HISTORY 201: The Historians Craft
History of Humanitarianism

Professor: Emily Callaci
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Course Time: M&W, 4:00-5:15
Class Location: COMP SCI 1325
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-3:30pm
Office: 5116 Mosse Humanities Building

TA: Chris Hommerding
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Office hours: M&W, 2-3pm
Office: 4269 Mosse Humanities Building

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What motivates us to try to alleviate the suffering of people in distant parts of the world? This is one of the questions that threads through this course on the global history of humanitarianism. Students in this course will examine the origins of humanitarian ideas and institutions, and how various humanitarian campaigns have been shaped by geopolitical processes, including the abolition of the slave trade, the spread of missionary Christianity, European imperialism, the Cold War, and economic liberalization. Questions include: who has benefited from various humanitarian aid campaigns throughout history? How have various humanitarian campaigns shaped, and been shaped by, patterns of global inequality? Why have some populations, and not others, been deemed worthy of the
world’s compassion? We will explore the worlds, perspectives and visions of humanitarians through a range of primary sources, including diary entries, memoirs, journalistic reportage, photography, documentary film, and archival sources about Wisconsin-based humanitarian campaigns held in the Wisconsin Historical Society.

**This course fulfills the General Education COMM B requirement.** As such, students in this course will develop critical skills in research and writing. Students will learn how to do the following things:
- formulate strong research questions
- find and identify historical sources
- evaluate primary sources
- develop and present an argument
- communicate research findings effectively.

**Course Format:**

This course has two interlocking components. In the in-class component, students will explore the global history of humanitarianism. Through a combination of short lectures, in-class analysis of primary sources, and weekly readings, students will learn about humanitarianism in a global and historical context. Through the content of this course, students will learn the skills of historical thinking of analysis, which they can apply to other topics beyond this course.

The second, complementary component will take place weekly discussion sections, with the Teaching Assistant Christopher Hommerding. Each discussion section will carry out an original research project through research conducted at the Wisconsin Historical Society. There, each section will conduct research on a humanitarian movement or campaign based in Wisconsin. Discussion sections will work on this project over the course of the semester, with each session building towards a final research presentation to take place during the final week of the semester.

**Requirements and Evaluation:**

**4 short assignments: 20%**
*These are short writing assignments that will require you to analyze readings or primary sources.*

**Participation: 30%**
*Breakdown of participation grade:*
- Participation in Thursday discussion sections: 15%
- Monday and Wednesday in-class activities: 15%

**Research Project: 35%**
Weekly research worksheets, to be filled out during discussion sections 20%
Final Group Presentation: 15%

Final Paper (5 pages): 15%

ASSIGNED READINGS:
All texts are available on the course website in pdf form. Each week, you are responsible for completing all readings for the week by the Wednesday class meeting.

RESOURCES AND POLICIES

Office Hours:
I encourage you all to come to my office hours to discuss any aspect of the course or your academic program. These hours are set aside specifically for your benefit, and I really hope to see you there.

Technology in the Classroom:
Studies show that students who take notes by hand learn material more effectively than those who take notes on a laptop. Studies also show that using a laptop in class not only has negative learning outcomes for the individual laptop user, but for other members of the class as well. For these reasons, my policy is that there will be no laptops allowed in this class. I will consider making exceptions for students who feel strongly that having their laptop in class helps them to learn better. If this is the case, please see me individually.

Writing Resources:
Your TA Chris Hommerding will be available to advise you on writing assignments for this course. Additionally, I encourage you to make use of the resources and services available at the Writing Center. More information about this can be found here: http://www.writing.wisc.edu/

Academic Honesty:
The University of Wisconsin takes matters of academic honesty very seriously. Plagiarism in particular is a very serious offense that can pose a real threat to your success and to the integrity of our broader learning community. I will strictly enforce the university policies on academic honesty. The rules about plagiarism can sometimes be confusing. If you are unsure about them, please be on the safe side and check. You can start here: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

If you are still unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, and whether you are committing plagiarism, please be on the safe side and come speak to me during office hours. Ignorance about definitions of plagiarism will not be an acceptable excuse. More detailed information about student codes of conduct may be found here: http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html#points
Disability:
Disability guidelines for course accommodations may be found at the UW McBurney Disability Resource Center site: http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/

Schedule:
Week 1:

Wed, 1/18 Introductions

Week 2:

Mon, 1/23: What is humanitarianism? Roots and Concepts

Wed, 1/25: Humanitarian traditions across cultures

Reading:
Michael Barnett, Empire of Humanity: a History of Humanitarianism, 1-48

Due Wednesday: short assignment #1

Week 3:

Mon, 1/30: Slavery, Abolition and Slave Redemption
Wed, 2/1: “Christianity, Commerce and Civilization"

Reading:
Thomas Clarkson, Description of a Slave Ship (peruse at British Library)
Excerpt from The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa the African, Written by Himself (London, 1789)

Thursday Discussion Section: Meet at Wisconsin Historical Society for Orientation

Week 4:

Mon, 2/6 Library Session with Julianne Haahr
Wed, 2/8 Colonial atrocities and “Red Rubber” in the Congo

Reading:
Week 5:

Mon, 2/13 Innocent Bystanders and the Rules of War
Wed, 2/15 World War II and the New International

Reading:
Henry Dunant, A Memory of Solferino, 1862, (excerpts)

Due: short assignment #2

Week 6:

Mon, 2/20 Decolonization and “Development”
Wed, 2/22 Biafra and Doctors Without Borders

Reading:
Kurt Vonnegut, “Biafra: A People Betrayed”

Week 7:

Mon, 2/27: Vietnam, War Photography and Television and new media
Mon, 3/1: Witnessing famine

Reading:
Susan Sontag, Regarding the Suffering of Others, 18-58.

Due: Short assignment #3

mid-semester check-in

Week 8:

Mon, 3/6: Bosnia, Kosovo, Somali

Wed, 3/8: Rwanda and the International Community

Reading:
Philip Gourevitch, “The Genocide Fax,” The New Yorker

Week 9:

Mon, 3/13: Gacaca Courts
Wed, 3/15: class updates on research
SPRING BREAK

Week 10:
Mon, 3/27 Never Forget: Memorializing Atrocities
Wed, 3/29: Humanitarians and “Do-Gooders”

Reading:

Week 11:
Mon, 4/3: Brand-aid: Boycotts and Fair trade
Wed, 4/5: Celebrity Humanitarianism

Reading:
Bono, Message 2U, Vanity Fair, 2007
Natasha Himmelman and Dania Mupotsa, “(Product) RED: (re) Branding Africa,” 1-8
Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija, “(RED) Spells H.O.P.E.”, 68-70

Week 12:
Mon, 4/10: HIV/AIDS and the Reconfiguration of Humanitarianism
Wed, 4/12: Paul Farmer and Global Health


Due: short assignment #4

Week 13:
Mon, 4/17: Volunteering Abroad
Wed, 4/19: The Politics of National Disasters

Reading:

Week 14:
Mon, 4/24: A History of Sanctuaries
Wed, 4/26: Refugees and Migrants

Readings:
Week 15: **Presentations**
   Mon, 5/1
   Wed, 5/3

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017: Final Paper Due**