



**UN and Humanitarian Governance, GVT. # 4/668**  
**Suffolk University, Government Department, Boston**

(final version as of 11 April 2008)

**Syllabus Fridays 12-16.00**  
**Class Room 1128 Sawyer Buildg.**  
**Tel. 617 888 24 74,**  
**Office – 20 Ashburton Place- 2ndfloor 214**  
**By appointment**

**Spring Semester 2008**  
**Dr. Luise DRUKE**  
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**Aim, Structure and Content of the Course**

This course will explore actors and issues in the context of the **United Nations** system in connection with humanitarian governance challenges. We will examine theoretical, political, legal issues and institutional issues, then analyze protection, civil-military relations in peace operations. UN and other peace operations and “responsibility to protect” will be analyzed, and hard choices for all those who wish that “globalization” should be more humane, and who are interested to confront moving targets and evolving challenges of **humanitarian governance**, including dilemmas “of not doing harm, when intending to do good”, in international humanitarian engagement. With humanitarian action’s new power comes knowledge that even the most well-intentioned projects can create as many problems as they solve. Are unforeseen consequences, blind spots, and biases of humanitarian work--from focusing too much on rules and too little on results? Students are expected to actively participate in interactive, visual and practical simulation exercises and role plays of humanitarian emergency operations. Previous relevant knowledge/experience would be desirable.

The course adopts a multi-disciplinary approach with special attention to empirical facts and actual policy practice. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for learning also from their peers in class, who work on important topics as resources. **Study visit to the UN Headquarters in New York on 22 February 2008, during which students** will have an opportunity to meet with senior officials of the United Nations and of a Permanent Mission to the UN Headquarters to study critical relationships and issues involved. **The United Nations Senior Lecturer Program at Suffolk University Government Department was set up in February 2008 within the UN Studies Project is intended to offer insights into additional UN and UN related topics** for students of this class mandatory to the extent that their other classes and commitments permit. Students’ participation in a **Model UN** (organized outside this class) is encouraged.

Classes will usually begin with an introduction to the day’s main topic. Student inputs will form an important part of the course discussion. Students will also have an opportunity to dialogue with invited outside specialists. In order to ensure high-quality in-class deliberations, the suggested readings for the day’s session are expected to have been read in advance. Participants are encouraged to follow the debates on current UN and humanitarian events in the media and elsewhere so as to enrich course discussions with new empirical facts and new analyses, subscription the UN wire is recommended.

**Requirements and Grading**

Besides regular course attendance, participants are expected to complete required readings, sit for a mid term in class, to contribute actively to course discussions and to prepare a term paper (of some 4000 words), which ought to include an executive summary and bibliography. A one page outline is due on 15 February 2008, with the problem posed, the hypothesis and bibliographical sources being researched. The date for the submission of the final term paper is 13 April 2008. The precise parameters and timing the class inputs by participants is determined as a work in progress. Condition for taking this course is a basic course on international relations/organizations.

Grading: Class Participation 20%, Oral Presentation 15%, Mid Term 30% and Paper 35%

The **required readings** for the course are composed of (1) five core books and (2) the additional literature will be indicated later. The core books (in alphabetical order) are:

