THE MODERN WORLD IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE
(The Anthropology of Disaster)
Anthropology 300U
CRN: 14426
TR 12:00 – 1:50; ASRC 220
Fall 2014

Dr. Michele Gamburd
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Office hours: MT 2:00 – 3:00, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This class presents an upper division introduction to cultural diversity in a global context, using disaster as a lens through which to study social relations and ethical responsibility. We begin by discussing and then challenging the distinctions between natural hazards and disasters, man-made and natural events, and sudden and slow-moving catastrophes. Turning to the topic of political economy, we consider the effects of preexisting inequalities (e.g., race, ethnicity, class, and gender) and vulnerabilities (poverty, marginality), and examine individual, family, and community resilience as a function of social networks and social capital. We explore psychological predispositions to the risk of potential disasters and discuss the importance of knowledge and the anxiety of uncertainty in the aftermath of catastrophes. The course concludes with an analysis of successes and failures in the administration of humanitarian aid. Students will have ample opportunities for in-class discussion and debate and will interact with representatives from the City of Portland and Providence Medical Center on potential Portland disasters and local emergency management planning.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the end of the quarter, students will be able to

- Define natural hazard and disaster and apply the definitions to particular events
- Summarize, synthesize, evaluate, and create knowledge about the human experience of disaster
- Understand and analyze the effects of disaster on the built environment, human health, and social relationships
- Identify and critically assess structural determinants of vulnerability and resilience
- Understand and analyze how humans assess risk and react to uncertainty
- Understand, analyze, and use anthropological theories about cultural diversity and the social construction of identity as they relate to governance in disaster response
- Evaluate the role of the anthropologist in critiquing and facilitating the administration of humanitarian aid
- Understand, analyze, and evaluate how ethics, values, and choices affect nature, culture, and society through the lens of disaster studies
- Create, assess, and critique representations of disaster in the popular press, creative fiction, and academic writing.
D2L (Desire 2 Learn Learning Management System)

The course syllabus, assignment sheets, discussion forums, and links to class readings will be available on D2L. You may read the materials online or print copies for use during class discussions.

All student reading responses and essays will be submitted online through D2L.

Students can access D2L using an Odin username and password to login at https://d2l.pdx.edu. Use of D2L will be demonstrated on the first day of class. Please contact the instructor immediately if you encounter difficulties in accessing and using this resource.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Students taking this course pass-no-pass are required to earn at least a 'C-' to pass. The following assignments will form the basis for evaluating performance. Further instructions for each activity will be posted on D2L.

- **Reading responses and short essays (20%)**. Due throughout the term before the beginning of the class during which we will discuss the article, chapter, or topic.
- **Essay (20%)** on definitions and typologies (Sections 1 and 2). Due Thursday, Oct. 16th by midnight.
- **Creative endeavor and reflection essay (25%)**. Write a fictional story or screen play, or craft a piece of artwork or music about a disaster. Write an essay relating your work to anthropological theories on identity, vulnerability, and resilience (Section 3). Due Tuesday, November 4 by midnight.
- **Media analysis (25%)**. Analyze media coverage of a contemporary disaster in light of course readings on uncertainty, knowledge, and risk (Section 4). Due Tuesday, November 25 by midnight.
- **Reflection (10%)** on video or optional field trip in light of materials on humanitarian aid (Section 5). Due Thursday December 11 by midnight.

Policies

Please retain for your own records a copy of all the work you submit. All written work must be completed to receive a passing grade in this class. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each day past due except in the event of severe illness or emergency; the clock stops ticking when the student contacts the instructor to arrange a new deadline. Requests for extensions on deadlines should be made in writing ahead of the due date.

**Plagiarism** (intellectual theft) is a very serious academic offense. Students are responsible for reading the department handout on academic honesty and the [student code of conduct](#), both of which are posted on D2L. Suspected infractions will be turned over to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for investigation. Please ask the instructor or contact the Writing Center if you have any questions about plagiarism.

**Courteous use of technology** is allowed in the classroom, including accessing reading materials on laptops or tablets and typing notes into an electronic document. Checking email and accessing social media websites is disrespectful and distracting; students who engage in these activities while class is in session will be asked to shut down their technology immediately and will be barred from using it for the remainder of the quarter. All cell phones should be silenced during class.

Students with a documented disability needing accommodations in this course should immediately inform the instructor.
Anthropology majors should seek advising at least twice a year from faculty members in the Anthropology Department for advice related to meeting graduation requirements and achieving career goals.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Section 1: Introduction to the Anthropology of Disaster**

Hoffman and Oliver-Smith


Oliver-Smith, Anthony and Susanna M. Hoffman


**Section 2: Types of Hazards and Disasters: Proposing Definitions and Challenging Dichotomies**

Movie: Contagion (2011)
Takahashi, Satsuki.


