

Session No. 45

Course Title: Social Dimensions of Disaster, 2nd edition

Session 45: Final Examination

1 hr.

Objectives:

45.1 Submit final examination.

45.2 Describe key concepts and awarenesses gained from course

45.3 Record course evaluations.

Scope:

This is the last class meeting. Three activities are recommended: 1) collection of final examinations; 2) review of key concepts and awarenesses gained; and 3) student evaluations of course.

Readings:

None

General Requirements:

Student Handout 45-1; (sample examination questions appended).

Course Evaluation Form..

See individual requirements for each objective.

Objective 45.1 Submit Final Examination

Requirements:

Student Handout 45-1; "Final Examination."

Remarks:

- I. Final Examination.
 - A. **Recommend** distribution in prior session, e.g., see Session No. 42, Objective 42.5.
 - B. **Distribute** Student Handout 45-1; “Final Examination.”
- II. **Evaluation criteria**, i.e., remind students of the evaluation criteria discussed in Session No. 42 (see Student Handout 42-1; “Evaluation Criteria.”)
- III. **Feedback procedures**.
 - A. Where and when can final exams be picked up by students?
 - B. Final course grades, i.e., when and how will these be reported to students?

Supplemental Considerations:

It is **recommended** that the Final Examination be in the form of a **take-home essay**. Detailed comment by professors on such essays will **enhance** student understanding of **substantive content** and reinforce **written communication skills**.

Objective 45.2 Describe key concepts and awarenesses gained from course.

Requirements:

None.

- I. Course review procedures.
 - A. **Recommend** that professor make two headings on the chalkboard: 1) Key Concepts; 2) Awarenesses.
 - B. **Explain**: “Think back to the first class meeting. We have reviewed a lot of material during this course. Hopefully you will return to many aspects in future academic courses and in your career pursuits. Let’s identify some of the highlights.”
 - C. **Ask students**: “What are some of the **key concepts** and **awarenesses** you gained from this course?”
 - D. **Record** student responses on the chalkboard.
- II. Key concepts (illustrative).

- A. Disaster Mythology.
 - B. Emergent Norms.
 - C. Emergent Multiorganizational Networks.
 - D. Disaster Inequalities.
 - E. Disaster Phases.
 - F. Disaster Stress.
 - G. Disaster Denial.
 - H. Risk Communication.
- III. Key awarenesses (illustrative).
- A. History of Sociological Research on Disasters.
 - B. Disasters and Hazards in the U.S.A.
 - C. Changing Threat Perceptions of and Response Preparedness for Terrorism.
 - D. Components of All-Hazards Emergency Management.
 - E. Sources of Disaster Myths.
 - F. Social Constraints on Disaster Warning Responses.
 - G. Social Constraints on Disaster Evacuations.
 - H. Unique Challenges in Disaster Research.
 - I. Role of Theoretical Model Building.
 - J. Victim and Non-Victim Responses to Disaster.
 - K. Organizational and Community Responses to Disaster.
 - L. Crisis Decision Making.
 - M. Issues and Patterns in Disaster Recovery.
 - N. Disaster Responses by Special Populations Including Tourists.

- O. Role of and Key Problems in Media Responses to Disaster.
- P. Disaster Planning Myths and Key Planning Strategies.
- Q. Role of Information Technology in Emergency Management.
- R. Opportunities and Constraints in Disaster Mitigation.
- S. Strategies for and Barriers to Risk Communication.
- T. Future Trends and Issues in the Emerging Profession of Emergency Management.

Supplemental Considerations:

Some professors may wish to have a **student exercise** wherein workshop groups will formulate key concepts and/or awarenesses. Groups could be **divided** by disaster phase, sections of the course, or other criteria like researcher versus user. Some professors may limit the recommended discussion to 15-20 minutes and conclude the course with a brief video wherein the plight of and hope for disaster victims is portrayed. Experience suggests such a strategy can be a powerful way to end this section.

Objective 45.3 Record course evaluations.

Requirements:

Course Evaluation Form.

Remarks:

- I. Student portfolio requirements.
 - A. **Final Examinations:** some universities and/or departments encourage retention of final examinations for subsequent faculty review as part of an “Assessment Data Base”.
 - B. **Reference letters:** some universities and/or departments encourage retention of final examinations for subsequent use by faculty in preparing job and/or graduate school reference letters.