UCL Université catholique de Louvain

LHUMA2010

2015-2016

Geopolitic and Humanitarian Action

5.0 credits	30.0 h	1q

Teacher(s) :	Liegeois Michel ;
Language :	Français
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes :	The development of humanitarian action from 1945 to the present day, as a function of the de-velopment of conflicts. - Through a detailed geo-political analysis of conflicts, to study the various conjunctures that have led to the deployment of humanitarian action. A distinction needs to be drawn between mili-tary-humanitarian operations carried out on the initiative of states (e.g. "Provide Comfort" in Iraqi Kurdistan), actions recommended by the United Nations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter as a way of re-establishing peace (e.g. "Restore Hope" en Somalia), peacekeeping missions carried out by the Blue Helmets (e.g. FORPRONU in former Yugoslavia), and one-off NGO activities to provide emergency aid (e.g. various actions by MSF in Africa, and "indiscriminate" multilateral action by the IRCR). - the meaning and non-meaning of the "right" and the "duty" to engage in humanitarian interfer-ence. - The distinction between humanitarian action and humanitarianism. - Case-study: Operation Turquoise in Rwanda.
Aims :	Using as its basis a definition of geo-politics by Yves Lacoste ("knowing how to think" of the space in which to elucidate the struggles that unfold, and to explain the perception of the space of the actors who oppose one another there), the course focuses on being able to identify the geo-political issues in present-day international conflicts, and changes in the kind of conflict that in turn brings about change in the perception of humanitarian action. The aim is to be able to situate humanitarian aid among the ways of managing conflicts occurring at international level, and identifying the ambiguities of humanitarian aid in this setting. *The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".*
Content :	Content Reading: NOHA network syllabus as an introduction. Corpus of reading: humanitarian actors and thinkers like Rufin, Brauman and Bettati). A case-study conducted in the presence of the author: Olivier Lanotte, "L'Opération Turquoise au Rwanda" : intervention humanitaire ou nouvel avatar de la politique africaine de la France ?", Louvain-la-Neuve, UCL, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Collection Département des sciences politiques et sociales, Collection "Notes et Etudes de l'Unité des relations internationa-les", No 8, 1996, 94 pp. A complementary case-study relating to the world conjuncture. Methodology For the most part, the course is based on classroom discussions on prior reading. The course is planned in this way to make the sessions into spaces for questioning, rather spaces for learning. The teacher will first answer all spontaneous questions that have come out of the reading to make sure that the reading has been understood, and the input from the reading will then be structured in a schematic way.
Other infos :	An oral examination in which students may refer openly to reference mate-rial, and two questions of reflection that have come from a list provided at the end of the course. It will be possible to replace one of the questions with a dissertation on one of the themes addressed during the course, or on one of the questions in the list. NOHA network syllabus and reading.
Faculty or entity in charge:	PSAD

Programmes / formations proposant cette unité d'enseignement (UE)				
Intitulé du programme	Sigle	Credits	Prerequis	Acquis d'apprentissage
Master [120] in Political Sciences: International Relations	SPRI2M	5	-	