

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT
CHARLOTTE
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY)**

Sociology 4090-002
Social Work 3090-001
Sociology of Disasters
Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Tom Forrest
Office: 5014 Colvard North
Phone: 547-4077
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Required Readings:

1. *Blueprint for Community Emergency Management: A Text for Managing Emergency Operations* edited by P. LaValla and R. Stoffel. Olympia, Washington: The Emergency Response Institute, Inc. Designated as L & S.
2. A packet of readings (Sociology 4090 and Social Work 3090) that is obtained from CopyWrite, 8550 University City Blvd.

Course Description and Goals:

The focus of this course will be on human behavior in a natural and man-made (generic use) disaster e.g., hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, floods; and chemical spills, nuclear power plant accidents, riots, etc. Students will become familiar with a broad range of topics including but not limited to the different stages of disaster response, how organizations and communities plan for and respond to disasters, myths regarding disasters, different governmental responses, and theoretical models explaining the dynamics of disaster response. Case studies of a number of disasters will be used to illustrate the material discussed. In addition, students will be introduced to the emerging profession of “emergency management and contingency planning” and acquire an understanding of the general precepts of disaster planning.

Policy Regarding Incompletes and Academic Dishonesty:

Incompletes will only be given for medical reasons or extreme crisis. Incompletes must be negotiated PRIOR to the final examination. It is the students responsibility to remove this incomplete in the agreed upon time period specified in a department “Contract for a Grade of Incomplete”. As a personal policy I am very reluctant to give incompletes but will deal fairly with legitimate requests.

Course Requirements:

- (1) Attendance and quality classroom participation. It is expected that you will have read assigned material prior to class discussion and lecture on the topic.....10%
- (2) There will be two examinations. They are designated in the assignment section of this syllabus. You will be given at least one weeks notice before each exam. Each exam is worth 25%, which is 50% of your grade.
- (3) There will be two short unannounced quizzes over the reading material. Each quiz will count 10%= 20%
- (4) You will choose one of the following course paper options which will count for 20% of the course grade20%

This paper will be due November 19, 1992 and is to be 6-8 typed pages. More details will be given about these options later.

- (a) You will select a specific disaster and analyze it in terms of the framework developed in class.
- (b) You will select a given topic discussed in class and do further in depth reading (at least six additional sources) on that topic. The written paper is to summarize and interrelate the readings with the course material.
- (c) You will select an organization; e.g., Red Cross, Salvation Army, social service agency, business, utility, government agency, and examine emergency preparedness issues for that organization.
- (d) You may propose an alternative course paper topic and present it to me for approval.

OUTLINE OF COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

- I. Introduction: Why Study Disaster? An Overview
 - A. Disaster Myths
 - L & S, pp. 69-80
 - B. Sociology of Disasters
 - Reading #1 "Introduction"
 - Reading #2 "Sociological Methods and Disaster Research"
 - 1. Disaster Agents and Stages of Disaster Response.
 - Reading #3 "The Disaster Event and Community Stress"
 - 2. Importance of Disaster Research
 - C. Emergency Management

Reading #4 “The Evolution of Emergency Management”
L & S, pp. 9-54

II. Case Study: The L.A. Riot, Video
L & S, 81-84

III. Framework for Analysis
Reading #5 “Reference Points for Analysis”

EXAMINATION #1

IV. Who Responds to Disasters

A. Individuals - Psychological Issues
L & S, pp. 331-346.

B. Groups
Reading #6 “Emergent Citizens Groups and Emergency Management”
Reading #7 “Disaster Preparedness and Response Among Minority Groups”

C. Organizations
Reading #8 “Ways of Conceptualizing Organized Behavior”

D. Government: Community, State and Federal
Reading #9 “Disasters and Community Organization”

V. Stages of Disaster Response

A. Hazard Analysis and Mitigation
L & S, pp. 101-126

B. Planning
Reading #10 “Organizing A Response to Disaster: A Planning Effort”
Reading #11 “Disaster Planning”
L & S, 143-166

C. Cooperation and Coordination
Reading #12 “Coordinating Community Resources”

D. Warning and Evacuation
L & S, pp. 245-256, 305-330

E. Post-Impact
L & S, pp. 269-303

F. Restoration and Recovery
L & S, pp. 347-380

Sociology 4090 and Social Work 3090

(Con't)

VI. Long Term Impact

EXAMINATION #2

IV. Stages of Disaster Response

C. Post Impact Behavior

Care of the Dead and Injured

Reading #14 -- M.R. Hershiser "Some Observations on the Handling of the Dead in the Rapid City, South Dakota Flood Disaster." Preliminary Report #12. Columbus, Ohio: Disaster Research Center. 1974 7 pages

D. Recovery and Restoration

Reading #15 -- C. B. Rubin "The Community Recovery Process in the United States After a Major Natural Disaster." *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MASS EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS* 3:2, August, 1985. pp. 9-28.

