

2018 SISS Syllabus

Course Name	Humanitarian intervention in the middle east			LANGUAGE
				English
Course No.-Class			Major	
(Credits/Theory/Practice)			(Day/Time/Classroom)	
Method				Type

* Professor

Name	Department	Personal Number	Office Number	E-Mail	Available Hours
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1 Course Description & Objective

1) Course Description

This course will focus on humanitarian interventions in the Middle East, especially under the “Responsibility to protect” (R2P) doctrine. The primary questions underpinning the course are “why” do these interventions occur and “how” do they unfold in practice. Ethics (the ability to distinguish the “good” from the “bad”) is central to the whole course. Many concepts such as Imperialism, State, Class interests, Humanitarian war, Humanity, Human rights etc. will be defined to give the students the conceptual map they need to think on their own concerning specific interventions or events related to these interventions. We will concentrate on the meaning of the “R2P” doctrine because it is the main principle used by the United Nations and powerful nation-states, especially the United-states and its strongest NATO allies, to justify military-humanitarian interventions in the Middle East since the announcement of the “global war on terror”. At the UN World Summit in 2005, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously endorsed the “R2P” principle which is grounded in the central idea that state sovereignty entails responsibilities as well as rights. From here on out, the international community would be empowered to take the extreme route of intervening— militarily— if a member state was unwilling to protect its citizens from crimes against humanity. The United Nations, formed in the aftermath of World War II to promote peace and stability, recognizes the importance of sovereignty, especially for newly independent nations or those seeking independence from colonizers. The UN Charter says: "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state." With the “R2P”, the UN Charter’s core tenant of respect for state sovereignty would now be subordinated in specific cases to the protection of civilians who are under danger from their own government. The students shall be immersed in a very crucial dilemma for our future as a global

community. What is essential to ensure human rights, social development and national security: State sovereignty or humanitarian intervention?

2) Course Objective

As it is a very long and complex topic, we will mostly focus on a case: “Humanitarian intervention” in Syria. As the Syrian civil war has increased in brutality, proponents of a more aggressive policy against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad have begun to use the R2P as justification for action. We will compare this case with others like Libya. This case will introduce major trends affecting the current landscape of humanitarian response – including rapid population displacement, violence against aid workers, and civil-military engagement. Thoughtfully engaging with this course will prepare students to be informed and aware global citizens.

2 Course Resources

Seminar ()	Presentation ()	Q & A ()	Special Lecture ()	Field Trip ()	Handouts ()	Audio/Video/TV ()	Team Teaching ()
Discussion ()	Small Group ()	Problem Solving ()	Experiment Practice ()	Case Study ()	Computer Assisted ()	OHP/Slide ()	Other ()

3 Main Textbooks & References

1) Textbook

“R2P: AN EFFICIENT MEANS FOR INTERVENTION IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES— A CASE STUDY OF ISIL IN IRAQ AND SYRIA”

CHRISTINE LONGO

2) Reference

https://www.gwilr.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ILR-Vol-48.4_Christine-Longo.pdf

3). Some Reading material:

- **Anderson, T. (2016). The Dirty War on Syria: Washington, Regime Change and Resistance. Global Research.**
- **Badiou, A. (2002). Ethics: An essay on the understanding of evil. Verso.**

- **Chandler, D. G. (2001). The road to military humanitarianism: how the human rights NGOs shaped a new humanitarian agenda. Human rights quarterly, 23(3), 678-700.**
- **Chomsky, N. (2001). A new generation draws the line: Kosovo, East Timor and the standards of the West. Verso Books.**
- **Chossudovsky, M. (2005). America's" war on Terrorism". Aware Journalism.**
- **Chossudovsky, M. (2015). The Globalization of War: America's" long War" Against Humanity. Global Research Publishers.**
- **Goodman, R. (2006). Humanitarian intervention and pretexts for war. American Journal of International Law, 100(1), 107-141.**
- **Hashemi, N., & Postel, D. (Eds.). (2013). The Syria Dilemma. MIT Press.**
- **Hehir, A. (2013). Humanitarian intervention: an introduction. Palgrave macmillan.**
- **Roberts, A. (1993). Humanitarian war: military intervention and human rights. International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-), 429-449.**
- **Wilson, R. A. (Ed.). (2005). Human rights in the'War on Terror'. Cambridge University Press.**
- **Woodward, S. L. (2001). Humanitarian war: a new consensus?. Disasters, 25(4), 331-344.**
- **Yassin-Kassab, R., & Al-Shami, L. (2016). Burning country: syrians in revolution and war. Pluto Press.**

4. Assignments

Assignment	NO. of Times	Due Week	Weighing	Contents	Method

* Additional Explanation for assignments

5. Grading Policy

Method of Evaluation	No. of Times	Content of Evaluation	Weighing
Assignment		Group discussions	30
Mid-tem		Multiple questions and essay question	30
Final		Essay questions	40

Quiz			
Practices			
Attendance			
ETC			100

✂Notes

5. hours free absences allowed, and 2 points deduction with each additional absence.

5 . Weekly Schedule

Week	Theme	Method	Pages
1	What is the R2P?		
2	“Successful” application of the R2P		
3	Imperialism and State sovereignty		
4	Contradictions between state sovereignty and the R2P		
5	The “war on terrorism” and the R2P		
6	Midterm exam		
7	The case of Syria		
8	Arguments for the R2P in Syria		

9	Arguments against the R2P in Syria		
10	The case of Libya and Iraq		
11	Imperialist interests in Syria and the middle east		
12	Two opposite philosophies to approach the Syrian dilemma, part 1		
13	Two opposite philosophies to approach the Syrian dilemma, part 2		
14	Who are “Human rights” really for?		
15	Final exam		