HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (HUAF)

HUAF MTNC. IHA Maintenance of Matriculation. (0 Credits)
Students must maintain continuous registration throughout their studies in the graduate program. International Humanitarian Action students working toward the Master of Arts Degree are to use this registration during each semester when not participating in module.

HUAF 5000. THE HUMANITARIAN TOOLBOX. (0 to 2 Credits)
This course offers an intensive comprehensive and unified training program suitable for humanitarian aid professionals, allowing them to understand all of the available actors and resources with in a humanitarian crisis. This multi-disciplinary course is made up of lectures, workshops, and case studies.

HUAF 5001. CURRENT HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. (0 to 2 Credits)
This course will build on what is learned in HUAF 5000 and introduces historical, political, medical, managerial, legal and communication skills.

HUAF 5010. HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATION. (0 or 2 Credits)
Many humanitarian aid professionals believe that negotiation is perhaps the activity in which they spend most time both in field and headquarters situations. Almost everything that humanitarian workers need to achieve has to be negotiated with donors, host governments, local structures, communities, beneficiaries, other humanitarian agencies and their own staff. This course gives students an understanding of negotiation theory together with practical historical and current applications. All types of negotiation are examined, from road blocks and negotiations in situ for access to negotiations for peace agreements far from the conflict. Theoretical lectures will be supported with group scenario based exercises.

HUAF 5020. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF MIGRATION. (0 or 2 Credits)
Migration, whether forced displacement for economic migration of the poorest, is often a major factor in either escaping from poverty, persecution and danger and/or moving into yet more dangerous situations. In attempting to find livelihoods and safety people often become victims of smugglers or traffickers. Students will be given an enhanced awareness and understanding of the complex interaction between migration and humanitarian interventions from the point of view of the migrant, the authorities of the host be it the national or recipient region or country and of the humanitarian worker. This module is held in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

HUAF 5030. HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS. (0 or 2 Credits)
Logistics is one of the most critical components to successful humanitarian assistance. Delivering the right assistance to the right beneficiaries at the right time requires both skills and an understanding of the supply chain. Logisticians must continually add to their knowledge and learn the latest best practices in the field. This course will explain logistics, explore the ways that logistics can affect humanitarian support, and give students an opportunity to analyze case studies and develop methods for improving delivery of support.

HUAF 5031. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION. (0 or 2 Credits)
The humanitarian aid community must cooperate with the national authorities to build or rehabilitate the basic infrastructure needed for access, shelter and the provision of life sustaining services. This work often has to be carried out on an emergency basis in far from ideal circumstances. This course will provide advanced knowledge of the technical requirements for the infrastructure needed in humanitarian emergencies. Students will be exposed to vital managerial decisions they must consider as they supervise teams of technical experts. Following the implementation of immediate infrastructure needs there remains the responsibility of humanitarian agencies to provide a range of basic services until such time as either the service is no longer required, the population has returned to its place of origin or the governmental agencies have the means and manpower to provide the services. This phase is often known as “care and maintenance”. Students will have a clear understanding of the implications of these “open ended commitments” to a population and potential exit strategies.

HUAF 5040. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA IN HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. (0 or 2 Credits)
This course examines the history of representation of humanitarian crisis, and considers the impact of media accounts on the potential for humanitarian action. The role of photojournalism, and the images and narratives of broadcast and press reporting will be evaluated in the context of humanitarian goals and necessities. The dynamics between depiction and public perception, image and empathy, and narratives of compassion and inclusion will be articulated within the larger context of global security and human rights. As conflict, suffering and issue of life and death remain significant global realities, this course details the conditions, practices, messages, obligations, ethics, and limits of telling the stories of those in crisis.

HUAF 5055. HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMAN CRISIS. (0 or 2 Credits)
The course is designed to give students a comprehensive understanding of the foundations and principles of human rights and humanitarian law. Through specific case studies, students will be able to understand the legal aspects involved in humanitarian work, and will provide students with more confidence in their legal abilities when providing humanitarian aid.

HUAF 5060. DISASTER MANAGEMENT. (0 or 2 Credits)
The course prepares aid workers for the challenges and difficulties associated with both natural and man-made disasters. Students will study past disasters as well as current disaster management techniques and trends toward potential future disasters. After completing this course, students will have a more complete understanding of the different tools and techniques used to respond to crises.

HUAF 5070. LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT IN HA. (0 or 2 Credits)
Despite humanitarian agencies’ not-for-profit status, they must be managed and administrated on sound business principles. Students learn the managerial methods and skills required to become senior managers and directors of humanitarian organizations.

HUAF 5080. ACCOUNTABILITY IN HUMAN ACT. (0 or 2 Credits)
This course will explore the concept of accountability within humanitarian intervention. In particular, it will look at the contemporary significance of accountability and what specific events have led to a shift from donors and recipients of aid as the agents of accountability.

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HUAF 5090. ETHICS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. (0 or 2 Credits)
Humanitarian aid professionals are confronted with ethical questions in every area of their work. This course will explore these ethical questions, examine alternative ethical grounds for action, and seek to provide humanitarian professionals with a framework for evaluating practical ethical issues that arise, especially through past and current case studies.

