POLS*3320: THE POLITICS OF FOREIGN AID

Course Outline
Department of Political Science
University of Guelph

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Course description

POLS*3320 explores the politics and history of foreign aid. A central aim is to understand the evolution of humanitarian policy in a context of political persecution, forced displacement and civilian unrest. The course is divided into three parts. Part One first reviews the history of humanitarianism, examining the moral, religious, economic and geopolitical factors that led to the formation of the modern humanitarian regime. Part Two then explores the principal agencies and institutions that have assumed primary responsibility for delivering humanitarian relief, including the United Nations, Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières and CARE. Finally, Part Three uses the war in Syria, the international refugee crisis and a number of other recent humanitarian crises to understand the historical, economic and ethical factors that are now shaping the politics of humanitarian relief.