

HUMANITARIAN STUDIES MAJOR

Overview

The humanitarian studies program provides students with the technical knowledge and analytical tools necessary to examine and critique the humanitarian action ecosystem at the international, regional, and national levels. This includes learning the governance mechanisms and policies, International Humanitarian Law and principles, humanitarian access and protection of civilians, and internal and external displacement, and a wide range of humanitarian activities at the sectoral level such as food assistance, water and sanitation programming, medical assistance, and refugee and IDP settlements. The combination of rigorous interdisciplinary coursework and experiential learning opportunities prepare students for a host of graduate studies and careers, such as disaster relief, global public health, human rights, and international law. Additionally, the IIHA's New York City location provides students with exposure to various United Nations Agencies, the US Mission to the UN, international NGOs, and prominent research institutions.

Learning Goals

Upon completion of the undergraduate humanitarian studies programs, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the actors and actions in international responses to humanitarian crises;
2. Employ a wide range of disciplines and case studies to examine complex humanitarian emergencies, including natural disaster, famine, war, and pandemic disease;
3. Recognize the value of different kinds of knowledge (including both academic and experiential) in formulating appropriate responses to humanitarian crises;
4. Critically evaluate the way in which humanitarian interventions are understood and assessed, specifically contrasting the differences between effectiveness, efficiency, outcome, and impact.

Our mission for students in the humanitarian studies program at Fordham extends beyond simply satisfying the course requirements for the major or minor, and the IIHA and their advisor will support them in a number of ways. Students are encouraged to:

- Participate in the life of the humanitarian community at Fordham. Examining contemporary humanitarian issues with their peers through debates, clubs and other activities is an important part of their humanitarian education;
- Cultivate an in-depth knowledge of a specific area of humanitarian assistance through their elective choices, their internship, and—if in the major—their thesis;
- Consider their professional development and their range of career options while making use of the IIHA's relationships with practitioners as well as Fordham's location in New York City.

Requirements

The following ten courses are required for the major in humanitarian studies:

Course	Title	Credits
HUST 2500	The Humanitarian System: Past, Present, and Future	4
HUST 3600	Evolution of Development and Humanitarian Aid Systems ¹	4
HUST 4800	Humanitarian Internship ¹	4
HUST 4888	Senior Thesis Seminar	4

Two required electives from each of the following subject areas:

History, Philosophy, and Anthropology Area Studies (see below)

Humanitarian Affairs, Political Science, Sociology, and Economics (see below)

Communications, Women's Studies and Literary Studies (see below)

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Please note:

- Students are required to complete HUST 2500 before HUST 3600.
- Students are required to complete both HUST 2500 and HUST 3600 before both HUST 4800 and HUST 4888.

Elective Courses

Students must complete a total of six electives, two from each of the following subject areas.

Note: Because of the diverse range of relevant disciplines and knowledge, the list of electives may not be inclusive of all possible courses. If you are interested in courses that seem relevant but are not listed below, please contact the executive director, Brendan Cahill (brcahill@fordham.edu), to seek approval for your course.

History, Philosophy, and Anthropology Area Studies

Courses in this group have the HHPA attribute

Course	Title	Credits
AFAM 3070	African Politics	4
AFAM 3072	Civil Wars in Africa	4
ANTH 3380	Hazards, Disasters, and Human Experience	4
ANTH 3476	Latin American Social Movements	4
ANTH 3725	Anthropological Theory	4
ANTH 4200	Climate Change and Culture	4
ANTH 4373	Environment and Human Survival	4
ANTH 4490	Anthropology of Political Violence	4
HIST 3570	Genocide	4
HIST 3670	The Modern Middle East	4
HIST 3675	History of Modern Israel	4
HIST 3911	U.S. and East Asia	4
HIST 3946	African Economies and Humanitarianism	4

