

Disaster Management and Policy

PAD 6600/7600 Section 003, Fall 2004
Wednesdays 4:00 PM - 6:45 PM
North Classroom (NC) 1515

Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver

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Course Description

This course will provide a broad introduction to the critical challenges of disaster management and policy. The central purpose of this course is to examine strategies for reducing the hazards posed by disasters. The course will focus on what we can learn from the history of disasters, and on how we can apply those lessons to manage future disasters.

Required Readings

Waugh, William L. Jr. (2000). *Living with Hazards, Dealing with Disasters: An Introduction to Emergency Management*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

Haddow, George, and Jane Bullock (2003). *Introduction to Emergency Management*. Burlington, MA: Butterworth-Heinemann

Additional readings will be assigned online.

Assignments

The major assignment in this course is a research paper that analyzes an issue in disaster management and policy. You will be asked to share what you have learned with the class through a presentation based on your term paper. The course also includes a midterm exam. Due dates will be announced in class.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
Midterm Exam	20%
Term Paper	50%
Term Paper Plan	5%
Presentation	15%
Participation	10%

Course Schedule

August 25. Introduction to Emergency Management

This section introduces the challenges posed by hazards and disasters in modern societies.

September 1. Guest Lecture: The Oklahoma City Bombing

This section includes a guest lecture by Aden Hogan (Town Administrator, Parker, Colorado), who participated in the response to the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building (Oklahoma, 1995).

September 8. The Profession of Emergency Management (Haddow & Bullock c. 1-2, Waugh c. 1-2, Natural Hazards Center website)

This section examines the development of emergency management as a profession, and the fundamental elements of that profession (including risk assessment and the all-hazards emergency management model). This section includes a guest lecture by a staff member of the Natural Hazards Center.

September 15. Natural Disasters I (Waugh c. 3, U.S. Geological Survey website)

This section will examine floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, impact events, and tsunamis. Major case studies include the Big Thompson Canyon Flood (Colorado, 1976), the Midwest floods of 1993, the Alaskan earthquake and tsunamis of 1964, and the volcanic eruptions of Mt. Saint Helens (Washington, 1980), Mt. Pinatubo (Philippines, 1991), Krakatau (Sunda Strait, 1883), and Heimaey (Iceland, 1973).

September 22. Natural Disasters II (Waugh c. 3, National Interagency Fire Center website)

This section will examine hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, snow storms, heat waves, avalanches, landslides, and wildfires. Major case studies include Hurricane Andrew (1992), Hurricane Charley (2004), the Southeast Ice Storm of 1994, the Chicago Heat Wave of 1995, the Berkeley-Oakland Hills wildfires (California, 1991), and the California Fire Siege of 2003.

September 29. Technological Disasters (Waugh c. 4)

This section will examine structural failures and fires, hazardous material releases, and crashes. Major case studies include the Exxon Valdez oil spill (Alaska, 1989), the release of poison gas in Bhopal (India, 1984), the Wincoff Hotel Fire (Atlanta, 1946), and the nuclear accidents at Three Mile Island (Pennsylvania, 1979) and Chernobyl (Ukraine, 1986)

October 6. The All-Hazards Emergency Management Model (Haddow & Bullock c. 3-6)

This section will examine the mitigation, response, recovery and preparedness elements of the all-hazards emergency management model.

October 13. Incident Command and Communications (Haddow & Bullock c. 7)

This section will examine strategies for incident command and communications.

October 20. Terrorism (The 9/11 Commission Report Executive Summary online)

This section will examine disasters caused by terrorism, with a focus on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

October 27. Weapons of Mass Destruction (Haddow & Bullock c. 9)

This section will examine the extraordinary hazards posed by weapons of mass destruction (including nuclear weapons).

November 3. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA website)

This section will include a field trip to the regional center of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

November 10. Public Health Emergencies (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website)

This section will examine the management of epidemics. Major case studies include the influenza epidemic of 1918 and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic.

November 17. The American Red Cross (Red Cross website)

This section will include a presentation by a representative of the local chapter of the American Red Cross (a major non-governmental organization involved in disaster response).

November 24. Fall Break (no class).

December 1. The Future of Emergency Management (Waugh c. 5-6, Haddow & Bullock c. 8, 10)

This section will discuss the rapid evolution of emergency management as a profession in the 21st century, with a focus on the combined challenges posed by natural hazards, technological hazards, and terrorism. This section will also consider the political dimensions of hazards and disasters, with a focus on international disaster management (including humanitarian disasters).

December 8. Presentations.

Online Readings

Some required and recommended readings will be assigned online. To ensure efficient access to these websites, the relevant website addresses will be made available to you by e-mail.

Classroom Standards

My goal in this course is to create a constructive learning experience for every participating student. Therefore, anyone participating in this course must refrain from actions that disrupt the learning experience for others (unnecessary use of cell phones, private conversations, etc.).

The requirements of this course include regular class attendance. Unexplained absences can result in a reduction of your participation grade. Late work can also result in reduced grades. Therefore, you should contact me in advance to explain any missed classes or late work.

This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class. This course is pre-approved as an elective for the GSPA concentration in Environmental Policy, Management, and Law.