

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Sociology of Disaster (SOC 420/620) Fall 2001

Tuesday, 5:00-7:30

Morrill 107

General Information:

Instructors: Dr. Gary A. Goreham	Dr. Daniel J. Klenow
Offices: 402-C Minard Hall	408-D Minard Hall
Office Phones: 701-231-7637	701-231-8925
E-mail: goreham@plains.nodak.edu	dklenow@ndsuxt.nodak.edu
Office Hours: 1:00-2:30 Monday	1:00-2:30 Wednesday

Course Description:

This course focuses on human social behavior in both natural (e.g., tornados, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes) and human-made (e.g., chemical spills, nuclear power plant accidents, and riots) disasters. Students will become familiar with a broad range of topics including, but not limited to, the different stages of disaster response, how organizations and communities plan for and respond to disasters, myths regarding disasters, governmental responses to disasters, and theoretical models explaining the dynamics of disaster response. Case studies of several disasters will be used to illustrate the material. Additionally, students will be introduced to the emerging profession of “emergency management and contingency planning” and acquire an understanding of the general concepts of disaster planning.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the social nature of disasters.
2. To reveal unfounded myths about human behavior in disasters.
3. To increase awareness of unequal social consequences stemming from disasters.
4. To examine from a sociology of knowledge approach the emergence of a new academic area, disaster research, where most of the key figures are still alive and contributing.
5. To describe the events that occur in a disaster situation that involve individuals, groups, organizations, communities, and state and national governments.
6. To assess current disaster research and its contributions to sociology, and conversely sociology’s contributions to our understanding of human behavior under extremely stressful situations.
7. To create or strengthen an appreciation for the practical value of social theory and theorizing.

Course Materials:

Dynes, R.R., B. DeMarchi, and C. Pelanda. 1987. *Sociology of Disasters*. Milano, Italy: Franco Angeli. (designated **DDP**)

LaValla, P. and R. Stoffel, (eds.). 1991. *Blueprint for Community Emergency Management: A Test for Managing Emergency Operations*. Olympia, WA: The Emergency Response Institute. (designated **LS**)

Other readings will be included in a packet.

All work in the course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (<http://ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>).

Any students who need special accommodations for learning or who have special needs are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

Evaluation:

1. Students will complete a *research project*. The research projects should be an in-depth exploration of one of the following: (1) a specific disaster; (2) a topic discussed in class; or (3) an organization involved in disaster mitigation and recovery. The paper must offer insights into the sociology of disaster. Term papers typically are about 15 to 20 double-spaced, typed pages long (excluding references and appendices), and include a **minimum of six research journal articles** as references. A one-paragraph typed prospectus describing your project (including a list of potential journal article references) will be due on *September 8th*. Your instructor will approve or disapprove your topic. *November 3rd* will be peer review day for papers. Final projects will be accepted at any time until 5:00 p.m. on *December 15th*. Papers will NOT BE ACCEPTED after that time.
2. *Examinations*. Three *tests* shall be given, and may include fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, true-or-false, and/or short essay questions. About two-thirds of each test will cover lecture material and one-third will cover assigned readings. Make-up tests will be given only in extenuating circumstances. If you absolutely cannot take the test on the assigned date, you must notify the instructor before the test.
3. *Class attendance, preparation, and participation* are vital to the class, and will be worth about six percent of your overall grade.
4. *Graduate Students*: Those taking the class as SOC 620 will be expected to turn in a summary and critique of the assigned readings by the start of the following class meeting. This will be worth approximately 25% of their grade.

Undergraduates (SOC 420)	
Test 1	100 points
Test 2	100 points
Test 3	100 points
Term paper	100 points
Participation	<u>25 points</u>
TOTAL	425 points

Graduate students (SOC 620)	
Test 1	100 points
Test 2	100 points
Test 3	100 points
Term paper	100 points
Summary/critiques	150 points
Participation	<u>25 points</u>
TOTAL	575 points

382-425 points = A
 340-381 points = B
 297-339 points = C
 255-296 points = D
 LT 255 points = F

517-575 points = A
 460-516 points = B
 402-459 points = C
 345-401 points = D
 LT 345 points = F

