

DISA 651– International Aspects of Disasters **Spring, 2010**

Professor: Dr. Joseph Trainor
Class Time: Thursdays 6:00-9:00pm
Location: Memorial Hall
Office Hours: E-mail/call anytime to set up a time for us to talk.
Office: The Disaster Research Center, 166 Graham Hall
Telephone: 302-831-4203
Email: jtrainor@udel.edu

Course Description

This course is an overview of disasters and disaster management from an international perspective. We will cover a number of issues including: Disasters' and development; a comparative analysis of how disasters are dealt with in different countries; and the interactions between nations during disasters.

Classroom Philosophy ***On Graduate Classes***

It is my opinion that substantive graduate classes, such as this one, are not “taught”, as much as they are facilitated by the professor. In that spirit, it is extremely important that you be prepared for classes. Most classes will begin with some summary statements, “big” questions, or lecture, but we will use the majority of the time to: discuss what you have read. You need to read all of the material and be ready to discuss it each week. The quality of your experience in this class will be directly related to the level of effort you put into preparing. In other words, you should have read and processed the assigned material prior to class on the date which it is listed in the schedule below.

The Intellectual Argument

The intellectual argument is based on facts and principles not just on emotional assertions. Use of stereotypes and engaging in humor at the expense of others does not constitute intellectual argument. Intellectual argument does not have room for intimidation or abuse of authority. We should conduct discussions in a way that encourages the fullest possible participation. Remember your perspective is a “claim” or argument not a pure fact. The same is true of evidence you may choose to present. Be prepared to cite sources of your information. We are together not because we all agree but because we can learn from each other. As such, discussion should be conducted in the spirit of mutual education with the utmost respect for and civility towards each other and our differing viewpoints. We should be willing to question any and all positions but should also know that we will all be mistaken from time to time in our views and arguments, and we should respect opposing views even if we believe they are incorrect.

Texts

In order to get the most from class lectures, discussions, and activities, you need to be prepared. The reading expectations are challenging but reasonable and I expect that you will come to class ready to participate. In other words, you should have read and processed the assigned material prior to class on the date which it is listed in the schedule below. In addition to a number of readings that can be found on the Saki Site, the following is the required text for this class:

1. Coppola, Damon P. (2007) Introduction to International Disaster Management Elsevier, New York, NY

Course Policies

Please refer to the student handbook for the university's general academic policies. Cheating or plagiarism in any form will automatically lead to a failure in this course. See the university policy on Academic Honesty for further details.

The last day to drop/add this course without financial penalty is **February 22nd**.
The last day to withdraw from this course without academic penalty is **April 16th**.

Attendance

Class absences will adversely affect your grades. Simply put, students that attend class almost always do better than those that do not. Class will start promptly each day please make every attempt to be on time.

Graded Activities

The following list contains the items you will be graded on for this course. All assignments are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts learned in the classroom. I will provide detailed descriptions of each in short time. Assignments will not be accepted if more than one class period late. All late assignments will be assessed a ten point penalty.

- *Paper Draft (100 points)*
- *Paper Presentation (100 Points)*
- *Final Paper (100 Points)*
- *Saki Forum Posts (75 points)*
- *Class Participation (25 points)*

You can determine your grade by dividing the total number of points you have earned throughout the course by four hundred and multiplying by 100. I round to the first decimal place anything above .5 gets rounded up anything below gets rounded down. The grade distribution will be based upon the following scale:

94-100 = A	80-83 = B-	67-69 = D+
90-93 = A-	77-79 = C+	64-66 = D
87-89 = B+	74-76 = C	60-64 = D-
84-86 = B	70-73 = C-	≤59 = F

Additional Resources Available to You

Sakai Site

I have created a Sakai site for this class. The site will serve as a central point for the storage and distribution of course related materials. Readings that are not in the required text will be digitized and placed into folders on this site. To login go to:

<https://sakai.udel.edu/portal>

Important WebPages

FEMA in Higher Education: <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/>

