



**NTNU – Trondheim**  
Norwegian University of  
Science and Technology

Department of Geography

## **Examination paper for GEOG3516 - Humanitarianism: Theory and Practice**

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**Examination period:** Spring 2015, from 4<sup>h</sup> May (09:00) to 11<sup>th</sup>  
May (Before 12:00 (noon))

**Credits:** 7.5  
**Grades to be announced on:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

**Other information:** Please read the instructions on page 2.

**Language:** English  
**Number of pages:** 3  
**Number of pages enclosed:** 2

## Home exam GEOG 3516 Humanitarianism: theory and practice spring 2015

The exam question will be sent to you at 09.00 (am) on the 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The exam should be submitted before 12.00 (noon) on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

*When submitting the document, please do the following:*

To maintain anonymity of each candidate, please send an email with your exam paper attached as a pdf-file to **geoeksamen@svt.ntnu.no** at the Department of Geography.

- On the first page of the document: Write your candidate number and the number of words (and please remember to insert page numbers in the document)
- When saving the document, give it the following name: "GEOG3516 Home exam, [your candidate number]"
- When sending the document write the following in the subject line: "GEOG3516 Home exam, [your candidate number]"

The administration staff will save the document and delete your email so that no-one can trace your name attached to the document. They will also send you a confirmation mail.

It will not be acceptable to submit the exam paper too late. If you should have any problems in meeting the deadline, you must get in touch with the department, but generally late submissions will not be accepted.

The exam paper should be between 3500 words and 4500 words, references, figures and tables come in addition. Remember to refer to sources and literature used according to academically accepted standards. You can, for example, follow the guidelines distributed on the It's learning pages for this course

During the exam, you cannot receive any supervision from staff in the department, but if you have questions regarding the question of the exam and formalities, please contact Cathrine Brun. She may not be available on email in the last hours before the submission deadline so any questions should come before this last day. If there are any last minute issues regarding the submission, please contact Per Ivar Chutko (phone 47645086).

Good luck with your writing!

## **Exam paper GEOG 3516 Humanitarianism: Theory and Practice**

Humanitarianism is a field abundant with dilemmas between theory and practice. The current crisis in Yemen is a telling example as the attached news item suggests. In the paper, please define the nature of humanitarianism and discuss the relevance of the principles of humanitarianism in contemporary conflicts. What are the main pitfalls for humanitarian actors engaging in a conflict-setting and how should humanitarian actors deal with dilemmas to minimize the risk of doing harm?

Attachment:

Kutsch, Tom. 2015. *UN, NGOs decry humanitarian crisis in Yemen*. Al Jazeera America  
<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/4/1/ngos-decry-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>,  
accessed 19.04.15

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# UN, NGOs decry humanitarian crisis in Yemen

HANI MOHAMMED / AP PHOTO

*Fighting between rebels and government forces, including coalition airstrikes, have severely affected civilian centers*

April 1, 2015 7:45PM ET

by **Tom Kutsch (/profiles/k/tom-kutsch.html)** - @tomkutsch (<http://www.twitter.com/tomkutsch>)

As a Saudi Arabia-led military campaign in Yemen (<http://america.aljazeera.com/topics/topic/international-location/middle-east/yemen.html>) entered its seventh day on Wednesday, international organizations and relief agencies expressed alarm (<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/3/31/un-expresses-alarm-over-civilian-casualties-in-yemen.html>) at the rising number of civilian deaths, many of them children, and the increasingly dire humanitarian crisis unfolding.

"The attacks on hospitals and medical facilities by warring factions as well as the deliberate targeting and destruction of private homes, education facilities and basic infrastructure cannot be tolerated," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and EU humanitarian aid commissioner Christos Stylianides said in a joint statement.

Saudi Arabia, in coordination with a number of Arab Sunni-majority states, began launching airstrikes in Yemen last week in an attempt to roll back territorial gains by Shia rebels it says are backed by Iran.

The rebels, called Houthis, have twice displaced Yemen's internationally recognized president, Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi — first from the capital Sanaa, which they overran in September, and then the southern port city of Aden, which they are currently attempting to seize (<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/3/30/fighting-grips-aden-as-houthis-continue-to-push-south.html>).

Former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, deposed in a 2012 revolution, has lent his support and influence among Yemen's armed forces to the Houthis in a bid to regain control.

Amid the relentless airstrikes and ground battles between Houthis, their allies and Hadi loyalists, relief agencies are struggling to meet the humanitarian needs of civilians caught in the crossfire.

"There have been airstrikes in the north, west and south, and clashes between opposing Yemeni armed groups in the center and south, that are putting immense strain on already weak medical services," Cedric Schweizer, an aid worker in Yemen with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said in a statement.

The ICRC said on Tuesday that the Saudi-led coalition had prevented it from delivering much-needed medical supplies to affected civilian areas.

Underscoring the dangers Yemeni civilians face, an explosion at a dairy facility near the city of Hodaidia on Wednesday killed at least 25 people, according to medical sources who spoke to Reuters. Conflicting reports have pinned the blame on both coalition airstrikes and Houthi rebels.

Since the airstrikes began last Thursday, more than 100 civilians, including at least 62 children, have been killed, medical officials said.

"Children are in desperate need of protection, and all parties to the conflict should do all in their power to keep children safe," said Julien Harneis, a Yemen representative for UNICEF.

Leila Zerrougui, the special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said on Tuesday: "I am alarmed by the rising number of child casualties in Yemen ... We cannot tolerate seeing them victims of this conflict."

Humanitarian groups say that Yemen is at least partially under a blockade at the moment due to the fighting and that desperately needed supplies are not reaching their destination.

"MSF [Doctors Without Borders] is currently unable to deploy additional emergency medical staff to Yemen, where they are badly needed," said Dr. Greg Elder, director of operations for the organization. "We urgently need to find ways to get humanitarian relief and personnel inside the country."



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