Description
This seminar is focused on the study of refugee health care and humanitarian aid in Jordan. Over decades, Jordan has become home to millions of refugees and displaced populations from Palestine and more recently from Iraq and Syria. The seminar provides first-hand exposure to the humanitarian response of various UN agencies in Jordan, most notably the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nation’s International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), during the emergency, post-emergency, and resettlement phases, in collaboration with the host government. The seminar also addresses the common principles, rights, and duties governing humanitarian action as set out in the humanitarian charter, as well as the priority humanitarian interventions and minimum standards across the various sectors of humanitarian work, with special emphasis on the health sector. The health status, risk factors, and health services (both physical and mental) available to refugees will be addressed during the emergency and post-emergency phases with special emphasis on vulnerable groups including women and children. The relationship between the social and economic “daily stressors” and war-related traumas on the mental health of refugees will be examined in detail. Due consideration will also be given to the impact of consecutive refugee crises on the health system and the determinants of health for Jordan’s population. The seminar uses an experiential learning model that integrates theory and field-based learning during visits to healthcare facilities providing health services in refugee camps and in host communities, UN agencies, international relief organizations, the Ministry of Health, and local NGOs.

Learning Outcomes
The Refugee Health and Humanitarian Action course comprises 45 class hours of instruction (3 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the common principles, rights, and duties governing humanitarian action as set out in the humanitarian charter;
- Demonstrate knowledge of refugee humanitarian response in Jordan and the coordination between host government, UN, and humanitarian agencies;
- Show understanding of the risk factors to the physical, mental, and social health of refugees in camps and host communities;
• Demonstrate understanding of the objectives, priorities, processes, and minimum standards in humanitarian health response during the emergency and post-emergency phases of refugee crises;
• Produce a critical paper that appraises refugee health and humanitarian action in Jordan.

Language of Instruction
This course is taught in English. Students will be exposed to vocabulary related to course content as well as the nuances of health, environmental issues, and community change and development through in-country expert lectures and field visits in a wide range of venues and regional locales.

Course Schedule

Module 1: Humanitarian Response to Refugee and Displaced Populations
This module addresses the common principles, rights, and duties governing humanitarian action as set out in the humanitarian charter. The module examines the major sectors of humanitarian response and looks into the processes, standards, and players in each sector.

Session 1: Introduction to Refugee Humanitarian Action
This session provides a general introduction to the common principles, rights, and duties governing humanitarian action as set out in the humanitarian charter and the core standards in humanitarian response. The session also addresses the definition, guidelines, and laws related to refugee status, treatment, and protection and the legal obligation of states.

Required Reading:

Session 2: Minimum Standards of Humanitarian Response
This session introduces the top priorities of intervention in a refugee relief program grouped under four major technical sectors: water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion; food security, nutrition, and food aid; shelter, settlement, and non-food items; and health services. The session also addresses the core “process and people” standards of humanitarian aid that cuts across all major sectors of humanitarian aid such as participation, initial assessment, response, targeting, monitoring and evaluation, aid worker competencies and responsibilities, supervision, management, and support of personnel.

Required Reading:

Session 3: Humanitarian Response in the Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Sector
This session focuses on the particular challenges of providing water to refugees in Jordan: one of the most water poor countries in the world.
Session 4: Humanitarian Response in the Food Security, Nutrition, and Food Aid Sector
This session introduces the minimum standards in food aid, nutrition, and food security according to the principles embodied in the Humanitarian Charter. The session also examines food aid intervention and refugee food security and nutrition status in Jordan.

Required Readings:

Session 5: Humanitarian Response in the Shelter, Settlement, and Non-Food Items Sector
This session combines a lecture and a field visit to the Zaatari refugee camp in the North of Jordan. The session introduces the minimum standards in shelter, settlement, and non-food items according to the principles embodied in the Humanitarian Charter. The field visit enables the students to assess first-hand the living conditions of refugees and the adequacy of shelter and settlement conditions in the largest Syrian refugee camp in Jordan.

Required Reading:

Module 2: Emergency and Post-Emergency Refugee Health Services
This module addresses the objectives, priorities, processes, and minimum standards in humanitarian health response during the emergency and post-emergency phases of refugee crises. The role of the Jordanian Ministry of Health (MOH) in coordinating humanitarian aid in the health sector will be explored as well as the challenges of providing quality and sustainable health care services to refugees in Jordan.

Session 1: Healthcare in the Emergency Phase
This session is focused on public health interventions and health services available in Syrian refugee settlements in the emergency phase in Jordan and the coordination between the host government and the various humanitarian agencies working in Jordan. The session also discusses the minimum standard required in a humanitarian health response and the systems approach to emergency health response. The session consists of a visit to a Syrian refugee camp to explore the infrastructure of health services.

Required Reading:

Session 2: Control of Communicable Diseases and Epidemics
This session addresses the major risk factors for communicable diseases and the general measures for communicable disease control during the emergency and post-emergency phases, including the general preventive measures such as immunization, outreach activities for early case finding, active screening, outbreak detection, epidemic control, and contingency plans.

Required Reading:

**Session 3: Health Care for Refugee Children—Field Visit**
This session addresses risk factors for developing health problems and common illnesses in children living in refugee camps. The session also discusses the pediatric curative care, immunization, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs available for Syrian refugee children in camps and host communities. The session combines a field visit to a health care center for Syrian refugees run by a local NGO in the city of Ramtha, North of Jordan, and a visit to a health center in a Syrian refugee camp.

