HARVARD UNIVERSITY WINTER FIELD STUDY COURSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST 2016

ASSESSING THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF MIGRATION IN NORTH AFRICA

Critical Review of the Regional and International Response

Morocco and Italy
4 – 22 January 2016

IGA353M / GHP543

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Since 2006, Claude Bruderlein and his team have developed an experiential field-based learning program for graduate students at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, School of Public Health, and Law School.

The purpose of the Winter Field Study Course in the Middle East to bring graduate students to examine strategic approaches for navigating the long-term challenges and dilemmas of some of the most complex political and humanitarian issues. The course approaches these case studies as a means to furthering professional dialogue on complex issues, building exchanges between Harvard University graduate students and practitioners in the region, to shed light on the challenges of engaging in key dilemmas in the context of humanitarian action. Such contexts represent an extremely interesting and sophisticated political, social, legal, and policy environment for graduate students to explore and analyze the various agendas and situational factors through interdisciplinary, scientific lenses.

Following successful Winter Field Study Courses examining timely humanitarian issues in the West Bank, Nepal, Indonesia, Lebanon, Europe, India, and Jordan, in 2016 the project will continue its focus from the past few years in the Middle East, in partnership with Harvard Kennedy School’s Middle East Initiative. The 2016 course will focus on the humanitarian response to the current Mediterranean migration crisis, and will be held primarily in Morocco, with a short visit to Italy to conclude. It will focus on issues surrounding the operational and policy challenges associated with migration in North Africa by looking at Morocco from three perspectives: as a final destination, as a place of transit, and as a point of departure. The course will examine Morocco’s approach to addressing the evolving migration patterns in and around the country and the ensuing social transformation by considering local and regional response mechanisms, and the role of civil society, international cooperation, and governance. It will then explore the current trends and challenges of migration in Italy in order to better understand the response (from local NGOs, humanitarian organizations, government, religious groups, and private sector, among others), to the unprecedented influx of migrants to Europe by sea.

In discussing options for operationalizing regional and international humanitarian responses, the course will consider the synergies between public health, emergency humanitarian
assistance, refugee and displacement issues, urban conflict, human rights, and other relevant domains of interest. The case will be considered in terms of its epidemiological profile, and will examine local and regional response mechanisms, and the role of civil society, international cooperation, and governance.

Existing long-standing engagement and partnerships within the humanitarian sector will play a key role in the development of this course. The course team has developed close relationships with agencies working on this response. Cooperation and institutional partnerships with these agencies and stakeholders help to orient, guide, and support the Field Study’s research aims, and will serve as an avenue to test the students’ research and foster critical dialogue.

During the Field Study, students have the opportunity to meet with high-level practitioners representing a diversity of perspectives, ranging from local non-governmental organizations to government representatives, private corporations, advocacy groups, United Nations officials, and international humanitarian and health professionals. High-level discussions are complemented by lectures and practical workshops to maximize the experiences of the field study. Students will survey the various perspectives and strategies of relevant actors on relief to development sectors, as well as the underlying assumptions and biases each of these approaches reveal.

This course will not only seek to learn from, but also to evaluate, critique, and expand existing methods. In addition, students will have the opportunity to develop their own professional thinking in this field, to network with practitioners, and to test and hone their newly acquired skills in this dynamic and complex social and political context. The course will culminate in the development of an assessment report by the students, to be presented, shared, and critiqued by a working group of key agencies working in this context. It is the aim of the Field Study that the rich experience and information gathered by the students become a useful tool for practitioners to evaluate their policies in this context.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

From the course perspective, and through readings, discussions, dialogues, and on-site meetings, it is expected that students will:

- Gain an understanding of the challenges and dilemmas specific to local, regional, and international relief efforts in the current Mediterranean migration crisis and explore new approaches to addressing leading issues;
- Build knowledge of the complex political, economic, and social environment in which migration is taking place, with particular attention to the impact that regional conflicts and migration policies have had on actors and institutions in the region;
- Develop practical and professional skills in mission planning and implementation;
- Engage and network with practitioners and policy makers from the operational, NGO, policy, political, and academic communities;
- Develop practical skills in the development of assessment reports for presentation to key humanitarian agencies.
AGENDA OF FIELD STUDY COURSE

The Winter Field Course will take place in Morocco and in Italy from 4 to 22 January 2016. While the final agenda of the course will be confirmed in November, the anticipated schedule will be as follows:

- **3 January**
  - Students arrive on-site

- **4 January**
  - First course session

- **4-15 January:**
  - Course sessions, including on strategic planning in humanitarian action, network analysis, and professional skills workshops
  - Meeting with interlocutors and agency representatives
  - Students begin the outlines of their respective research areas

- **15 – 16 January**
  - Organized touring and down-time

- **16 January**
  - Travel from Morocco to Italy

- **16 – 20 January**
  - Course sessions, meetings with agencies in Rome and Florence
  - Students finalize their policy proposals and prepare their presentations

- **21 January**
  - Closing event in partnership with the Migration Policy Centre: students present their policy proposals to a panel of experts for critical feedback and discussion

- **22 January**
  - Final wrap-up

Students will be based in Morocco and will travel to Italy for the last week of the course, with the exception of occasional touring and field visits, which will be coordinated in cooperation with partner organizations and dedicated tourism agencies. Harvard Global Support Services and the US Embassy are informed of the group’s hotel locations once they have been finalized during the assessment mission.