Winchester, Simon


Diamond, Jared and Nathan Wolfe.


Read TWO of the following THREE pieces on climate change (Colopy, Colombi, Wilks)

Colopy, Cheryl


Colombi, Benedict J.


Wilk, Richard


Film: Heat: A Global Investigation (selections)
Read EITHER Guillette OR Johnston
Guillette, Elizabeth

Johnston, Barbara Rose

Further recommended reading on disaster typology:
Quarantelli, E.L., Patrick Lagadec, and Arjen Boin

Section 3: Social Aspects of Disaster – Structural Violence, Vulnerability, and Resilience
Jones, Eric C. and Arthur D. Murphy
2009 Linking Broad-Scale Political Economic Context to Fine-Scale Economic Consequences in Disaster Research. In The Political Economy of Hazards and Disasters, Eric C. Jones and Arthur D. Murphy, eds. pp. 3-10. New York: Altamira Press. (Read pp. 3-6; skim the rest.)


Satterfield, Terre, C.K. Mertz and Paul Slovic

Phillips, Brenda D. and Maureen Fordham

Read TWO of the following THREE on identity (Hyndman, Shah, Chari)
Hyndman, Jennifer

Shah, Nayan
Chari, Sharad  

Race and Hurricane Katrina

Video: Still Waiting: Life after Katrina, by Ginny Martin and Kate Browne (58 minutes; 2007)

Oliver-Smith, Anthony  

Read TWO of the following THREE on Katrina (O’Neill, Bay, Anglin)

O’Neill, Karen M.  

Bay, Mia.  

Anglin, Roland.  

Further recommended readings on race, gender, Katrina, and river embankments:

Adams, Vincanne, Taslim Van Hattum, and Diana English  

Bolin, Bob  

Colopy, Cheryl  

Dash, Nicole  

Enarson, Elaine  

Enarson, Elaine, Alice Fothergill, and Lori Peek  
Section 4: Risk, Knowledge, and Uncertainty

Film on industrial risk: The Spill (Frontline, 60 minutes, 2010)
Ehrlich, Paul R.

Slovic, Paul

Further recommended reading on the psychology of risk perception: websites on Prospect Theory http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/prospect.htm (useful quick discussion of prospect theory); http://prospect-theory.behaviouralfinance.net/ (prospect theory main website).

Fukushima: The Next Wave. (28 minutes, 2013)

Button, Gregory

Read TWO of the following FIVE on knowledge and uncertainty (Lauer, Button, Wailoo & Dowd, Stephens, Nader & Gusterson)

Lauer, Matthew

Button, Gregory

Wailoo, Keither and Jeffrey Dowd.

Stephens, Sharon

Nader, Laura and Hugh Gusterson

Further recommended readings:
Fortun, Kim

Liebow, Edward

Learn, Scott.

Section 5: Humanitarianism

Aceh

Daly, Patrick and Yenny Rahmayati

Mahdi, Saiful

Haiti

Film: Haiti: Where Did the Money Go? (51 minutes; 2011)

Schuller, Mark

Schuller, Mark and Pablo Morales.

Piarroux, Renaud, et al.

Walton, David A. and Louise C. Ivers.
COURSE SCHEDULE
Note: Schedule is subject to change, but assignment due-dates will not be moved earlier. Reading responses are due on D2L before class (i.e., by 11:59 AM) on the day we discuss the item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Readings, films, assignments due</th>
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<td>Sept</td>
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<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>Read and respond: Hoffman &amp; Oliver-Smith; Oliver-Smith &amp; Hoffman Film: Contagion</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Read: Takahashi, Winchester, Diamond &amp; Wolfe</td>
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<td>Read and respond: Two out of three on climate change Film: Heat: A Global Investigation</td>
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<td>Read and respond: Jones &amp; Murphy, Haviland, Satterfield &amp; Slovic, Phillips and Fordham Guest lecture: Jeremy Spoon</td>
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<td>Read and respond: Two out of three on identity</td>
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<td>Read: Oliver-Smith Film: Still Waiting: Life after Katrina</td>
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<td>Read and respond: Two out of three on Katrina Due: Creative endeavor &amp; reflection Film: The Spill</td>
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<td>Read and respond: Button, two out of five on uncertainty Film: Fukushima: The Next Wave</td>
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<td>Read: Daly &amp; Rahmayati, Madhi Guest lecture: Michael Kubler, Providence Health &amp; Services – Emergency Management</td>
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<td>Guest lecture: City of Portland</td>
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<td>Optional: Visit to Emergency Management Bunker</td>
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<td>Read and respond: Schuller, three short readings on Haiti Film: Haiti: Where Did the Money Go?</td>
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