What are humanitarian crises? Why do they occur? How has the “international community” responded to armed conflict and natural disasters? Do these initiatives effectively alleviate human suffering? Is humanitarianism an appropriate response to problems in 21st century world politics? 

**Humanitarian crisis and international cooperation** is a noncredit course that aims to provide you with a critical outlook on the concept of humanitarian crisis, on the ideology of humanitarianism and, more concretely, on the multifaceted effects of humanitarian assistance. It also aims at putting to test your critical thinking with the use of case studies and interactive teaching methods such as the simulation of a humanitarian crisis. More fundamentally, we will address enduring debates that have shaped the field of international relations, such as: how does international cooperation occur? What is the role of the United Nations in world politics? What is the impact of international law? How does one prevent the occurrence of war, genocides and massive population displacements? What are the state’s obligations towards its citizens? How do non-state actors affect international peace and security? Why does gender matter?

**Course Meetings**
Class: MTWRF 9:30am – 11:00am
Conferences: MTWRF 11:15am – 12:15pm

**Instructor**

**Hiba Zerrougui**, doctoral candidate in Political Science (McGill University)

Hiba Zerrougui is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at McGill University. Her research focusses on state-society relations in authoritarian regimes. More specifically, her work intersects comparative clientelism with state building, autocratic resilience and contentious politics. Her dissertation examines how waves of protests and riots have impacted state building strategies of authoritarian regime in Middle East and North Africa. Before her graduate studies, she worked on various projects at the Research Network on Peace Operations at Université de Montréal. Her research is supported by the Joseph-ArmandBombardier Graduate Scholarships Program.
Schedule*

Class 1 Introduction: what are humanitarian crises and why do they occur?
Class 2 Humanitarianism: origin of an idea(l) and its legal basis
Class 3 Challenges to humanitarian action: confronting principles to the reality on the ground
Class 4 Humanitarian intervention: might is right?
Class 5 When “we” fail to act: why all crises are not created equal?
Class 6 AFTERSHOCK: a humanitarian crisis simulation
Class 7 Refugees and internally displaced persons: what solutions to mass population displacement?
Class 8 The ethics of humanitarianism: does the end justify the means?
Class 9 Transitions from crises: humanitarian assistance as a wicked problem
Class 10 Conclusion and Trivia Challenge

* Please note that reading assignments will be provided for each class and will be available to students before the program begins.