HIST 3969	Latin America and the U.S.	4	POSC 3522	United Nations	4
HIST 3983	Apocalypticism and Messianism in Islamic Thought and History	4	POSC 3527	United Nations Peace Operations	4
HIST 4011	Why America Fights	4	POSC 3530	U.S. Foreign Policy	4
HIST 4331	US in the Middle East: 1945-Present	4	POSC 3610	Political Economy of Development	4
HIST 4631	Seminar: US in the Mid East: 1945-Pres	4	POSC 3616	Political Economy of Poverty	4
HIST 4910	Seminar: Genocide	4	POSC 3645	Politics of Immigration	4
PHIL 3000	Philosophical Ethics	3	POSC 3651	Comparative Politics of the Middle East	4
PHIL 3711	Humanitarianism and Philosophy	4	POSC 4400	Seminar: Global Justice	4
PHIL 3712	Global Environment and Justice	4	POSC 4515	Seminar: International Politics of Peace	4
PHIL 3713	Human Rights and Global Justice	4	POSC 4526	Seminar: The Politics of Humanitarian Intervention	4
PHIL 4205	Seminar: Justice and Social Identity	4	SOCI 3046	International Sociology	4
PHIL 4418	Issues of Life and Death	4	SOCI 3110	Global Conflict: Wars/Religion	4
THEO 3542	Catholic Social Teaching	3	SOCI 3148	Population and Economic Development Issues	4
THEO 3711	Sacred Texts of the Middle East	3	SOCI 3401	Gender, Crime, and Justice	4
THEO 3715	Classic Islamic Texts	3	SOCI 3410	Migration/Globalization	4
THEO 3720	Hindu Literature and Ethics	3	SOCI 3418	Contemporary Immigration in Global Perspective	4
THEO 3724	Classic Buddhist Texts	3	SOCI 3714	Terrorism and Society	4
THEO 5400	Topics in Islam: Texts and Traditions	3			

Humanitarian Affairs, Political Science, Sociology, and Economics

Courses in this group have the HPSE attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
CGPH 2001	Introduction to Community and Global Public Health	4
ECON 3210	Development Economics	4
ECON 3235	Economy of Latin America	4
ECON 3240	World Poverty	4
ECON 3244	International Economic Policy	4
ECON 3248	Migration and Development: A Social Justice Perspective	4
ECON 3346	International Trade	4
ENST 3308	Catastrophe and Human Survival	4
FREN 3492	Climate Change and Sustainable Development in the Francophone World	4
HUST 3000	Climate Change and Migration: Global and Local Perspective	4
HUST 4100	Refugee and Asylum Law	4
HUST 4200	Forced Migration and Humanitarian Action	4
HUST 4501	Humanitarianism and Global Health: Unequal Access for the Displaced and Marginalized	4
INST 3530	U.S. Foreign Policy	4
LACU 3492	Climate Change and Sustainable Development in the Francophone World	4
PJST 4200	Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking	4
POSC 3131	Politics, Urban Health, and Environment	4
POSC 3418	Islamic Political Thought	4
POSC 3507	International Human Rights	4
POSC 3516	Conflict Analysis/Resolution	4
POSC 3521	Global Governance	4

Communications, Women's Studies, and Literary Studies

Courses in this group have the HCWL attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
CISC 4631	Data Mining	4
CISC 4650	Cyberspace: Issues and Ethics	4
COMC 3247	Race and Gender in Media	4
COMC 3330	Peace, Justice, and the Media	4
COMC 3380	International Communication	4
COMC 4360	Communication Ethics and the Public Sphere	4
ENGL 3059	Creating Dangerously: Writing Across Conflict Zones	4
ENGL 3333	Captives, Cannibals, and Rebels	4
ENGL 3683	Literature Beyond Borders	4
FREN 3490	Africa: Society and Culture Through Film	4
HUST 5215	Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings	3
PSYC 3810	Trauma and Family Violence	4
VART 3030	Art Design and Politics	4
WGSS 3004	Transnational Feminisms	4

Availability

The major in humanitarian studies is available at Fordham College at Rose Hill and at Fordham College at Lincoln Center. Students in Fordham's School of Professional and Continuing Studies may major in humanitarian studies only if they receive the approval of their advising dean and/or department, and their schedules are sufficiently flexible to permit them to take day courses at the Rose Hill or Lincoln Center campuses.

Fordham College at Rose Hill students: The requirements above are in addition to those of the Core Curriculum.

Fordham College at Lincoln Center students: The requirements above are in addition to those of the Core Curriculum.

Professional and Continuing Studies students: The requirements above are in addition to those of the PCS Core Curriculum and any additional electives that may be required to earn a minimum of 124 credits.

CIP Code

24.0103 - Humanities/Humanistic Studies.

You can use the CIP code to learn more about career paths associated with this field of study and, for international students, possible post-graduation visa extensions. Learn more about CIP codes and other information resources.