Course Overview and Objectives

While historical studies have sought to situate humanitarianism in relation to emergent medical and scientific technologies starting the 19th century, anthropological scholarship has theorized humanitarian intervention through the lens of suffering, understood as a universal category, as of the 1980s. This course focuses on the way that anthropologists have sought to define humanitarianism, as commensurate with the expression of a certain moral vision in the public sphere and in the field of political action.

volunteered, or interned at an organization that concerns itself with humanitarianism broadly construed. Finally, in the third paragraph,

words) will describe the primary source you have identified. In this collectively written review, you will explain how and why you chose that source, detailing how it will be of use to you in your group research. This review should also shed light on the broader humanitarian context within which this selected primary source makes sense.

Primary source review due on Friday 15 November at 6PM.

- Class presentation (10%): Presentations should be 10 minutes (it is important to keep to this time frame); each team member must be involved, and their roles and contributions made clear. Presentations will be followed by a 5-minute Q & A. All students are expected to attend all group presentations.

Power point presentation due on Wednesday 27 November at 2PM.
Presentations on Wednesday, 27 November; Monday, 2 December; and Wednesday, 4 December.

Take-home Final Paper (35%): the final paper will follow the same format as the mid-term paper. However, it will be cumulative (meaning it will encompass all course material) and will be longer (1,500 words). It will also invite you to respond to a real-life case study in the field of humanitarianism broadly construed. The final paper essay should include, at the very least, the following: a title, an opening paragraph with a statement of your thesis, a structured argument (main body of the text), a concluding paragraph. Title pages are not necessary. Detailed prompt and instructions will be posted on MyCourses 10 days before the assignment is due.

Deadline TBC (mid-December)

Assignment Deadlines Summary

Personal statement (10 %) due on Friday 13 September at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)
Reading response for Part I (5%) due on Friday 27 September at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)
Midterm (20%) due on Friday 11 October at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)
Reading response for Part II (5%) due on Friday 1 November at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)
Primary source review (10%) due on Friday 15 November at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)
Reading response for Part III (5%) due on Friday 22 November at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)
Power point presentation due on Wednesday 27 November at 2PM (on MyCourses Folder)
Presentations (10%) will be held on Wednesday, 27 November; Monday, 2 December 2024; and Wednesday, 4 December 2024 (in class)
Final Paper (35%) deadline TBC (mid-December) (on MyCourses Folder)

Your assignments should follow proper citation practices. For that, you may want to consult the Chicago Manual of Style, which is frequently used in Anthropology, or any other style of your choice. If you use material from the lectures, make you sure they are properly cited too.

Should you choose to use ChatGPT or any other AI-powered tool, it is your responsibility to make sure 1) you use it wisely and 2) you cite it properly. Overreliance on one source will be considered plagiarism.

Questions and follow up

Except for the personal statement and the group research, the TA will be grading

are encouraged to reach out and see them in office hours (listed above). Advising will not be made over email. Please see section below on academic guidance.

Submissions and lateness
Except for when specified otherwise, assignments are to be submitted on the MyCourses site in the appropriate folder. Specific deadlines are also listed in the detailed course schedule below. Late assignments will lose a third of a grade per day late including weekend days (e.g., A becomes A-). Students who anticipate a problem that will prevent them from submitting work on time are expected to check in with the professor (not the TA) *before the exam is due*. Please note that the TA is not able to give extensions or to make exceptions. No extensions will be given for the final whatsoever.

Grading Consideration
Every assignment will have a clear and detailed rubric for grading that will be posted on MyCourses and/or explained in class.

University Policies

Language of submission

"In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives." (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

« Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

Academic integrity

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures" (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See McGill's guide to academic honesty for more information).

« L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et procédures disciplinaires » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill.)

General Class Policies

Class Structure — Each class will include a lecture followed by an in-class activity that will allow students to revisit the readings' main themes and discuss them in small groups.

Absences and Lateness — If you have to miss class it is your responsibility to get materials, assignments, and class notes from other students (not from the professor or teaching assistants). Please do not arrive late to class or leave early, this is terribly disruptive.

Questions and Guidance — the TA's office hours and locations are indicated above and in the Announcement section of MyCourses. You are expected to consult the TA first with questions regarding course content—lectures, readings, conferences, and assignments—and your grades on assignments. If you have additional questions or concerns, please see the instructor during office hours.