HUAF 5095. Strategic Issues in Humanitarian Action. (0 or 2 Credits)
The theory and practice of humanitarianism continuously evolves in response to changes in the international political and economic environment and ongoing evaluation of humanitarian efforts. This course explores humanitarian affairs throughout the past century as a base for evaluating recent developments that will play a vital role in shaping humanitarian action in the future. High-level representatives from the political, international, military, religious, medical, legal and academic sectors contribute to lectures and discussions. Students discuss and develop strategies for responding to and mitigating complex emergencies.

HUAF 5100. CIVIL MILITARY COOPERATION. (0 or 2 Credits)
This course will give students an understanding of the practical workings, opportunities and constraints involved in the cooperation between the military and humanitarian organizations in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The course begins with the study of the legal, political and structural bases for Civil Military Cooperation which is focused on the practical, rather than the theoretical application. Faculty and students will have the opportunity to share their experience of working in Civil Military situations and the teaching part of the course will culminate in a series of case studies in which the actual working of Civil Military Cooperation in a wide range of types of military deployments will be compared. Students will participate in a half day simulation exercise in which they will gain experience in the working of a Civil Military Cooperation in the context of a prepared scenario.

HUAF 5150. Mental Health in Complex Emergencies. (0 or 2 Credits)
This is a 12-day training course for mental health professionals and program staff who wish to establish mental health or psychosocial programs in a humanitarian context within conflict and post-conflict areas. The course will aim to provide a practical orientation and training, including how to conduct rapid assessments, designing and setting up mental health services or psychosocial programs (exploring the differences between them), clinical work and therapeutic approaches in non-western contexts. It addresses the issues of cultural validity, conflict resolution and negotiation, taking care of oneself and dealing with burnout. The course will also introduce potential field workers to essentials such as personal security, logistics, and practical aspects of humanitarian work in the field.

HUAF 5155. EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES. (0 to 2 Credits)
30 million children live in conflict-affected countries. The program looks at the design and implementation of education projects from the emergency phase to post conflict situations, with a special emphasis on the mechanisms required to improve the quality of education during and after humanitarian crises.

HUAF 5160. URBAN DISASTER, VULNERABILITY AND DISPLACEMENT: HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND RESPONSE. (0 or 2 Credits)
Explores global urbanization trends and the challenges created by urban disasters. The course focuses on the hurdles faced by vulnerable and displaced populations in cities and urban settlements and examines how the humanitarian community can better respond to man-made and natural disasters in both formal and informal urban settings. Discussion and debate with experts on urban disaster and populations at risk. Emphasis on humanitarian best practices and potential opportunities to increase resiliency and sustainability in complex urban settlements.

HUAF 5990. MASTER THESIS RESEARCH I. (2 Credits)
Students should develop a thesis topic with a Fordham faculty advisor and a reader who has significant practical experience in humanitarian affairs, ideally after completing Module 2. This project is the culminating demonstration of the knowledge and skilled gained throughout the MIHA coursework. The thesis will focus on practical examples of past mistakes, contributing possible solutions to the existing literature. The research methods necessary to writing the thesis are taught within the context of each module. Thesis projects should incorporate learning from previous MIHA courses, followed by final editing, defense and approval.

HUAF 5991. MASTER THESIS RESEARCH II. (2 Credits)
This project is the culminating demonstration of the knowledge and skill gained throughout the MIHA coursework. The thesis will focus on practical examples of past mistakes, contributing possible solutions to the existing literature. The research methods necessary to writing that thesis are taught within the context of each module. Thesis projects should incorporate learning from previous MIHA courses, followed by final editing, defense and approval.

HUAF 6000. INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. (0 Credits)

HUAF 6020. INT EMERGENCY RELIEF. (3 Credits)
The course will be centered on presenting, discussing and reflecting on the main questions faced by the humanitarian community, examining these issues from a multi-disciplinary approach, finding new and creative answers and recommending practical tools to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action. The meaning, methodological challenges, and ethical dilemmas of humanitarian action will be cross themes of the course so that by the end of the program, the students should have: An understanding of the main challenges and dilemmas facing the international humanitarian community through its practice in the field. A comprehensive knowledge of the history of the humanitarian practice, its main actors, and terms-relations in place to configure the landscape of the complexity around this profession. A creative approach to discover the relationship between humanitarian response and the long-term development perspective. An appreciation of the complexity of this human reality in a specific case study. The ability to identify the main ethical dilemmas faced by any humanitarian response.

HUAF 6030. HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION. (0 to 2 Credits)
This course offers an in depth analysis of the strategic processes governing data and innovation strategies in modern humanitarian organizations, the first course of this kind in New York City. The course will introduce participants to a comprehensive understanding of how to select and adopt tools, strategies and techniques for data and innovation management. Topics covered include innovation portfolio creation and management, date management and processing, data ethics, real time data analytics, humanitarian technology design, and integration of GIS systems in project implementation. Participants will develop the core skills required by modern humanitarian organizations to be competitive and effective even if compared to corporate standards.