

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS
ANGELES
(SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH)**

COMMUNITY HEALTH IN DISASTER SCIENCES 298

SELECTED TOPICS IN DISASTER RELIEF AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

SPRING QUARTER 1995
WEDNESDAYS 12:00-2:00 P.M.
ROOM: 61-243 CHS

Instructor: Steven Rottman, M.D, and Staff
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00-11:00 A.M.
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(Bank of America building)
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Course Overview and Objectives: An underlying premise of this course is that mass population emergencies do not fall neatly into any one discipline. Recognizing that disaster relief necessarily requires the interplay of many different fields, the faculty have selected representative, broad-based topics for this seminar. These include an introduction to the physical forces which result in natural disasters; principles of civilian as well as municipal service preparedness and response; the role of the international community and relief agencies in humanitarian assistance; the delivery of health care to displaced populations; and research methods in the disaster setting.

At the completion of this course, students should expect:

1. To have a broader view of the participating disciplines which must function together in a coordinated mass population relief effort.
2. To understand the logistical difficulties in establishing relief services for large numbers of displaced people.
3. To be able to compare relief services and strategies between leading relief agencies.
4. To have the beginning tools to conduct a hazard analysis of a given region, and undertake the surveillance of needs of an affected population following an acute natural disaster in that region.
5. To have a sense of research methods which might be useful in studying the consequences of disasters and effective relief efforts.

Course Requirements:**Readings:**

All readings for this course will be compiled in a reader which is required for this course. Reading assignments will follow the schedule outlined in the course syllabus, and should be read prior to the week they will be discussed.

Team Projects:

At the first meeting of this course, students will be required to return a brief informational survey. Information from these surveys will be used to group students into teams of five. Each team will work together throughout the course to cultivate an approach to solving a problem in disaster and humanitarian relief. The problems will be posed to each team by the second week of classes. The final report should focus on the principles presented in the course, including an evaluation of hazard analysis for the targeted community, pre-existing living, health care, and geopolitical conditions, immediate response to the incident, considerations for care of displaced populations, and rehabilitative strategies.

Final reports will be limited to **10** typewritten pages, which are due by Week 6. Reports will be summarized and evaluated in class session at Week 7.

Final Written Examination:

This will take the form of an essay/short answer examination, covering principles presented throughout the course.

Grading

Grades will be based on the following factors:

Class Participation	20%
Team Written Project	50%
Final Written Exam	30%

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1
April 5

“An Overview of the Impact of Natural and Man-made Disasters”

Introduction to Disaster Management: The Scope of Disaster Management. (Prehospital and Disaster Medicine. Vol 7. pp 400-408).

Introduction to Disaster Management: Concepts and Terms in Disaster Management. (Prehospital and Disaster Medicine. Vol.8. pp 89-94).

Introduction to Disaster Management: The Tools and Methods of Disaster Management. (Prehospital and Disaster Medicine, Vol. 8. pp 259-265.)

“Physical Forces of Natural Disasters I”

Natural Hazards: Causes and Effects (Prehospital and Disaster Medicine. Vol.9. pp 80-87).

Earthquakes

Natural Hazards: Earthquakes (Prehospital and Disaster Medicine. Vol. 9. pp 260-269).

Week 2
April 12

Volcanoes

In the Shadow of El Chichon: An Overview of the Medical Impact of the 28 March to 4 April 1982 Eruptions of the Mexican Volcano. (Prehospital and Disaster Medicine. Vol.9 pp 58-66).

UNDRO’s Role in Responding to Volcanic Emergencies (UNDRO News, March, 1988 pp 7-10).

Floods

Floods. (French, J.G. and Holt, K.W. in The Public Health Consequences of Disasters: 1989. Centers for Disease Control). Unprecedented Floods Devastate Bangladesh (UNDRO News; Oct. 1988 pp 6-8).

Violent Storms

Hurricanes. (French, J.G. in The Public Health Consequences of Disasters: 1989 pp 33-37).