Syllabus:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Aug 25	<p><i>Week 1. Introduction: Why study disaster? An overview.</i></p> <p>“Disaster myths.” LS, pp. 69-80. “The disaster event and community stress.” Reading #1. “The evolution of emergency management.” Reading #2; LS, pp. 9-54. Case Study: The Los Angeles Riot (video). LS, pp. 81-84. “Reference points for analysis.” Reading #3.</p>
Sept 1	<p><i>Week 2. Sociology of Knowledge.</i></p> <p>E.L. Quarantelli. “Disaster studies: an analysis of the social historical factors affecting the development of research in the area.” E.L. Quarantelli. “Disaster studies: the consequences of the historical use of a sociological approach in the development of research.” “Introduction.” In DDP, pp. 13-29. R.R. Dynes and T.E. Drabek. “The structure of disaster research: its policy and disciplinary implications.” D.S. Mileti. “Sociological methods in disaster research.” In DDP, pp. 57-69.</p>
Sept 8	<p><i>Week 3. Defining Disasters.</i></p> <p>N.R. Britton. “Toward reconceptualization of disaster for the enhancement of social preparation.” pp. 31-55. E.L. Quarantelli. “What should we study? Questions and suggestions for researchers about the concept of disasters.” E.L. Quarantelli. “Conceptualizing disasters from a sociological perspective.” R.A. Stallings. “Disasters as social problems? A dissenting view.”</p>

- Sept 15 *Week 4. Stages of a Disaster and Response.*
 Hazard analysis and mitigation. LS, pp. 101-126.
 Planning. LS, 143-166.
 Warning and evacuation. LS, 245-256, 305-330.
 Post-impact. LS, pp. 269-303.
 Restoration and recovery. LS, pp. 347-380.
- Sept 22 *Week 5. Organized Response to Disasters.*
 E.L. Quarantelli and R.R. Dynes. "When disaster strikes." *Psychology Today* Feb. 1972, pp. 67-70.
 R.R. Dynes. *Organized Behavior in Disaster*. Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Co., Chapters 3-6.
- Sept 29 *Week 6. TEST I*
- Oct 1 *Week 7. Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, Prediction, and Warning.*
 K.J. Tierney "Improving theory and research on hazard mitigation: political economy and organizational perspectives."
 D.F. Gillespie and C.L. Streeter. "Conceptualizing and measuring disaster preparedness."
 M.K. Lindell. "Warning mechanism in emergency response systems."
 J.H. Sorensen and D.S. Meleti. "Decision-making uncertainties in emergency warning system organizations."
 J.M. Nigg. "Communication and behavior: organizational and individual response to warnings." In DDM, pp. 103-117.
- Oct 13 *Week 8. Individual Response and Recovery.*
 J.H. Sorenson, D.S. Moleti, and E. Copenhaver. "Inter- and intraorganizational cohesion in emergencies."
 F.L. Bates and W.G. Peacock. "Long term recovery."
 R.R. Dynes "The concept of role in disaster research." In DDM, pp. 71-102.
- Oct 20 *Week 9. Group Response and Recovery.*
 R. Boline. "Disaster impact and recovery: a comparison of Black and White victims."
 R.W. Perry. "The effects of ethnicity on evacuation decision-making."
 B.D. Phillips. "Cultural diversity in disaster sheltering, housing, and long-term recovery."
 R.W. Perry. "Disaster preparedness and response among minority citizens." In DDM, pp. 135-151.
- Oct 27 *Week 10. Community Response and Recovery.*
 R.A. Stallings. "Organizational change and the sociology of disasters." In DDM, pp. 239-257.

T.E. Drabek. "Emergent structure." In DDM, pp. 259-290.
 C.B. Rubin. "The community recovery process in the United States after a major natural disaster." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 3 (Aug. 1985): 9-28.
 J.M. LaPlante. "Recovery following disaster: policy issues and dimensions." In L.K. Comfort, (ed.). *Managing Disaster*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 217-236.
 R.W. Kates and D. Pijawka. "From rubble to monument: the pace of reconstruction." In J.E. Haas, et al., (eds.). *Reconstruction Following Disaster*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 1-68.
 R. Akimoto. "Disaster and urban community." In DDM, pp. 153-179.
 C.E. Faupel. "Human ecology: contributions to research and policy formation." In DDM, pp. 181-211.