Electronic Devices — Students are encouraged to write class notes by hand on pen and paper. Students who prefer laptops or tablets are expected to use them responsibly. The use of cell phones during class is highly discouraged. The lectures for this course *may not* be recorded.

Inclusive Learning Environment — As the instructor of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. If you experience barriers to learning, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and/or Student Accessibility and Achievement. If you have an ongoing mental health condition or one that arises during the semester and that interferes with coursework, please contact me the soonest. Another helpful resource is The Student Wellness Hub.

Content warning —Some of the content in this course will contain language or images that may be difficult for some students (assault, war, armed conflict, genocide, massacre). It is included in this course because it directly relates to the consequences of humanitarian crises in different parts of the world. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Pronouns — Please email or come by during office hours if you would like me to refer to you by a different name than the name indicated in your student record or to inform me of your preferred pronouns.

Recommended
Ticktin, Miriam. “Thinking beyond Humanitarian Borders.” *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 83, no. 2 (2016): 255–71.

Wednesday, 18 September 2024
Barnett, Michael N., and Thomas G. Weiss.

Feldman, Ilana. “Humanitarian Departures: Reflections of a Refugee Aid Worker.” In *Care in a Time of Humanitarianism: Stories of Refuge, Aid, and Repair in the Global South* edited by Arzoo Osanloo and Cabeiri deBergh Robinson (131–144) 1st ed. Vol. 5. Berghahn Books, 2024.

Week 10 Politics and development

Monday, 28 October 2024
Allan, Diana. ""“This Is Not a Politics” Solidarity and Subterfuge in Palestinian Refugee Communities in Lebanon." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 117, no. 1 (2018): 91-110.

Guest Speaker TBC

Wednesday, 30 October 2024
No Readings — In Class Workshop [Group Presentations]

Reading response for Part II (5%) due on Friday 1 November at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)

PART III: Biopolitics of Proof

Week 11 Triage

Monday, 4 November 2024
Nguyen, Vinh-Kim. “Life Itself: Triage and Therapeutic Citizenship” In *The Republic of Therapy Triage and Sovereignty in West Africa’s Time of AIDS*. (89–110). Durham [N.C.]: Duke University Press, 2010.

2 **Wednesday, 6 November 2024**
Ticktin, Miriam. “Where Ethics and Politics Meet: The Violence of Humanitarianism in

Week 13 Trauma

Monday, 18 November 2024
Fassin, Didier. “The Humanitarian Politics of Testimony: Subjectification through Trauma in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” *Cultural Anthropology* 23, no. 3 (2008): 531–58.

Sayigh, Rosemary. “On the Exclusion of the Palestinian Nakba from the “Trauma Genre”.” *Journal of Palestine Studies* 43, no. 1 (2013): 51–60.

Wednesday, 20 November 2024
Mounzer, Lina. "War in Translation: Giving Voice to the Women of Syria", *Lithub*, 2016.

Guest Speaker TBC

Reading response for Part III (5%) due on Friday 22 November at 6PM (on MyCourses Folder)

Week 14 Local forms of Care

Monday, 25 November 2024
Moghnieh, Lamia. "Infrastructures of suffering: Trauma, Sumud and the politics of violence and aid in Lebanon." *Medicine Anthropology Theory* 8, no. 1 (2021): 1-26.

Tarnowski, Stefan. 2024. “A Cunning Present”, In “Back to the Present” edited by Timothy P.A. Cooper, Michael Edwards & Nikita Simpson, *American Ethnologist* website, January 26 2024, [https://americanethnologist.org/online-content/collections/back-to-the-present/a-cunning-present/]

In class film screening TBC: Little Palestine Diary of a Siege 1h29mn [Excerpts]
Abdallah Al-Khatib (2021)

Power point presentation due on Wednesday 27 November at 2PM (on MyCourses Folder)

Group Presentations and Wrap Up

Wednesday, 27 November 2024: Groups 1 to 5
Monday, 2 December 2024: Groups 6 to 10
Wednesday, 4 December 2024: Groups 11 to 15

Final Paper (35%) deadline TBC (mid-December) (on MyCourses Folder)