Reading #16 -- J.M. LaPlante "Recovery Following Disaster: Policy Issues and Dimensions" in L.K. Comfort (ed.) *MANAGING DISASTERS*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press. 1988. pp. 217-235.

Reading #17 -- R.W. Kates and D. Pijawka. "From Rubble to Monument: The Pace of Reconstruction" in J.E. Haas, et. al. (eds.) *RECONSTRUCTION FOLLOWING DISASTER* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 1977. pp. 1-68.

EXAMINATION #2

Instructor: Dr. Thomas R. Forrest
Office: 5014 Colvard
Phone: 547-4077
Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday
8:15-9:15 am
11:00-11:45 am
Wednesday
4:00-5:00 pm
or By Appointment

SOCIOLOGY 6090-090
SOCIOLOGY OF DISASTERS
FALL, 1994

COURSE OVERVIEW:

There are several course objectives that underpin the structure of this course. First, using a sociology of knowledge approach we have the unique opportunity to examine the emergence of an academic area, disaster research, where most of the key figures are still living and contributing. Second, students will be given an overview of what happens in a disaster situation. How do individuals, groups, organizations, communities and state and national governments respond to disasters? Thirdly, we will examine and assess current disaster research and its contributions to sociology and conversely sociology contributions to our understanding of human behavior under extremely stressful situations.

This course will be a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. **It is imperative that students come to class having read the assigned readings for the week.** Given the small class size everyone will be expected to fully participate in classroom discussions and to attend each session.

ASSIGNED READINGS:

1. R.R. Dynes, B. DeMarchi, and C. Pelanda. *Sociology of Disasters*. Milano, Italy: Franco Angeli. 1987. This has been reproduced by the Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware and can be purchased at the UNC-Charlotte bookstore.
2. Readings Packet which can be purchased from the copy center in Colvard North.
3. Reserved Readings in the Library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Your course grade will be based on several factors:

- (1) Class Participation and Attendance 15%
If you come to all class meetings and participate thoughtfully in the weekly discussions you will receive a grade of “A” for this component of your grade. If your participation and attendance are less than the above, your grade in this area will be lower. I hope to be generous in this area to encourage all students to partake enthusiastically in this aspect of the course.

- (2) Written Summaries of Weekly Readings..... 15%
You will be assigned readings for each week. You are required to hand in at the beginning of each class a two page typed, double-spaced summary and evaluation of that weeks readings. This is to ensure you have read and thought about the readings prior to class and that you will be able to participate in the discussion. Again I plan to grade this in a generous fashion if you carry out the assignment conscientiously. This assignment is designed to encourage all students to participate in the seminar enthusiastically.

- (3) Book Critique and Presentation 20%
You will be asked to read and review a book on a **specific disaster** and present your review to the class. You will have a choice of the book you review. This will enable the class to have more examples of a wider range of disaster situations. More details on this assignment will be forthcoming in class.

- (4) Two Article Summaries and Presentations 20%
You will be assigned two articles to present to the class. Each article will have a two page typed double-spaced summary and evaluation that will be handed out to all members of the class. (You will need to make sufficient copies for all class members.) You will make a brief presentation to the class on these articles. This assignment is designed to give each class member additional information on the topics discussed in class.

- (5) A Written Term Project..... 30%
More information will be forthcoming about this assignment. It will be a written project (15-20 double-spaced typed pages). You will have a choice of several different kinds of projects. **Due DECEMBER 7.**

ASSIGNMENTS and COURSE OUTLINE

Week 2	Aug. 31	<i>SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE</i>
	Reading #1.	E.L. Quarantelli “Disaster Studies: An Analysis of the Social Historical Factors Affecting the Development of Research in the Area.”
	Reading #2.	E.L. Quarantelli “Disaster Studies: The Consequences of the Historical Use of a Sociological Approach in the Development of Research.”
	Book	R.R. Dynes “Introduction” <i>Sociology of Disasters</i> pp. 13-29.
	Reading #3.	R.R. Dynes and T.E. Drabek “The Structure of Disaster Research: Its Policy and Disciplinary Implications.”
Week 3	Sept. 7	<i>DEFINING DISASTERS</i>
	Book	N.R. Britton “Toward a Reconceptualization of Disaster for the Enhancement of Social Preparation” pp. 31-55.
	Reading #4.	E.L. Quarantelli “What Should We Study? “Questions and Suggestions for Researchers About the Concept of Disasters.”
	Reading #5.	E.L. Quarantelli “Conceptualizing Disasters From A Sociological Perspective.”
	Reading #6.	R.A. Stallings “Disasters as Social Problems?: A Dissenting View.”
Week 4	Sept. 14	<i>EARLY RESEARCH ON DISASTERS and SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS</i>
	Reading #7.	T.J. Scanlon “Disaster’s Little Known Pioneer: Canada’s Samuel Henry Prince.”
	Reading #8.	J.M. Nigg and R.W. Perry “Influential First Sources: Brief Statements with Long-Term Effects.”
	Book	D.S. Mileti “Sociological Methods and Disaster Research” in <i>Sociology of Disasters</i> pp. 57-69.
Week 5	Sept. 21	<i>General Description of States and Organized Response</i>
	Handout:	E.L., Quarantelli and R.R. Dynes, “When Disaster Strikes” in <i>Psychology Today</i> February, 1972, pp. 61-70.

