COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD	

Annotation
What is the fundamental expression of solidarity between people? What is the most effective way of responding to humanitarian needs in man-made or political-humanitarian crises? Why do top leaders keep speaking about overlapping humanitarian and human rights agendas that demand answers about competing priorities? And why we have the list of forgotten humanitarian crises? These are the questions that this interdisciplinary course aims to answer through the lens of anthropology, international law and international politics. Carefully chosen humanitarian response strategy together with advocacy strategy, on the importance of which this course also focuses on, enable the global humanitarian community to save more lives and this course enables to understand how.

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assist. dr. Gabija Grigaitė – Daugirdė (Faculty of Law) **Other(s):** assoc. professor of practice dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour (Faculty of Law), lect. Kamal Ahamada (Faculty of Philosophy), PhD(c) Justinas Stankus (Faculty of Philosophy)	Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law, Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, 405 Room, LT-10222, Vilnius Phone (8 5) 2366175, e-mail:vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First	Optional

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face	Autumn or Spring semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: English sufficient knowledge (B1 level)	**Co-requisites (if any):** None

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
The course is aimed at providing students with an overview of the main issues surrounding humanitarian action; developing the abilities to understand and analyze the contextual background surrounding humanitarian action, to apply humanitarian principles in practice, to discuss the essential developments and jeopardies in the changing global context, as well as to understand differences in humanitarian response and draft humanitarian response and advocacy strategy.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	**Teaching and learning methods**	**Assessment methods**
Students will understand the history of humanitarian action, changing context of conflict and humanitarian action, will be able to decide on the legal framework applicable to a humanitarian crisis, *inter alia*, international legal rules applied to different types of armed conflicts, and human rights legal framework applicable to non-conflict humanitarian crises;	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (cooperative learning methods, including discussion groups, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant literature)	Active work during seminars, group work (drafting of a humanitarian response strategy), examination.
Students will be able to analyze the role of international and non-governmental organizations, most important political changes and challenges in the	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (discussion groups,	Active work during seminars, examination.

context of humanitarian action starting from international terrorism and disappearance of humanitarian space and finishing with new humanitarian actors besides traditional humanitarian and international coordination mechanisms;	case studies), individual studies (analysis of relevant literature)	
Students will be able to decide on the type of a humanitarian crisis, distinguish its contextual elements that have influence on the choice of humanitarian response and advocacy strategy while drafting these documents.	An interactive method of teaching during seminars (discussion groups), individual studies (analysis of the relevant literature)	Group work (drafting of humanitarian response and advocacy strategies)
Students will be able to lay out their own ideas and thoughts in an argumentative, critical and logical way as well as in accordance with the theory of humanitarian action and acquired knowledge from the analysis of practice, both orally and in writing;	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (discussion groups, case studies), individual studies (analysis of relevant literature)	Active work during seminars, group work (drafting of humanitarian response and advocacy strategies), examination.
Students will be able to actively and productively participate and collaborate in cross-cultural team activities by applying ethical values and moral sensibility in respect to cultural and social diversity.	An interactive method of teaching during seminars (discussion groups)	Active work during seminars, group work (drafting of humanitarian response and advocacy strategies)

Topics	**Contact hours**							**Self-study work: time and assignments**	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work	**Contact hours**	**Self-study hours**	**Assignments**
1.History of humanitarian action: from needs to rights based approach. dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour	4						4	6	Study of literature: 1. DAVIES, K. Continuity, change and contest. Meanings of "humanitarian" from the "Religion of Humanity" to the "Kosovo War." In *HPG Working Papers* ed. HPG: HPG, August 2012. 2. DAVEY, E. A History of the humanitarian system. Western Origins and Foundations. In *HPG Working Papers* ed. HPG: HPG, June 2013, p. 5 – 20, 29 – 32. 3. LAQUA, D. Inside the Humanitarian Cloud: Causes and Motivations to Help Friends and Strangers. *Journal of Modern European History* 12, no. 2 (2014), p. 175 – 186. Preparation for examination.
2. Approaching contemporary conflicts from ground up: how does anthropology of war enable us to tailor better interventions? PhD(c) Justinas Stankus	4		2				6	10	Study of literature: 1. NORDSTROM, C., ROBBEN A. C. G. M., ed. Fieldwork under Fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence and Survival. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995, p. 1 – 25. 2. FUJII, L. A. Killing Neighbors: Webs of Violence in Rwanda. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009, p. 1 – 23 and p. 180 – 189. 3. KYED, H. M., Introduction to the Special Issue on Everyday Justice. *Independent Journal of Burmese Studies*, 1 (2) (2018), p. i – xxii 4. LUND, C. Twilight Institutions: Public authority and local politics in Africa. *Development and Change*, 37 (4) (2006), p. 685 – 705. Preparation for examination.

