Emergency Management

MLS 2005 Plagues, Pandemics, and Epidemics

PUBH 6480 Public Health in Humanitarian Settings

PUBH 6468 Preparation and Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, and Disasters

PUBH 6467 Accountability and Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings

PUBH 6465 Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings

Note that GW has an interdisciplinary Humanitarian Action Initiative:

<https://hai.elliott.gwu.edu/>

School of Public Health has a graduate Masters degree track or program in "humanitarian health and disaster response."

<https://publichealth.gwu.edu/humanitarian-health-and-disaster-response-mph>

At the undergraduate level, GW offers a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences in Global Leadership in Disaster Response (GLDR): <https://gldr.smhs.gwu.edu/>

Department of Clinical Research and Leadership

BSHS in Global Leadership in Disaster Response: Mitigate the Impact of Disasters

When disaster strikes, corporations and governments alike need leaders who are ready to act, providing a swift response to an unexpected emergency or readiness for the unknown future.

Our online BSHS in Global Leadership in Disaster Response will equip you to lead in the most challenging of situations, mitigating the impacts of disasters for all stakeholders.

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GW faculty Brandon Kohrt offers work and education about mental health in conflict and for refugees.

<https://apps.smhs.gwu.edu/smhs/facultydirectory/profile.cfm?empName=Brandon%20Kohrt&FacID=2066541407>

In the past GW has also sponsored evening lecture series about disasters, bringing speakers from the many agencies based in the DC area such as the World Bank, FEMA, Brookings, CSIS and NGOs. GW also has hosted, with the ICRC, Brookings and Refugees International the Humanitarian Salon, in early evenings, bringing together a range of experts and scholars to discuss – without attribution – critical questions facing humanitarian aid, particularly from a US perspective.

GW also led a collaboration with the World Health Organization in researching how health programs can promote peace in war zones, a tool Health as a Bridge for Peace:

https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs_global_facpubs/228/

Elliott School of International Affairs

IAFF 6101: International Affairs Cornerstone

The International Affairs Cornerstone is required for all incoming students in the Elliott School's International Affairs and Global Communications graduate programs. The course introduces students to a variety of ways of thinking about international affairs; explores some of today's major areas of international policy, while demonstrating the value of international relations theory for analyzing them; and provides students with an appreciation of the range of issues that future practitioners in international affairs will grapple with in the 21st century. The course seeks to ensure that all IA and Global Comms students have a solid foundation in international relations theory, and can use foundational theory to understand and analyze contemporary policy issues. The course also exposes incoming students to several major issues that are currently on the international affairs agenda, including war, conflict, and crises; international trade and finance; international aid and development; gender; global health and the environment; and emerging technology, among many others. Through this course, students will gain a broad view of the field of international affairs and an introduction to the theories with which to understand it.

IAFF 6118: Global Justice

Within the domestic context, we often ask ourselves questions about justice: Is a proposed law fair? What would be a just tax policy? As a citizen, how should I engage in the politics of my country? What values—freedom? equality? democracy?—should our political and social institutions promote or embody? In this class, we will address these kinds of questions as they arise in the global context: What would make the world order just? What principles and values should guide states' foreign policy? How should individuals and other non-state actors engage in global politics? What do we owe to people in other countries? We will read political theory scholarship on global justice from a variety of different perspectives, and use the ideas therein

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to analyze real-world political issues such as poverty, humanitarian intervention, the refugee crisis, and globalization. By the end of the term, you will be able to make coherent, informed arguments of your own (both orally and in writing) related to (some of) the major ethical debates surrounding global politics today.

IAFF 6118: International Law and the Use of Force

The use of force is one of the key focal points at which international law and politics intersect. This course provides an overview of the evolving norms on the legality of war, theories of just war, and the laws of war and wars of aggression, as well as important case studies including the use of force for humanitarian intervention and emerging issues in cyber-security, space law, and automated weapons. Readings will emphasize both the legal and political aspects of the use of force in the contemporary international system, including current uses of force such as the war in Ukraine. The class will examine questions such as: What are the consequences of using force without regard for the law? Is international law adequate to reflect the needs of contemporary politics? Is there a uniform understanding of the meaning of “force” in the international system? Students will discuss and understand the difficult issues involved in using force both effectively and legitimately given the increasing real-time coverage of politics and war around the globe, and examine the consequences of the expansion of actors on the international stage in which even private individuals can have major impacts.

