This course, taught in English, focuses on the history and work of the International French organization “Médecins Sans Frontières” (MSF), or Doctors without Borders. It will provide an overview of MSF’s work in emergency health situations such as the refugee crisis in Ukraine, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa, the earthquake in Haiti and the global response to Covid-19. The course will also cover MSF’s mission, organization, internal management and political and ethical challenges. Students will have a chance to interact with several guest lecturers from the Global Health Institute, MSF representatives, ambassadors, journalists, and other scholars and practitioners with experience in global health and humanitarian crisis situations. We will read The Plague by existentialist writer Albert Camus, analyze several essays and practice case studies in relation to global medical humanitarian work. This class will be of high interest to students in the health sciences and international affairs.

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