Tornadoes. (Sanderson L.M. in The Public Health Consequences of Disasters: 1989 pp 38-49).

Week 3
April 19

War

Refugees and Displaced Persons: War, Hunger and Public Health. (Toole, M.J. and Waldman, R.J. JAMA: 1993, Vol. 270 pp. 600-605).

Effective Humanitarian Aid: Our Only Hope for Intervention in Civil War. (Cobey, J.C., et.al. JAMA, 1993, Vol 270 pp. 632-634).

Providing Health Care in War-Torn Rural Afghanistan. (Halbert, R.J., et al. Lancet, May 28, 1988, pp. 1214-1215.

Logistics of Medical Care in Rural Afghanistan. (Halbert, R.J., et al. Ann. Em Med. 1988. Vol 17, pp. 7707.

Week 4
April 26

International Responses to Disasters

War and Famine in Africa. de Waal, A. IDS Bulletin. 1993. Vol 24, pp. 33-40.

The Roles of DHA and UNDP in Linking Relief and Development. Askwith, M. IDS Bulletin. 1994. Vol 25. pp. 101-104.

Linking Relief and Development: The Perspective of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Walker, P. IDS Bulletin, 1994. Vol 25 pp. 107-111.

UNHCR: Bureaucracy, nurse, and scapegoat. Crosslines, 1994, pp. 7-11.

No aid without protection: an international responsibility. Crosslines, 1994. pp. 28-31.

Refugee repatriation during conflict: protection and post-return assistance. Stein, BN and Cuny, FC. Development in Practice, 1994. Vol 4.

The Continuing Metamorphosis of the Humanitarian Professional: Some new Colours for an Endangered Chameleon. Slim, H. 1994. Paper presented in Development Studies Association Conference, 9/9/94, London. Pp. 1-16.

Week 5
May 3

Refugee Care: After Everyone Leaves

Assessment of Disasters in the Developing World (Adler, J. in *Medicine for Disasters*, PIF Baskett, Ed. Butterworth, Inc, 1988. pp. 132-144).

Assessment of Mortality, Morbidity, and Nutritional Status in Somalia During the 1991-1992 Famine: Recommendations for Standardization of Methods. (Boss, L.P. et al. *JAMA* 1994, Vol 272. pp. 371-376).

Week 6
May 10

Technological Disasters

Industrial Disasters (Melius, J. and Binder, S. in *Public Health Consequences of Disasters*, 1989, CDC pp. 97-102).

Famine

Famines. (Toole, M.J. and Foster, S. in *The Public Health Consequences of Disasters*: 1989 pp. 79-89).

TEAM PROJECTS DUE TODAY

Week 7
May 17

Review of Team Projects

The instructor will summarize the approaches and strategies taken by each of the six teams in their initial evaluations of the disaster problems posed at the beginning of the course. Major findings will be outlined for the class, and unique and innovative strategies will be highlighted.

Use of a Modified Cluster Sampling Method to Perform Rapid Needs Assessment After Hurricane Andrew (Hlady, G., et. al. *Ann of Emerg. Med.* 1994, Vol. 23 pp. 719-725).

Disaster Reanimatology Potentials: A Structured Interview Study in Armenia I. Methodology and Preliminary Results. (Klain M., et. al. *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, 1989 pp. 135-152).

Disaster Reanimatology Potentials: A Structured Interview Study in Armenia. Ricci, E., et al. *PDM*, 1991, Vol 6, pp. 159-166.

Disaster Reanimatology Potentials: A Structured Interview Study in Armenia. III. Results, Conclusions, and Recommendations. Pretto, E, et al. *PDM*, 1992., Vol 7, pp. 327-338.

Week 9
May 31

“Rescue and Self-Rescue: Issues for Relief Workers”

This session will be conducted as a panel with faculty and visiting relief workers, and will address issues of personal health items for relief workers, as well as cultural differences and psychological factors encountered in relief work.

Week 10
June 7

Wrap Up session: Loose Ends

Final written examination