- Nov 3 **Week 11. TEST II**
- Nov 10 *Week 12. State and Federal Government Response.*
 R.T. Sylves. "Adopting integrated emergency management in the United States: political and organizational challenges."
 T.R. Forrest. "Disaster Gypsies: the role of informal relationships in administering disaster assistance."
- Nov 17 *Week 13. Cross-cultural Disaster Research.*
 R.R. Dynes. "Cross-cultural international research: sociology and disaster."
 J.K. Schorr. "Some contributions German *Katastrophensoziologie* can make to the sociology of disaster."
- Nov 24 **Thanksgiving—week off.**
- Dec 1 *Week 14. Sociology and Disaster Research.*
 E.L. Quarantelli. "A concluding commentary." In DDP, pp. 403-415.
 D.E. Wenger. "Collective behavior and disaster research." In DDP, pp. 213-237.
 G.A. Kreps. "Future directions in disaster research: the role of taxonomy."
 W.R. Dombrowsky. "Critical theory in sociological disaster research." In DDP, pp. 331-356.
 E.L. Quarantelli. "Converting disaster scholarship into effective disaster planning and management possibilities and limitations."
- Dec 8 *Week 15. Sociology and Disaster Research.*
 E.L. Quarantelli. "A concluding commentary." In DDP, pp. 403-415.
 D.E. Wenger. "Collective behavior and disaster research." In DDP, pp. 213-237.
 G.A. Kreps. "Future directions in disaster research: the role of taxonomy."

W.R. Dombrowsky. "Critical theory in sociological disaster research." In DDP, pp. 331-356.

E.L. Quarantelli. "Converting disaster scholarship into effective disaster planning and management possibilities and limitations."

Dec 15

FINAL EXAM (Term Papers due)

Readings from which packet will be developed:

Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies and Management.

International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters.

Barton, Allen H. 1969. *Communities in Disaster. A Sociological Analysis of Collective Stress Situations.* Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, Inc.

Bolin, Robert C. 1976. "Family Recovery from Natural Disaster: A Preliminary Model." *Mass Emergencies* 1: 267-277.

Drabek, Thomas E. 1986. *Human Systems Responses to Disaster: An Inventory of Sociological Findings.* New York: Springer-Verlag.

_____. 1996. *Social Dimensions of Disaster: Instructor Guide.* Emmitsburg, MD: Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Dynes, Russell R. 1972. "Cross Cultural Studies of Disaster." Pp. 235-256 in *Proceedings of the Japan-United States Disaster Research; Seminar: Organizational and Community Responses to Disasters.* Columbus, OH: Disaster Research Center, Ohio State University.

_____. 1970. *Organized Behavior in Disaster.* Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

Friesema, H. Paul, J. Caporano, R. Lineberry, and R. McCleary, (eds.). 1979. *Aftermath: Communities After Natural Disasters.* Beverly Hills, CA: SAGE Publications.

Gillespie, David F., Ronald W. Perry, and Dennis S. Mileti. 1974. "Collective Stress and Community Transformation." *Human Relations* 27 (October): 767-778.

Howard, Stephen J. 1980. "Children and the San Fernando Earthquake." *Earthquake Information Bulletin* 12 (September-October): 190-192.

Mileti, Dennis S. 1980. "Human Adjustment to the Risk of Environmental Extremes." *Sociology and Social Research* 64 (April): 327-347.

Mileti, Dennis, Thomas E. Drabek, and J. Eugene Haas. 1975. *Human Systems in Extreme Environments: A Sociological Perspective.* Boulder, CO: Institute of Behavioral Science Monograph.

Quarantelli, E.L. 1978. *Disasters: Theory and Research.* Beverly Hills, CA: SAGE Publications.

_____. 1984. *Organizational Behavior in Disasters and Implications for Disaster Planning.* Emmitsburg, MD: FEMA, National Emergency Training Center, Monograph Series.

- Quarantelli, E.L. and Russell R. Dynes. 1976. "Community Conflict: Its Absence and Its Presence in Natural Disasters." *Mass Emergencies* 1: 139-152.
- _____ 1972. "When Disaster Strikes (It Isn't Much Like What You've Heard and Read About)." *Psychology Today* 5(9): 66-70.
- _____ 1977. "Response to Social Crisis and Disaster." *Annual Review of Sociology* 3: 23-49.
- Turner, Ralph H. 1983. "Waiting for Disasters: Changing Reactions to Earthquake Forecasts in Southern California." *Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 1 (August): 307-334.