SYLLABUS

Social Dimensions of Disaster, 2nd edition

Course Objectives:

1. Students will develop skills in applying sociological principles and research methodology to the practice of emergency management.

2. Students will acquire an introduction to current research pertaining to the sociological aspects of disaster.

3. Students will develop an understanding of how social science research can be used as a basis for modifying public policy related to emergency management.

Text Book:

A collection of reprints of journal articles and book chapters has been assembled for this course.

Outline of Topics and Required Student Readings:

1. Course orientation

   Syllabus; Course Bibliography


2. What is a Disaster?


3. History of Sociological Research on Disasters


4. Overview of Disasters and Hazards in the U.S.A. Today
5. Terrorism: Changing Threat Perceptions and Response Preparedness


6. All-Hazards Emergency Management


7. Disaster Mythology


8. Sources of Disaster Myths


9. Understanding Disaster Warnings


10. Public Warning Responses


11. Community Evacuation Behavior

12. Building Effective Warning Systems


13. Disaster Research Methods


14. Constructing Theoretical Models


15. Victim Responses To Disaster


16. Non-Victim Responses to Disaster


17. Understanding Looting Behavior


18. Mid-Term

19. Emergent Social Groups in Disaster

20. Organizational Responses to Disaster


21. Crisis Decision making


22. Emergent Multiorganizational Networks


23. Case Study Presentations

Student Choice

24. Case Study Presentations

Student Choice

25. Community Responses to Disaster


26. Disaster Recovery and Community Change


27. Disaster Inequalities

28. Tourism and Disaster: Preparedness, Responses, and Impacts


29. Disaster Stress


30. Media in Disaster


31. Disaster Planning Myths


32. Strategic Planning by Local Emergency Managers


33. Implementing Emergency Management Information Technology


34. Disaster Mitigation Exercise


35. Exercise Analysis

36. Disaster Denial and Disaster Preparedness Behavior


37. Field Trip: American Red Cross


38. Field Trip: Local Emergency Management Agency


39. Field Trip: State Emergency Management Agency


40. Field Trip: Federal Emergency Management Agency


And


41. What Works in Risk Communication?
42. Future Trends in Emergency Management


43. Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Emergency Management


And/or


44. Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and Users


45. Final Examination

**Modes of Evaluation:**

1. Mid-term Examination (take home essay) – 28%
2. Case Study Analysis (described below) – 10%
3. Oral Summary of Case Study – 5%
4. Persuasive Mitigation Speech – 5%
5. Field Trip Reaction Report (described below) – 16%
6. Final Exam (take home essay) – 28%
7. Class Discussion – 8%

Disaster Case Study Analysis

1. Length: 6 typewritten pages or equivalent (double spaced) is the maximum

2. Case study selection criteria
   a. Disaster focus
   b. Author must be a social scientist, preferably a sociologist
   c. Book length report (not a journal article)
   d. Instructor approval required (on or before Session 14)
   e. Examples: Taylor et al. (1970); Erikson (1976); Peacock et al. (1997)

3. Required Format: (use the following subtitles)
   a. Book citation
   b. Credentials of author (degrees, positions, previous publications)
   c. Summary of event and locale
   d. Research methods
   e. Major social science conclusions
   f. Confirmation with Drabek Inventory
   g. Inconsistencies with Drabek Inventory
   h. Emergency management policy issues
   i. Conclusions most relevant to emergency managers

Field Trip Reaction Report

1. Students will submit four reports reflecting the course field trips.

2. Length: 3 typewritten pages or equivalent (double spaced)

3. Format: use the following subtitles
a. Agency name

b. Speaker

c. Questions: List 4 questions you would like to ask; these are to be written prior to the trip.

d. Reactions:

1) Which of your questions did you have the opportunity to ask and what answer was given?

2) What did you learn about human responses to disaster (victims, agency personnel, the public at large)?

3) What did you learn about emergency management (agency roles, governmental roles and laws, career paths)?

4) What did you learn about sociological research applications to emergency management?

5) What was the single most important new piece of information about human response to disaster that you learned?

**Late Paper Policy**

It is assumed that all papers will be submitted in class on the date due. One point will be deducted from the grade assigned each day beyond the due date.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Submission of any work other than your own, like any other dishonest act, will result in disciplinary action in accordance with university policies.