3. Humanitarian principles and their application in the context of shrinking humanitarian space: possibility of impartial and secure delivery of humanitarian assistance. dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour	4		2				6	6	Study of literature and case study: 1. QUACK, M., ed. Based on need alone? Impartiality in humanitarian action, 2018, p. 17 – 28, 48 – 56. 2.MACKINTOSH, K. The principles of humanitarian action in international humanitarian law. In *HPG Working Papers* ed. HPG: HPG Report 5, March 2000. 3. HADDAD, J. Case study: Doctors without Borders in Syria. In QUACK, ed. M. *Based on need alone? Impartiality in humanitarian action*, 2018, p. 34-36. Preparation for examination.
4. Legal framework for humanitarian action: from separate human rights towards a comprehensive legal framework? dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour	2		2				4	6	Study of literature: 1. HEINTZE, H.-J. Convergence Between Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law and the Consequences for the Implementation. In HEINTZE, H.-J., ZWITTER, A., ed. *International Law and Humanitarian Assistance. A Crosscut through Legal Issues Pertaining Humanitarianism.* Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2011, p. 83 – 102. 2. GSDRC. International legal framework for humanitarian action. Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham, 2013. Preparation for examination.
5. Right to humanitarian assistance as an autonomous human right: too early or too late? dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour	4		2				6	14	Study of literature and drafting a humanitarian response strategy in group (evaluation of a humanitarian crisis, needs and humanitarian context): 1. SPIEKER, H. The right to give and receive humanitarian assistance. In HEINTZE, H.-J., ZWITTER, A., ed. *International Law and Humanitarian Assistance. A Crosscut through Legal Issues Pertaining Humanitarianism*. Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2011, p. 7 – 32. 2. SAFE THE CHILDERN. Humanitarian Response Planning Tool, 2017. Preparation for examination.
6. State responsibility for a humanitarian crisis. Responsibility to protect concept: a step forward or a step back? dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour	4		4				8	14	Study of literature and a case study: 1. BADESCU, C. G. The responsibility to protect: sovereignty and human rights. In *Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect. Security and human rights.* Routledge, 2011, p. 19 – 48. 2. POMMIER, B. The use of force to protect civilians and humanitarian action: the case of Libya and beyond. *International Review of the Red Cross* (2011), 93 (884), p. 1063–1083. Preparation for examination.
7. The humanitarian-development-peace nexus: risk of politicizing humanitarian action? dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour	2						2	6	Study of literature: 1. DuBOIS, M. The triple nexus – threat or opportunity for the humanitarian principles? Centre for Humanitarian Action, 2020, May, p. 2 – 9, 14 – 21. 2. The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. What does it mean for multi mandated organizations? *OXFAM discussion paper,* 2019, June, p. 20 – 28, 35 – 41. Preparation for examination.
8. System of humanitarian action: towards more effective	4		2				6	10	Study of literature: 1. KHAKEE, A. Humanitarian Action in International Relations: Powers and Politics. In HEINTZE, H.-J., THIELBORGER, P., ed. *International Humanitarian*

global humanitarian action dr. Alaa Al Aridi Al Dakour									*Action. NOHA textbook*. Springer International Publishing, 2018, p. 19 – 30. 2. ANDERSEN, U., BEHMER, K. The Governance of Humanitarian Action in World Politics. In HEINTZE, H.-J., ZWITTER, A., ed. *International Law and Humanitarian Assistance. A Crosscut through Legal Issues Pertaining Humanitarianism.* Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, 2011, p. 79 – 102. Preparation for examination.
9. Humanitarian advocacy: when and what if humanitarian crises become forgotten? lect. Kamal Ahamada	4		2				6	10	Study of literature and building own advocacy strategy in group: identifying cause, setting objectives, selecting methods and evaluating its success: 1. BAICUS, A. History of Polio Vaccination. *World Journal of Virology*, 2012, 1(4), p. 108 –114. 2. BRYSON, J. (2004). What to do when stakeholders matter: stakeholder identification and analysis techniques. *Public Management Review*, 2004, 6(1), p. 21 – 53. 3. FRIEDLAENDER, E., WINSTON, F. Evidence based advocacy. Injury prevention. *Journal of the International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention*, 2004, 10(6), p. 324 – 326. 4. JENKINS, J. C. Non-profit Organizations and Policy Advocacy. In POWELL, W., STEINBERG, R., ed. The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2006, p. 307 – 332. 5. REID, E. Understanding the word "advocacy": Context and use. In E. Reid, ed. *Structuring the Inquiry into Advocacy. Nonprofit Advocacy and the Policy Process: A Seminar Series*, Volume 1, 2000, p. 1 – 9. 6. UNICEF. Advocacy Toolkit: A guide to influencing decisions that improve children's lives. New York: UNICEF, 2010, p. 15 – 82. Preparation for examination.
Total	**32**		**16**				**48**	**82**	

