

Session No. 7

Course Title: Breaking the Disaster Cycle: Future Directions in Natural Hazard Mitigation

Session Title: Student Paper Presentations on Federal Mitigation Policy

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Time: 150 minutes + 15 minute break

Objectives:

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- 7.1 Involve students in critical analyses of federal mitigation policy topics
 - 7.2 Present arguments in seminar setting
 - 7.3 Critique and discuss student presentations
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Scope:

Two person student teams will prepare brief (10-page) point papers critiquing some aspect (self-selected) of federal hazard mitigation policy, and arguing for reforms to deal with the problems raised by their critique. They will develop Power Point presentations of their papers for presentation to the class, and will serve as the responder to another student team's presentation.

Remarks:

The instructor organizes the class session so as to allow time for each team to present their point papers, and for the responding team to comment. If time permits (depending upon the number of students and teams), the instructor may choose to raise questions as well and to involve the entire class in a discussion of the issues.

Following the class, the instructor grades the papers and returns comments to the students, reinforcing the substance and issues covered in the previous seminar discussions. Each instructor will employ his or her grading criteria, based on experience with the course to date. However, suggested standard criteria could include:

- Understanding, and clarity of description, of the policy, including its major components and rationale.
- Relationship of the proposed reforms to identified issues or problems with the existing policy.
- Analysis of potential alternatives to problematic policy elements.
- Creativity and comprehensiveness of proposals.
- Overall critical thinking about the pros and cons of federal policy solutions to natural hazard mitigation need and opportunities.