Reserve Reading Room:

R.R. Dynes *Organized Behavior in Disaster* Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Co. Chapters 3-6. The book will be available plus a photocopy of the chapters.

Week 6 Sept. 28 *DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, MITIGATION, PREDICTION AND WARNING*

Reading #9. K.J. Tierney “Improving Theory and Research on Hazard Mitigation: Political Economy and Organizational Perspectives.”

Reading #10. D.F. Gillespie and C.L. Streater. “Conceptualizing and Measuring Disaster Preparedness.”

Reading #11. M.K. Lindell “Warning Mechanism in Emergency Response Systems.”

Reading #12. J.H. Sorensen and D.S. Meleti. “Decision-Making Uncertainties in Emergency Warning System Organizations.”

Book J.M. Nigg “Communication and Behavior. Organizational and Individual Response to Warnings” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 103-117.

Week 7 Oct. 5 *RESPONSE AND RECOVERY*

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE: PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES

Reading #13. J.H. Sorensen, D.S. Moleti, and E. Copenhaver. “Inter and Intraorganizational Cohesion in Emergencies.”

Reading #14. F.L. Bates and W.G. Peacock. “Long Term Recovery.”

Reading #15. J.L. Garrison “Mental Health Implications of Disaster Relocation in the United States: A Review of the Literature.”

Book R.R. Dynes “The Concept of Role in Disaster Research” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 71-102.

Week 8 Oct. 12 *Library Research*

Week 9 Oct. 19 *GROUP RESPONSE*

Reading #16. R. Bolin “Disaster Impact and Recovery: A Comparison of Black and White Victims.”

- Reading #17. R.W. Perry “The Effects of Ethnicity on Evacuation Decision-Making.”
- Reading #18. B.D. Phillips “Cultural Diversity in Disasters Sheltering, Housing, and Long Term Recovery.”
- Book R.W. Perry “Disaster Preparedness and Response among Minority Citizens” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 135-151.
- Week 10 Oct. 26 *ORGANIZATION RESPONSE*
- COMMUNITY RESPONSE*
- Book R.A. Stallings “Organizational Change and the Sociology of Disasters” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 239-257.
- Book T.E. Drabek “Emergent Structure” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 259-290.
- Reading #19. C.B. Rubin “The Community Recovery Process in the United States After a Major Natural Disaster.”
- Book R. Akimoto “Disaster and Urban Community” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 153-179.
- Book C.E. Faupel “Human Ecology: Contributions to Research and Policy Formation” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 181-211.
- Week 11 Oct. 27 *STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE*
- Reading #20. R.T. Sylves “Adopting Integrated Emergency Management in the United States: Political and Organizational Challenges.”
- Reading #21. T.R. Forrest “Disaster Gypsies: The Role of Informal Relationships in Administering Disaster Assistance.”
- Week 12 Nov. 9 *CROSS CULTURAL DISASTER RESEARCH*
- Reading #22. R.R. Dynes “Cross-Cultural International Research: Sociology and Disaster.”
- Reading #23. J.K. Schorr “Some Contributions German Katastrophensoziologie Can Make to the Sociology of Disaster.”
- Reading #24. N.P. Petropoulos “Disaster Behavior Research in Greece: Review and Prospects.”

Week 13 Nov. 16 *MASS MEDIA COVERAGE OF DISASTERS*

Book B. DeMarchi and D. Ungaro “A Sociosystemic Model of Information Management in Mass Emergencies” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp.119-133.

Reading #25. D. Wenger and B. Friedman “Local and National Media Coverage of Disaster: A Content Analysis of the Print Media’s Treatment of Disaster Myths.”

Reading #26. L. Wilkins “Media Coverage of the Bhopal Disaster: A Cultural Myth in the Making.”

November 23 *THANKSGIVING VACATION*

Week 14 & 15 Nov. 30
Dec. 7 *SOCIOLOGY AND DISASTER RESEARCH*

Book E.L. Quarantelli “A Concluding Commentary” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 403-415.

Book D.E. Wenger “Collective Behavior and Disaster Research” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 213-237.

Reading #28. G.A. Kreps “Future Directions in Disaster Research: The Role of Taxonomy.”

Book W.R. Dombrowsky. “Critical Theory in Sociological Disaster Research” in *Sociology of Disasters* pp. 331-356.

Reading #29. E.L. Quarantelli “Converting Disaster Scholarship into Effective Disaster Planning and Managing Possibilities and Limitations.”

TERM PROJECT DUE—DECEMBER 7—PEARL HARBOR DAY!