IAFF 6138: Humanitarian Governance and Policy

In this course we examine humanitarian governance, coordination and policy, focusing on the knowledge and skills required by practitioners to formulate humanitarian policy and coordinate humanitarian response. The course begins by introducing students to the global humanitarian system and providing an overview of the main actors, their roles and mandates; the types and levels of humanitarian crisis; and the main standards, principles and legal frameworks for humanitarian assistance. The course continues by considering key factors that affect program design and implementation including politics, humanitarian access, funding, security, risk management and mitigation, and coordination. We also discuss strategies for humanitarian diplomacy, disaster risk reduction, and coordination across the humanitarian, security and development sectors. Students will engage these topics and dilemmas through course lectures and readings; case studies of current humanitarian crises; guest lectures from practitioners working on humanitarian policy and coordination in U.N. agencies, USAID, and NGOs; and applied learning.

IAFF 6361: Middle East Studies Cornerstone

Multidisciplinary foundation course for the Middle East studies program. Introduction to key issues.

IAFF 6377: Middle East Studies Capstone

A project-oriented course, designed to synthesize the skills and knowledge that students have acquired in their graduate study. Restricted to students in the MA in Middle East studies program.

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IAFF 6378: Refugees and Displaced People in the Middle East

This course offers students the opportunity to learn about the current dynamics of displacement and migration in the Middle East. The Middle East is the site of significant forced displacement—both across and within borders. Conflicts in the region over the past decade have driven millions from their homes. Yet states in the region are also the destination and origin for millions of migrants seeking economic and social opportunities. Rapidly intensifying climate change is also driving increasing movement primarily within countries. Together, these mobility dynamics have indelibly shaped the region's politics, society, and economy. Students will engage with academic literature from across disciplines as well as policy texts reflecting important current debates. We will cover key topics including: forced migration including refugees and internal displacement, climate change and mobility, labor migration, determinants of immigration policy, and the role of non-state and humanitarian aid. We will also discuss specific cases, including Syrian and Palestinian displacement and labor migration in the Levant.

IAFF 6378: Gender & the Middle East

Why is there such an emphasis on gendered power relations in the Middle East? How do we go about examining the significance of gender to the contemporary Middle East? To address these questions, this course provides students with the historical and analytical foundations to examine the role gender—understood as forms of interrelations through which difference and power are produced—plays in the contemporary Middle East. Two major objectives animate this course. The first is to learn about the diversity of gender relations and gendered experiences in the contemporary Middle East. The second is to develop a robust analytical vocabulary that will enable us to critically interrogate gendered power relations and how these intersect with colonial modernity, geopolitics, religion, kinship, sexuality, dis/ability, political economy, and affect.

IAFF 6378: Iran in the Middle East

Iran has long played a critical role in the international relations of the Middle East—historically one of the most tumultuous regions in the world. In this graduate course, we will critically discuss Iran's foreign and security policies, against the backdrop of its controversial nuclear and missile programs, support for proxy groups, and its contentious relations with other regional players, especially Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Israel. The aim of this course is to familiarize students with goals, characteristics, and evolution of Iran's regional policies and the daunting challenges it faces. Some of the questions that this course aims to address: How do Iranians look at the region? What are Iran's strategic goals in the Middle East? How does the rest of the region look at Iran? What are the driving forces behind Iran's foreign and security policies?

IAFF 6378: Political Economy of the Middle East

This course will introduce students to the political foundations of the region's economy. We will examine how the economy of the MENA has been shaped by encounters with external actors (foreign traders, colonizing governments, transnational firms, international financial institutions, development agencies, etc.) but also how the region has impacted the global economy, with a special focus on the Gulf states and their role in shaping global financial markets. We will examine the legacy and ongoing impact of Western development and reconstruction agencies and their discourses, with special attention to the region's agrarian zones as well as zones

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transformed by imperial wars. Other important regional actors such as militaries, oil companies, sovereign wealth funds and labor movements will also be examined. This course will introduce students to mainstream political economy approaches concurrently with their critiques, in order to provide an understanding of the evolution of theories and practices of economic development and their political origins.