**The following required books have been ordered to be available in the Suffolk Bookstore.**

1. Doyle, W. Michael, and Sambanis, Nicholas, **Making War and Building Peace: United Nations**

- Peace Operations**, Princeton, 2006. Comprehensive study on what the UN could achieve if it moved beyond merely monitoring cease-fire lines between states and instead tackled problems caused by vicious fighting within states. It provides case studies (incl. Cambodia, Somalia, East Timor and the former Yugoslavia) within a theoretical framework, based on analysis of the literature on causes and conduct of civil wars.
2. Andrew Clapham, **Human Rights**, A very short Introduction, Oxford University Press, 2007.  
See in particular the chapter on human rights foreign policy and the role of the UN.
  3. Arthur Helton, **The Price of Indifference: Refugees and Humanitarian Action in the New Century**, Oxford University Press, 2002. This book analyzes refugee policy responses over the past decade and outlines that responses should be calculated to help prevent or mitigate future humanitarian catastrophes. More international cooperation is needed in advance of crises. Humanitarian structures within governments, notably the United States, as well as the wide variety of international institutions involved in humanitarian action must be re-oriented to cope with new challenges.
  4. David Kennedy, **Dark Sides of Virtue: Reassessing International Humanitarianism**, Princeton, 2006. This book draws attention to the unrecognized costs of well-meaning humanitarian efforts.
  5. Thomas Weiss, **Military-Civilian Interactions Humanitarian Crises & Responsibility to Protect**, 2005. This is an analysis of civilian-military interactions, using the latest as practical examples.
  6. Peter Singer, "Humanitarian Principles, Private Military Agents: Some Implications of the Privatized Military Industry for the Humanitarian Community", Brown Journal of World Affairs, Vol. XIII, Issue 1, Fall/Winter 2006

*Journals:* [Global Governance](#); [International Organization](#); [International Relations](#)  
*Websites:* <http://www.unsystem.org>; [www.acuns.org](http://www.acuns.org); <http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire>;  
<http://www.globalpolicy.org>; <http://reformtheun.org>

**Updated schedule : 2008 Spring Semester, Fridays 12.00-16.00**

#	Date	Topic
1	18 Jan	<b>Introduction and setting the stage:</b> The growing importance and challenges of UN and humanitarian Governance, DVD: History of UN Peacekeeping Discussion on work plan and requirements
2	25 Jan	<b>Institutional and legal issues</b> Introduction to the United Nations, esp. UNHCR, Topics selected for papers, and countries assigned for the role play. Reading: Thomas Weiss, 1st Chapter DVD on UN Footsoldiers, (Kosovo, DR of Congo, Sri Lanka)
3	1 Feb	<b>Introduction to the United Nations in connection with armed conflict and Intl. Humanitarian Law</b> UN NY study visit sign up list and Waiver of Claim for the GVT Dep. Reading material : Helton: 1-29, Clapham: 57-80, Weiss: 1-39 Course material, International Humanitarian Law, PPP (until Fourth Geneva Convention)

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Guest lecturer: David Meltzer, Sr. Vice President, Intl. Services, American Red Cross

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4	8 Feb 10-11.30 12.00 – 16.00 cl	<p><b>Human Rights, Role of the United Nations in Human Rights</b>  <b>UN Senior Lecturer Program:</b> UN and National Human Rights Institutions: Independence, Composition and Influence, Morten Kjaerum, the Executive Director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights and Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)  <b>Guest lecturer: Pia Hussein</b>, ICRC work in the field : the case of NEPAL in cooperation with the UN and the OHCHR  <b>Presentation by Kayur Shrestha</b>, on his working with the UN in NEPAL</p>
5	15 Feb	<p><b>Accountability Challenges</b>  Readings: The Economist: 12 th Jan08, “Bringing bigwigs to Justice”, pp 49-50  Peter W. Singer 105-121: Humanitarian Principles, Private Military Agents: Implications of the Privatized Military Industry for the Humanitarian Community”, BJ Fall/Winter 2006, Vol. Xiii, Issue 1.  PMS and humanitarian affairs PPP and “Iraq on Sale” DVD  Preparations for New York, schedule,  Presentations by students on the WIP: Patrick, Loraine  Introduction to Refugee policy :  <b>In class discussions of the Helton readings pp 1-15:</b>  * Refugees matter because they are there  * Cold war and refugees  * Geopolitical issues Afghanistan, Central America ...  * Strategies of containment, IDPs and migration control  * Ethnic cleansing as a weapon in war?  * Refugees: Failure in governance and UN/international politics and work?  * Fear of Change: Refugees are perceived as a threat?  * Refugees as a weapon of war</p>
6.	20 Feb 4.00-5.30pm 6.00- 7.30	<p><b>UN Senior Speakers Program:</b>  Dr. Judith Kumin, UNHCR Regional Representative, Brussels The Changing role of UNHCR: Internal Displacement, Mixed Migration and other New Challenges.  <b>Mr. Michael Khambatta</b>, Deputy Head Regional Delegation, in the USA and Canada on “The work of the ICRC in Afghanistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina  Readings Kennedy: 199-234, Helton: 120-153</p>
7	22 Feb	<p><b>Study Visit to the UN and Permanent Missions in New York</b>  10.15 am Meeting at the 46<sup>th</sup> street 1 Ave. (212 963 75 39, or 963 4440 tours)  10.45-11.45 Tour and general briefing about the United Nations  12.00-12.45 General Briefing by the Spokes person of the Secretary General  12.45 -13.15 Specific Briefing by the Spokes person of the Secretary General  13.15-13.50 Briefing by Mr. Otobe, Director, Office for Peace building Support  14.00-15.00 Meeting with Dr. Marlies Stecher, German UN Permanent Mission  15.00- 15.30 Meeting with USG Alicia Barcena, Lena Dissin, Principal Officer  15.45-16.45 Meeting with Hans Joerg Strohmeyer, Chief Policy dev. and Studies  17.00-18.00 Meeting with Maria Hutchinson, Chief of Learning, UN  18.00-19.00 Meeting in the Delegates’ Lounge in the UN</p>
8	29 Feb	<p>Review of the UN Study Visit, Harvard UN Model, Mid Term preparation  <b>Presentations by students on the WIP: Pia</b>  Topic: Good Governance vs Good Enough Governance  <b>Guest lecturer : Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty Intl.USA: Topic: Practical application of Human Rights at the national level and in contact with the United Nations</b></p>