**SECURITY MANAGEMENT**

The instructors maintain their relationships with a number of agencies on the ground over the span of months before the course is to take place, in order to have an ongoing assessment of the security situation at the field location. The instructors inform the Harvard Global Support Services, the Kennedy School, and School of Public Health of its planning through meetings and consistent communication as the course is prepared.
In November, the Teaching Associate runs a field assessment mission, where the team evaluates the current security situation, meets with partners and interlocutors, and selects appropriate arrangements for accommodation and transportation. Between the field assessment and the course in January, the Field Study team maintains close contact with its partners and with the liaison officer on the ground, in order to stay informed of any developments.

In each location where Winter Field Study course has taken place, the team builds a relationship with the US Embassy on site. The team meets with Embassy representatives during the field assessment, informing the Embassy of the purpose of the visit and the logistical planning for the course. The Embassy is also consulted in terms of logistics and ongoing developments on the ground. Students meet with Embassy representatives twice during their field visit in January: once for a security briefing upon arrival, and a second time for a substantive meeting on the issues pertaining to their research during the course.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

Claude Bruderlein, Instructor

Claude Bruderlein is a Senior Researcher at the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard University (HPCR) and Strategic Advisor at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Claude founded HPCR in 2000 and served as the Program's Director until 2012. He maintains a faculty research and teaching appointment at Harvard University.

Mr. Bruderlein has been engaged in international humanitarian action since 1985. From 1990 - 1995, he worked in humanitarian assistance and protection with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Yemen as well as in Geneva a legal advisor to ICRC operations. In 1996, he joined the United Nations in New York as Special Advisor on Humanitarian Affairs. He worked particularly on humanitarian access in Afghanistan and North Korea as well as the humanitarian impact of sanctions at the Strategic Planning Unit of the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General. He also served as independent expert on the impact of sanctions for the UN Security Council in the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Burundi and Iraq. In September 2003, he was appointed as a member of the Independent Panel on the Safety and Security of the United Nations Personnel in Iraq.

Claude Bruderlein is currently Chair of the HPCR Group of Professionals on Monitoring, Reporting and Fact-finding.

Anaïde Nahikian, Associate Instructor

Anaïde Nahikian has been a Teaching Associate in graduate courses at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Kennedy School since 2008, leading the curriculum development of field-based courses on strategic planning and critical analysis in humanitarian action, which has previously taken place in the West Bank, Nepal, Indonesia, Lebanon, Europe (Moldova, Italy, the UK), India, and Jordan. Anaïde is an Affiliate at the Middle East Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Anaïde leads the Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action (ATHA) at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. She is also Executive Producer of the Humanitarian Assistance
Webcast, an online seminar series focusing on current dilemmas in humanitarian action. Before joining the Academy, Anaïde was Program Associate at the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research (HPCR), where she still contributes to the Monitoring, Reporting, and Fact-Finding project. Her experience includes development of field-based research, curricula, and case studies in humanitarian assistance and protection.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES AND IMPORTANT DATES**

Please note the estimated cost per student for this course is $3500. This course is open by permission of the instructor. You must submit an online application at tinyurl.com/wfs2016 by Friday, September 18 at 11:59pm in order to be considered for the course. Interested students should contact Anaïde Nahikian at anahikia@hsph.harvard.edu with questions.

For HKS students interested in applying for funding from the Middle East Initiative to help cover the cost of the course fee, the online application provides an option to submit a request. This request should describe any prior or current engagement with the Middle East/North Africa and/or the Middle East Initiative, as well as any personal/family/other financial contributions that can offset the cost of participation in the course. Interested students should contact Krysten Hartman at krysten_hartman@hks.harvard.edu with questions.

**Key Dates**

18 September
Deadline for application (via website form accessible here: tinyurl.com/wfs2016)

Week of 21 September and 28 September
Selected interviews - select students will receive an email inviting them to sign up for an interview slot.

2 October
Notification of selection (including wait-list)

5 October
Deadline for confirmation

9 October
Course deposit due

12 October
Wait-list notifications

15 October
Wait-list deposit due

16 – 18 October
IGA353M/GHP543 intensive weekend for selected students on key tools and methods