*Required Reading:*

**Session 4: Refugee Women Health Care—Field Visit**
This session explores reproductive health care services available for Syrian refugee women in refugee camps and host communities. The prevention and response relating to high birth rate, early pregnancies, gender-based violence, and increased sexual and domestic violence in the refugee community will be discussed. The session integrates a field visit to a health care center for Syrian refugees run by a local NGO in the city of Ramtha, North of Jordan, and a visit to a health center in a Syrian refugee camp.

*Required Reading:*

**Module 3: Refugee Burden on Jordan and the Role of UN Agencies in Humanitarian Aid**
This module examines the role played by refugee-specialized UN agencies and other international agencies in humanitarian response to refugee crises in Jordan as well as their policies and strategies. The module will focus on the roles played by refugee-specialized agencies including UNHCR and UNRWA, which has been providing services to Palestinian refugees since its inception in 1949.

**Session 1: Humanitarian and Health Care in Protracted Refugee Situation: the Case of Palestinian Refugees in Jordan**
This session takes place at the UNRWA Headquarters in Amman. The session provides an overview of the Palestinian population in Jordan and its distribution in-country in addition to the health services accessible to the Palestinian refugee community.

*Required Reading:*

**Session 2: UNRWA Health Center Field Visit**
This session, which consists of a site visit to the UNRWA Health Center, provides students with the opportunity to learn first-hand about health care systems and medical services available to Palestinian refugees. The field visit is followed by a reflection session that provides the students with a forum to debrief and analyze the challenges of delivering health care to refugee populations.

**Required Reading:**

**Session 3: The Role, Mandate, and Strategies of UNHCR**
This session will address the mandate, policies, and strategies of UNHCR. It will also elaborate on the role of UNHCR in providing humanitarian aid to refugees in Jordan and the region.

**Required Reading:**

**Session 4: Coordination of Humanitarian Response**
This session will look into coordination of humanitarian response between the host government and the various humanitarian agencies working in Jordan. The challenges to providing sustainable humanitarian aid to refugees in the country will be also discussed.

**Required Reading:**

**Module 4: Mental Health and Psychosocial Challenges in Refugee Populations**
This module discusses the risk factors and prevalence of mental illness in refugees, including conflict-related traumas and the psychosocial challenges of immigration and assimilation. The module will also discuss mental health screening and treatment in refugee populations.

**Session 1: Risk Factors and Prevalence of Mental Illness in Refugees**
This session will discuss the risk factors and prevalence of mental illness in refugees including conflict-related traumas and the psychosocial challenges of immigration and assimilation.

**Required Reading:**

**Session 2: Refugee Mental Health Care: Screening and Interventions**
This session introduces the students to the guidelines for mental health and psychological support in emergency situations. The session will also explore the mental health care services available for refugees living in refugee camps and host communities in Jordan.

**Required Reading:**
Session 3: Psychosocial Challenges of Immigration and Assimilation
The session combines a lecture and field visit to International Medical Corps (IMC) and Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) centers in the Zaatari camp for Syrian refugees, which aims to provide protection and psychosocial support for Syrian refugee children living in the camp.

Required Reading:

Module 5: Humanitarian Response to Refugees in Turkey
This module takes place during the excursion to Turkey and provides an opportunity to learn about humanitarian response to refugees and displaced populations crises in a different setting. Lectures will also address the role of the international community and coordination with the Turkish government in relation to humanitarian response to Syrian refugees.

Session 1: The Challenges of Providing Health Care to Syrian Refugees in Turkey
This session examines the health care services available to Syrian refugees in refugee camps and urban refugees. The challenges facing the Turkish government in providing quality and sustainable health care services will be also explored.

Required Reading:

Session 2: Humanitarian Aid to Refugees in Turkey
This session will examine the role of UN agencies and international relief organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to refugees in Turkey. The session will also assess the coordination of aid between the UN and international relief organizations and the Turkish government.

Required Reading:

Evaluation and Grading Criteria
Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation, and presentation of evidence.

Description of Assignments:
- Pre-departure literature review. Students will be expected to respond to the question relating to social identity of refugees and hand in the assignment during the first week of the semester (first week is orientation).
- During the semester, students will be required to write one critical analysis of a question based on lectures and readings assigned. The paper should be five pages long.
• Students will also be required to lead one synthesis session. Leading a synthesis session requires that the student prepare a summary of the assigned lectures and readings, make comments, and prepare questions for class discussion.
• Following a field site visit assigned by the AD, students will be expected to prepare a three- to four-page analytical paper focusing on observations made during the visit, issues raised during presentations given by health professionals during the visit, and answering the question(s) requested by the AD.
• Attendance during the thematic seminar is mandatory and your grade will reflect your involvement in class and during other activities and excursions.

Assessment:
- Literature Review on Assigned Material 15%
- Critical Analysis 30%
- Synthesis Session 20%
- Field Visit Report 25%
- Class Attendance and Participation 10%

Grading Scale
- 94-100% A
- 90-93% A-
- 87-89% B+
- 84-86% B
- 80-83% B-
- 77-79% C+
- 74-76% C
- 70-73% C-
- 67-69% D+
- 64-66% D
- below 64% F

Expectations and Policies
• Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
• Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
• Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
• Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
• Respect differences of opinion (those of classmates, lecturers, and local constituents). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Academic Policies: SIT prides itself on providing students with an experientially based program; we hold ourselves, and our students, to the highest of academic standards. Students are asked to refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, academic warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.
**Disability Services:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices.