

UGS302 (64620) **R2P: STORIES FROM HUMANITARIAN AID WORKERS**

Fall 2009 – T/Th 11-12.30

Barbara Harlow

Office Hours: M 1-3 (Rapoport Center, Law School), T 12.30-2/Th 12.30-1.30 (Parlin 26)

and by appointment

bharlow@mail.utexas.edu

Description:

“Responsibility to protect” (or R2P) is yet another formulation for “humanitarian interventionism.” What difference does it make? Our readings of the personal accounts of aid workers and advocates will attempt to address some of the challenges, crises, contradictions, recriminations – and rewards – entailed by the “responsibility to protect.” Selected readings include: *Another Day in Paradise: Front Line Stories from International Aid Workers*; Mahvish Rukhsana Khan. *My Guantanamo Diary: The Detainees and the Stories They Told Me* (translator); Jonny Steinberg. *Sizwe’s Test: A Young Man’s Journey Through Africa’s AIDS Epidemic* (journalist); Kenneth Cain, Heidi Postlewait, Andrew Thomson. *Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures* (UN aid workers); David Kennedy. *The Dark Sides of Virtue: Reassessing International Humanitarianism* (law professor); Clea Koff. *The Bone Woman* (forensic anthropologist).

Schedule:

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| Aug 27 | Th | introductions |
| Sept 1 | T | Another Day in Paradise: Foreword, Preface, Natural Disasters |
| Sept 3 | Th | Another Day in Paradise: War |
| Sept 8 | T | Another Day in Paradise: Peace |
| Sept 10 | Th | discussion |
| Sept 15 | T | The Bone Woman: Before, Parts 1&2: Kibuye, Kigali |
| Sept 17 | Th | The Bone Woman: Part 3: Bosnia |
| Sept 22 | T | The Bone Woman: Parts 4&5: Croatia, Kosovo, After |
| Sept 24 | Th | discussion
FIRST RESEARCH/WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE |
| Sept 29 | T | Sizwe’s Test: Part One |
| Oct 1 | Th | Sizwe’s Test: Part Two |
| Oct 6 | T | Sizwe’s Test: Part Three |
| Oct 8 | Th | discussion |
| Oct 13 | T | Emergency Sex: Conditions Alpha and Bravo |
| Oct 15 | Th | Emergency Sex: Condition Charlie |
| Oct 20 | T | Emergency Sex: Conditions Delta and Echo, Return, Coda |

Oct 22	Th	discussion SECOND RESEARCH/WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE
Oct 27	T	Guantánamo Diary: chapters 1 – 8
Oct 29	Th	Guantánamo Diary: chapters 9 – 14
Nov 3	T	Guantánamo Diary: chapters 15 – epilogue
Nov 5	Th	discussion
Nov 10	T	TBA
Nov 12	Th	Rights of Spring: chapters 1 – 5
Nov 17	T	Rights of Spring: chapters 6 -8
Nov 19	Th	Rights of Spring: chapters 9 – epilogue
Nov 24	T	discussion of final papers
Nov 26	Th	Thanksgiving
Dec 1	T	discussion of final papers
Dec 3	Th	conclusions FINAL PAPER DUE

Required Reading:

Carol Bergman (ed). Another Day in Paradise

Clea Koff. The Bone Woman

Jonny Steinberg. Sizwe's Test

Kenneth Cain, Heidi Postlethwait, Andrew Thompson. Emergency Sex

Mahvish Rukhsana Khan. My Guantánamo Diary

David Kennedy. The Rights of Spring

(+ supplementary / recommended readings and handouts as occasion calls for)

Requirements:

This course will be conducted as a seminar and thus attendance – and informed (that is, you need to do the reading before class) participation – are required. In addition, there are five writing assignments (see below) and no final exam. Grading (reflecting both attendance / participation and writing) will be according to the plus / minus rubric.

Writing Assignments:

2 reaction papers (500-750 wds each) = 20%

2 research / writing papers (750 wds each) = 30%

1 final paper (approx 2100-2400 wds) = 40%

attendance and participation = 10%

For the research/writing papers, specific assignment sheets will be distributed two weeks before the paper is due. For the final paper, the assignment sheet will be distributed midway through the semester. The papers are due in class on the date indicated on the syllabus.

Reaction papers involve attending and reporting back on two campus-wide lectures over the course of the semester. One of these lectures should be selected from the University Lecture Series (see attached) and the second from a series of relevant lectures (again, see attached). These papers should report on the lecture and describe its connection to our readings/discussions and are due within one week of the lecture.

NB: For all writing assignments, students should be aware – and observant – of UT's policy on plagiarism. There are negative and positive reasons for this admonition: negative – you get in trouble if you don't observe the policy; positive – by citing your sources, you join a community of scholars who share their work.

Other Notices:

Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/home>). The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you. Their services are not just for writing with "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

University policy is to respect religious holidays – and we will respect them as well. If, however, you will be absent for reason of religious observance and would like to share information about your respective traditions, these contributions will be welcome. Our "discussion" days could be a good opportunity. As we begin the semester (to name just a few), Ramadan has just begun; Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are only weeks away; Diwali will occur later in the semester; and Christmas is coming.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Finally, no cell-phones or computers are allowed – turn them off and put them away.