FEMA: www.FEMA.gov

University of Delaware Disaster Research Center: www.udel.edu/DRC

Natural Hazards Center: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/>

UD Disaster resource page: <http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/disasters/>

DRC Institutional Repository:

<http://www.udel.edu/DRC/E.L.%20Quarantelli%20Resource%20Collection/D-space.html>

E.L. Quarantelli Resource Collection

In addition to maintaining its own databases, DRC serves as a repository for materials collected by other agencies and researchers. DRC's specialized library, which contains the world's most complete collection on the social and behavioral aspects of disasters - now numbering more than 55,000 items - is open to both interested scholars and professionals involved in all aspects of emergency management. A full-time Resource Collection Coordinator (our "librarian") is available to assist visitors and students at DRC conduct searches of the collection's database using keywords, titles or authors' names. The Coordinator can also familiarize researchers with a variety of Websites in the disaster, risk, hazards, and emergency management areas to enhance their access to the most up-to-date information on a topic.

We will have an introduction to the collection in the beginning of class. You should make every effort to become familiar with this resource.

Important Dates

February 11th-First Day of Class

March 18th-No Class (Work on Papers)

March 25th- First Draft of Paper Due

April 1st- No Class (Spring Break)

May 6th-Presentations

May 13th- Last Day of Class

May 20th- Final Papers Due

Tentative Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week One- (February 11th) Welcome, Course Introduction, Introduction to Disaster Terms and Concepts

- Coppola- Chapter 1

Week Two (February 18th) Considerations in International Emergency Management

- Coppola- Chapter 11
- Torres et.al. (2010) A Primer on the International Disaster Response Literature
- McEntire (1997) Reflecting on the weakness of the community during the IDNDR
- Alexander (2006) Globalization of Disaster trends, Problems and Dilemmas

Week Three (February 25th) Risk and Vulnerability

- Coppola- Chapter 3
- Rodriguez and Russell (2006) Understanding Disasters
- Slovic (2002) Perception of Risk
- Engle et. al. (2010) Floods and Disaster Management in the NL

Week Four (March 4th) Governmental Emergency Management Agencies

- Coppola- Chapter 8 (p337-353)
- McEntire (2010) Comparative Emergency Management
- Rozdilsky (2010) Emergency Management in Israel
- Misomali (2010) Emergency Management In Malawi

Week Five (March 11th) NGO's and Multi-Lateral Organizations

- Coppola- Chapter 9
- Coppola- Chapter 10 (p. 452-495)
- Fritz (2005) Lessons from the Tsunami: Top Line Findings
- More et. al. (2003) International NGO's

Week Six (March 18th) *No Class, Work on Papers*

Week Seven (March 25th) Financial Organizations

- ***FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE***
- Syroka and Wilcox (2006) Rethinking International Disaster Aid Finance
- "Hazards of Nature, risks to Development"

Week Eight (April 1st) *No Class, Spring Break*

Week Nine (April 8th) Disasters and Development

- Freeman Infrastructure, Natural Disasters, and Poverty
- Fordam (2007) Disaster and Development Research and Practice
- Aguirre Cuba's Emergency Management and the Need for a Holistic Understanding of Risk

Week Ten (April 15th) International Coordination

- Chapter 8 (p356-371)
- Katoch (2006) The Responders Cauldron
- Wachtendorf (2000) When Disasters Defy Borders

Week Eleven (April 22nd) Issues in the Provision of International Aid

- Letukas (2008) Is Aid A Social Problem? Cross-National Media Constructions of Relief Efforts Following the Indian Ocean Tsunami
- Cordier(2008) Faith based aid
- Rodrigez et al (2006)

Week Twelve (April 29th) Disaster Diplomacy

- Comfort (2000) Disaster: Agent of Diplomacy or Change in International Affairs?
- Kelman (2006) Acting on Disaster Diplomacy
- Akcinaroglu (2008) Avalanches and Olive Branches

Week Thirteen (May 6th)

- ***PRESENTATIONS***

Week Fourteen- (May 13th) Open Topic

Week Fifteen (May 20th)

- ***FINAL PAPERS DUE TO NO LATER THAN 5:00pm***