Assessment strategy	**Weight, percentage**	**Assessment period**	**Assessment criteria**
Active work during seminars	20	During semester	2 points – student actively and fruitfully contributes to discussion during seminar providing complete, clear and suitable arguments, formulates up to date problems and proposes relevant solutions to them, provides meaningful critical remarks and comments to other participants of seminar, answers to questions with correct references to the applicable sources. 1 point – student occasionally contributes to discussion during seminar providing incomplete, not clearly structured arguments, formulates problems of general nature, provides remarks and comments to other participants of seminar, answers to questions with some mistakes or in imprecise manner. 0 points – student does not or hardly ever participates in discussions during seminar, formulating of problems and solutions, does not answer questions or provides answers with major mistakes.
Group work: drafting humanitarian response and advocacy strategy	30 (15 - humanitarian strategy; 15 - advocacy strategy)	During semester	During the semester, written group work related to the drafting humanitarian response strategy chosen in relation to a concrete humanitarian crisis will be delivered and its quality assessed as well as advocacy strategy as the second group work. Assessment of work quality will include: - analysis of structure and scope of work;

			- content (whether the analysis is comprehensive, systematic, with appropriate arguments); - used sources; - methods chosen; - the fluency of language, use of humanitarian action terminology.
Examination	50	End of semester	Answers to closed and open questions in the form of a test, in which students must demonstrate both knowledge and understanding of the humanitarian action, its dimensions, constantly changing dimensions of conflict and implications they have on different legal contexts and factors influencing international humanitarian response and advocacy in humanitarian action. In the examination 16 questions: - 4 open ended questions (each correctly answered is evaluated by 0,5 point); - 12 closed questions (each correctly answered is evaluated by 0.25 points).

Author	**Year of publication**	**Title**	**Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication**	**Publishing place and house or web link**
Compulsory literature				
DAVIES, K.	2012	Continuity, change and contest. Meanings of "humanitarian" from the "Religion of Humanity" to the "Kosovo War."	In *HPG Working Papers* ed. HPG: HPG, August 2012.	https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7769.pdf
DAVEY, E.	2013	A History of the humanitarian system. Western Origins and Foundations	In *HPG Working Papers* ed. HPG: HPG, June 2013, p. 5-20, 29-32.	https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8439.pdf
LAQUA, D.	2014	Inside the Humanitarian Cloud: Causes and Motivations to Help Friends and Strangers	*Journal of Modern European History* 12, no. 2 (2014), p. 175-186.	
NORDSTROM, C., ROBBEN, A. C. G. M., ed.	1995	Fieldwork under Fire: Contemporary Studies of Violence and Survival	p. 1 – 25.	Berkeley: University of California Press
FUJII, L. A.	2009	Killing Neighbors: Webs of Violence in Rwanda	p. 1 – 23, 180 – 189.	Ithaca: Cornell University Press
KYED, H. M.	2018	Introduction to the Special Issue on Everyday Justice	*Independent Journal of Burmese Studies*, 1 (2) (2018), p. i – xxii	https://journalofburmesescholarship.org/issue-2.html
LUND, C.	2006	Twilight Institutions: Public authority and local politics in Africa	*Development and Change*, 37 (4) (2006), p. 685-705	
QUACK, M., ed.	2018	Based on need alone? Impartiality in humanitarian action	p. 17-28, 48-56.	https://www.chaberlin.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Quack_2018_based_need_en.pdf
MACKINTOSH, K.	2000	The principles of humanitarian action in international humanitarian law	In *HPG Working Papers* ed. HPG: HPG Report 5, March 2000.	https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/305.pdf
HADDAD, J.	2018	Doctors without Borders in Syria	In QUACK, M., ed. *Based on need alone? Impartiality in humanitarian action*, p. 34-36.	https://www.chaberlin.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Quack_2018_based_need_en.pdf