IAFF 6378: Readings in Arab Politics & Society

Readings in Politics & Society course will introduce students to events and issues, with the goal of enhancing their knowledge of past, current and future challenges that confront the Arab-speaking world. The diverse body of media articles presented in this class aims to foster the students' critical thinking skills and allow them to compare and contrast news sources through analysis. The course is conducted in Arabic and aims to contribute to the development of advanced level competence in the fundamental language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) at the advanced level of the ACTFL Guidelines for proficiency, and to build on their knowledge of some salient aspects of Arab culture. Through a multidisciplinary, practical approach students will be asked to engage with real authentic language through a range of articles published in various Arabic news outlets. Students will interact with the text through a variety of drills that target different skills.

IAFF 6378: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East

This course examines U.S. engagement in the Middle East since the 1940s by studying the evolution of U.S. policy, reviewing key decisions, and assessing 21st century challenges. Students will build on this foundation to determine what U.S. national security interests are – and what U.S. priorities should be – in this region, and how the current inflection point in the global world order affects them. The course also seeks to provide an analytical framework for better understanding differing perspectives on U.S. policy. Student presentations, writing assignments, and active class discussion will help students improve the analytical, written, and oral communications skills essential for a successful career in international affairs. The instructor is a former career diplomat who served as a U.S. Ambassador and as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Milken Institute School of Public Health:

PUBH 3133. Global Health and Development. 3 Credits. Political, social, and economic determinants of health; measuring health status globally; burden of diseases that impact development; and epidemiological characteristics. Emphasis on low-income countries, health of the poor, inequity, and inequality. Restricted to juniors and seniors.

PUBH 3137. Global Public Health Nutrition. 3 Credits. Consideration of hunger and other nutrition issues globally, including food insecurity, under/over nutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies. Application of UNICEF malnutrition framework to describe vulnerable groups, critique program strategies, and identify multisectorial strategies to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Prerequisite: [PUBH 3133](#).

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PUBH 6271. Disaster Epidemiology. 1 Credit. Introduction to disaster epidemiology that elucidates the important role epidemiologists play in assessing the health and psychological effects of natural and man-made disasters and in identifying factors that contribute to these effects. Focus on applications of epidemiologic methods to the study of public health consequences of disasters, case studies from actual disasters used to illustrate various roles of epidemiologist in responding to these events and lessons learned. Highlight key skills that epidemiologists need to be part of a response and recovery. Identify methodological issues for future work. Prerequisites: [PUBH 6002](#) and [PUBH 6003](#).

PUBH 6450. Global Health Diplomacy. 2 Credits. Introduction to the concept of global health diplomacy; how diplomacy has been used to advance health agendas and how health issues have been used to improve diplomatic relations between countries; formal health, multi-stakeholder health, and informal health diplomacy; comparative study of how different countries have devised health diplomacy strategies.

PUBH 6462. Nutrition and Food in Large Humanitarian Emergencies. 1 Credit. Fundamentals of food aid programs and nutritional issues in emergency humanitarian situations and appropriate local and international responses in lower-income countries. Field-based program responses in international, resource-scarce settings, as conducted by NGOs and UN agencies. [PUBH 6480](#) may be taken as a corequisite. Prerequisite: [PUBH 6480](#).

PUBH 6463. Communication Strategies and Planning in Humanitarian Settings. 2 Credits. Principles of and major challenges in communication planning with wide range of stakeholders in humanitarian settings; solutions and interventions to identify related risks and appropriately respond to and effectively plan communication strategies. [PUBH 6480](#) may be taken as a corequisite. Prerequisites: [PUBH 6007](#) and [PUBH 6480](#).

PUBH 6464. Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings. 1 Credit. Principles of and fundamental challenges to mental health in humanitarian settings, including potential solutions and interventions; foundational knowledge and skills in mental health and psychosocial support services in such settings. [PUBH 6480](#) may be taken as a corequisite. Restricted to [PUBH 6480](#).

PUBH 6465. Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings. 1 Credit. Key issues, challenges, policies, and interventions related to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in humanitarian settings for persons affected by armed conflict and natural disasters. [PUBH 6480](#) may be taken as a corequisite. Prerequisite: [PUBH 6480](#).

PUBH 6467. Accountability and Ethics in Humanitarian and Disaster Settings. 3 Credits. Principles and fundamentals of ethical approaches and accountability processes in the delivery of humanitarian services. Important or controversial contemporary topics in humanitarian and disaster settings. Corequisites: [PUBH 6480](#).

PUBH 6468. Preparation and Response to Epidemics, Pandemics, Mass Health Emergencies, and Disasters. 2 Credits. Principles and fundamentals of preparation and response to epidemics, pandemics, and other mass health emergencies from both national and international perspectives.

