**New MA Course Fall 2020**

Course Title: “Humanitarian Interventions: Laws, Ethics, Dilemmas, and Ways Forward”

Professor: Lauren Carruth

AY 2020-2021

This course offers essential information, skills, and a critical perspective necessary for students to be able to ethically and effectively design, implement, and evaluate humanitarian responses. It begins with an introduction to the historical, legal, institutional, and political-economic foundations and functions of humanitarian responses. Then, it provides an introduction to how different medical, nutrition, and food responses are designed, implemented, and evaluated. Throughout the course we will confront several ethical dilemmas and debates articulated by a range of humanitarian professionals and social scientists. We will examine recent trends such as addressing gender-based violence in humanitarian crises and responses, the “localization” of aid, the enforcement of “accountability,” and the so-called global “migration crisis.” We will do three in-depth case studies: on the challenges to medical neutrality and International Humanitarian Law in Syria, on the challenges of Ebola response and primary healthcare in the context of politically-insecure DRC, and on a contemporary topic or situation of students’ choosing.

Week 1. Introduction to the course: International Humanitarian Law and Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Movement

Week 2. Anti-imperialist, historical, and ethnographic perspectives on humanitarian response

Week 3. The epidemiology of humanitarian crises and basic medical responses

Week 4. Nutrition in humanitarian emergencies--basic skills, interventions, and innovations

Week 5. Food insecurity, famine crimes, and food as a weapon of war

Week 6. Avoiding disaster pornography: the ethics of representing crisis and suffering

Assignment: write an effective and ethical press release or appeal to donors

Week 7. Gender-based violence in humanitarian crises and #metoo within aid organizations

Weekly team of presenters

Week 8. From global to local: trends in “localization” and the “devolution” of relief

Weekly team of presenters

Week 9. Audit culture and accountability: the power of data in contemporary aid work

Assignment: find data, and analyze how that data was collected and is being used, for what purpose(s)

Week 10. Displacement, migration, and asylum crises: beyond just “refugees”

Weekly team of presenters

Week 11. Case study: Syria and the weaponization of medicine and humanitarian response

Weekly team of presenters

Week 12: Case study: Epidemic response in conflict: case study of Ebola in the DRC

Weekly team of presenters

Week 13: Case study: TBD based on current events

Weekly team of presenters

Final project: 1000 word blog, ready for publication, on a contemporary crisis, crisis response, or dilemma in the relief industry