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		Readings: Doyle 334-351
9	7 Mar	<p><b>Mid Term in class</b> Humanitarian and civil- military challenges, Readings Helton 30-77, Weiss 71-95.</p> <p><b>Panel on the occasion of International Women Day - from 3pm on in the Poetry Room</b> Presentations by students on the WIP: Chacha,Treva, Georgia, Andrea</p>
10	13 Mar	<p><b>Judge Thomas Buergenthal of the International Court of Justice (also within UNSLP) at Brandeis</b> University "<b>Justice 2018: Charting the Course</b>" Theodore C. Sorensen, Richard Goldstone, Hans Corell also spoke This session was the centerpiece of the Ethics Center's 10th Anniversary Celebration. Mandatory for students of Gvt # 4/668, this 1 ½ hour accounts for class time</p>
11	14 Mar	<p><b>Emerging trends in humanitarian governance:</b> Millennium Development Goals (MDG), The UN Global Compact, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Responsibility to Protect (R2P), Presentations by students on the WIP: Thomas, Megan; UN Senior Guest Lecturer: Manuel Stefanakis on CSR and humanitarian work and development Guestspeaker: Torsten Sewing on CSR from a comparative perspective and conflict resolution and MDG Guestspeaker Eliza Musaeva: Insights into humanitarian and civil/-military challenges in Chechnya w/film Kennedy 337-357, Helton: 15, Weiss 199-210 Responsibility to protect or to prevent</p>
	21	Spring break
12	28	<p><b>Humanitarian and civil/-military challenges</b>—The role of UN agencies and other actors Strategic planning and implementation of humanitarian aid, UN Senior Guest Lecturer Andrea Rossi: Children in humanitarian situations and the work of UNICEF Weiss 71-95, Helton 298-302</p>
13	4 Apr	<p>Case Study on Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina: Guest and UN Senior Lecturer Program Nicole Delaney; Remarks of humanitarian work in the field: Guest –and UN Senior Lecturer Vincent Smith <b>UN Security Council:</b> Peace keeping, peace building and humanitarian action. Role play of a UN Security Council session, Case: Darfur Presentations by students on the WIP: Hakan, Michael, Blake, Readings Weiss 95-128, 211-214</p>
14	11 Apr	<p><b>Conclusion: Summary of the „take aways“, Evaluation of the course aim, structure and content</b> Presentations by students on WIP: Fran, Nicolas, Dianne Readings Weiss 155-215 UN Senior Lecturers: Basma Fakri, Serif Turgut, Bjorn Klekken, Harvard Kennedy School, MPA 08 “Peace making in action” at the UN Security Council, central Liberia and by Norway as best friend of the UN? Term paper due date 13 April 2008 by email to the instructor</p>