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PUBH 6469. Humanitarian Aid Seminar Series. 1 Credit. Targeted talks and panel discussions with humanitarian aid workers from a variety of agencies addressing important or controversial contemporary topics in humanitarian settings. Corequisite or prerequisite: [PUBH 6480](#).

PUBH 6480. Public Health in Humanitarian Settings. 2 Credits. Technical aspects of high-priority public health interventions; consideration of how and why sound public health interventions should be implemented in both emergency and chronic humanitarian settings; the roles of diverse humanitarian actors.

PUBH 6481. Global Mental Health. 2 Credits. Focus on global mental health knowledge and public health policy implementation skills regarding the integration of mental health, public health, and primary care in diverse health systems and challenging cultural contexts. Prerequisite: [PUBH 6400](#).

PUBH 6482. International Food and Nutrition Policy. 2 Credits. Major global food and nutrition issues, their determinants, and the strategies that in place to address them. Students identify major nutrition and food challenges in a country or region as well as the policies and programs that have proven successful in addressing those challenges. Prerequisite: [PUBH 6400](#).

PUBH 6496. Global Public Health and Human Rights Praxis: From Research to Practice and Policy. 1 Credit. Fundamental norms and principles of human rights and application to the understanding of global public health problems; emphasis on displaced populations and humanitarian contexts; strengths and limitations of human rights approaches to public health.

PUBH 6499. Topics in Global Health. 3 Credits. Examination of a particular facet of public health. Topics vary by semester. May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs. Consult the Schedule of Classes for more details.

Columbian College, et al. (undergrad):

81117	PSTD 1010	10	Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution	3.00	
	McCarthy, E	TOMP 107	MW		
	03:45PM - 05:00PM	08/22/24 - 12/09/24			
82401	PSTD 1010	11	Introduction to Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution	3.00	
	McCarthy, E	GELM 609	MW		
	12:45PM - 02:00PM	08/22/24 - 12/09/24			
JSTD 2001	82	Muslims, Christians, and Jews	3.00	Agresta, A	
	TOMP 306	TR			
	12:45PM - 02:00PM	08/22/24 - 12/09/24	XList		
JSTD 2002	80	History of Zionism	3.00	Dubnov, A	
	MON 352	MW			
	12:45PM - 02:00PM	08/22/24 - 12/09/24	XList		
JSTD 2002	88	Israeli-Palestinian Peacebuild	3.00	Lazarus, E	
	1957 E 310	R			
	12:45PM - 03:15PM	08/22/24 - 12/09/24	OPEN 88270		
JSTD 2002	90	Antisemitism: Origins-Present	3.00	Schwartz, D	

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TR
09:35AM - 10:50AM 08/22/24 - 12/09/24

Law School:

Full descriptions here: <https://www.law.gwu.edu/courses>

6520 International Law

Celorio, Rosa [10] 3 TuTh 12:05 pm - 1:30 pm L - L301

6533 International Family Law

Kucinski, Melissa (w/ Coffee, Michael) [20] 2 Mo 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm E - E312

6538 Immigration Law I

Fresco, Leon [20] 3 Tu 6:00 pm - 9:05 pm B - B418

6546 International Human Rights Law

Polack, Roger [20] 2 Th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm STU - STU403

6547 Regional Protection of Human Rights

Noroña, Daniel [20] 2 We 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm LLC - LLC015

6554 International Criminal Law

Calabro, Leah [20] 2 We 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

6556 International Arbitration

Foty, Cherine [10] 2 We 3:50 pm - 5:50 pm

6558 International Negotiations

Camp, Charles [10] 2 Th 3:50 pm - 5:50 pm LLC - LLC009

6571 Human Rights and Environmental Protection

Gismondi, Giovanna [10] 2 Fr 9:55 am - 11:55 am LLC - LLC006

6630 Immigration Clinic

Benitez, Alberto (w/ Vera, Paulina) [25] 6 Mo 1:40 pm - 3:40 pm Clinic - C207

6631 Health Law Rights Clinic

Hagner, Drake [25] 6 We 1:40 pm - 3:40 pm Clinic - C407

6633 Civil and Human Rights Clinic

Carrillo, Arturo [25] 6 Mo 1:40 pm - 3:40 pm E - E412

6869 Selected Topics in National Security Law (The Law of War, Civilian Harm Mitigation, and Response)

Stigall, Dan [20] 1 Tu 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm S - S301