HEINTZE, H.-J.	2011	Convergence Between Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law and the Consequences for the Implementation	In HEINTZE, H.-J., ZWITTER, A. ed. *International Law and Humanitarian Assistance. A Crosscut through Legal Issues Pertaining Humanitarianism,* p. 83-102.	Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg
SPIEKER, H.	2011	The right to give and receive humanitarian assistance	In HEINTZE, H.-J., ZWITTER, A., ed. *International Law and Humanitarian Assistance. A Crosscut through Legal Issues Pertaining Humanitarianism,* p. 7-32.	Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg
GSDRC	2013	International legal framework for humanitarian action		Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/International%20Legal%20Frameworks%20for%20Humanitarian%20Action.pdf
BADESCU, C. G.	2011	The responsibility to protect: sovereignty and human rights	In *Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect. Security and human rights*, p. 19-48.	Routledge
POMMIER, B.	2011	The use of force to protect civilians and humanitarian action: the case of Libya and beyond	*International Review of the Red Cross* (2011), 93 (884), p. 1063–1083.	https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r29540.pdf
SAVE THE CHILDREN	2017	Humanitarian Response Planning Tool		
JENKINS, J. C.	2006	Nonprofit Organizations and Policy Advocacy	In W. Powell ir R. Steinberg, ed., The *Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, 2nd ed. p. 307-332.	New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
REID, E.	2000	Understanding the word “advocacy”: Context and use	In E. Reid, ed. *Structuring the Inquiry into Advocacy. Nonprofit Advocacy and the Policy Process: A Seminar Series*, Volume 1, p. 1-9.	https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/62271/309696-Structuring-the-Inquiry-into-Advocacy.PDF
UNICEF	2010	Advocacy Toolkit: A guide to influencing decisions that improve children’s lives	p. 15-82	New York: UNICEF
BAICUS, A.	2012	History of polio vaccination	*World Journal of Virology*, 1(4), p. 108–114.	
BRYSON, J.	2004	What to do when stakeholders matter: stakeholder identification and analysis techniques	*Public Management Review*, 6(1), p. 21-53.	London: Routledge

FRIEDLAENDER, E., WINSTON, F.	2004	Evidence based advocacy. Injury prevention	*Journal of the International Society for Child and Adolescent Injury Prevention*, 10(6), p. 324-326.	
DuBOIS, M.	2020	The triple nexus – threat or opportunity for the humanitarian principles?	p. 2-9, 14-21.	Centre for Humanitarian Action https://www.chaberlin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-05-discussionpaper-triple-nexus-threat-opportunity-humanitarian-principles-dubois-1.pdf
	2019	The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. What does it mean for multi mandated organizations?	*OXFAM discussion paper*: 2019, June, p. 20-28, 35-41.	https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/dp-humanitarian-development-peace-nexus-260619-en_0.pdf
KHAKEE, A. P.	2018	Humanitarian Action in International Relations: Powers and Politics	In HEINTZE, H.-J., THIELBORGER A., ed. *International Humanitarian Action. NOHA textbook*, p. 19-30.	Springer International Publishing
ANDERSEN, U., BEHMER, K.	2011	The Governance of Humanitarian Action in World Politics	In HEINTZE, H.-J., ZWITTER, A., ed. *International Law and Humanitarian Assistance. A Crosscut through Legal Issues Pertaining Humanitarianism,* p. 79-102.	Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg
Additional literature				
HOLZGREFE, J.L., KEOHANE, R. O., ed.	2003	Humanitarian Intervention: Ethical, Legal and Political Dilemmas		Cambridge University Press
FLECK, D., ed.	2008	The Handbook of International Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflicts		Oxford University Press
MERON, T.	2009	The Humanization of International Law		Martinus Nijhoff
FIONA, T.	2002	Condemned to Repeat? The Paradox of Humanitarian Action		Cornell University Press
WOOD, A., APTHORPE, R., BORTON, J., ed.	2001	Evaluating International Humanitarian Action: Reflections from Practitioners		Zed books
CAHILL, M. K.	1999	A Framework for Survival: Health, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Assistance in Conflicts and Disasters		Routledge
QURESHI, W.A.	2018	Untangling the Complicated Relationship between International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law in Armed Conflict	*Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs,* Volume 6 Issue 1, June 2018	https://elibrary.law.psu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1181&context=jlia

HEINZE, E. A.	2010	Waging Humanitarian War: the Ethics. Law and Politics of Humanitarian Intervention		State University of New York Press
BOWDEN, B., CHARLESWORT, H., FARRALL, J.	2009	The Role of International Law in Rebuilding Societies after Conflict: Great Expectations		Cambridge University Press
CTAWFORD, J., PELLET, J., OLLESON, S.	2010	The Law of International Responsibility		Oxford University Press
MOECKLI, D., SHAH, S., SIVAKUMARAN, S., ed.	2010	International Human Rights Law		Oxford University Press
MASSINGHAM, E.	2009	Military intervention for humanitarian purposes: does the Responsibility to Protect doctrine advance the legality of the use of force for humanitarian ends?	*International Review of the Red Cross* (2009), 91 (876), p. 1063–1083.	https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/irrc-876-massingham.pdf
WYNN-POPE, P., ZEGENHAGEN, Y., KURNARD, F.	2016	Legislating against humanitarian principles. A case study of humanitarian implications of Australian counterterrorism legislation	International Review of the Red Cross (2016), 97 (897/898), p. 235–261	https://international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/irc_97_1-2-10.pdf