USP 510: Disaster Management
Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning
Portland State University
Spring 2019

Classroom & hours: Mondays 10:00 am-12:40 pm
Location: URBN 220

Instructor
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Office: Urban Center 320 E
Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00 pm-2:00 p.m., and by appointment

Credits: 3 graduate hours (This course is an elective)

Recommended Prerequisite: none.

Course Website: This class uses D2L (https://d2l.pdx.edu/) in support of learning. You can log in with your Odin username and password.

Class Description and Objectives

Class Description: This course introduce students to the foundations of disaster management, including definitions of resilience and recovery, social vulnerability and social capital, business vulnerability, economic resilience, roles of non-profit organizations and faith-based organizations. This course also covers disaster preparedness, resilience, and recovery planning and funding sources and programs for community resilience.

Learning Objectives: by the end of the class, students should:

✓ Have a thorough and nuanced understanding of community resilience and recovery
✓ Know the procedures of community resilience planning
✓ Understand the funding mechanism and resources for community resilience and recovery
✓ Be able to discuss community resilience policies and their implications
COURSE WORK

**Reading Summaries:** Students will write six reading summaries. These reading summaries should be 3-5 pages long, summarizing the major concepts and takeaways from the assigned readings. Also, students should identify at least two questions for discussion. The reading summaries are due at the beginning of class.


**Grading:**

- Reading summaries: 10% * 6 = 60%
- Final project: 40%
- Total: 100%

Course grades will be assigned on a criterion-reference scale as follows:

- A: 90%-100%
- B: 80%-89%
- C: 70%-79%
- D: 60%-69%
- F: <60%

In case that a grade is on the borderline, classroom participation will be used to determine the final grade.

COURSE POLICIES

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend every class. To be excused the student must notify his or her instructor in writing (acknowledged e-mail message is acceptable) prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible. In cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. accident, or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. Students must provide additional documentation substantiating the reason for the absence that is satisfactory to the instructor, within one week of the last date of the absence. The instructor will either provide the student an opportunity to make up any graded activities or provide a satisfactory alternative to be completed within 30 calendar days from the last day of the absence.

**Classroom participation**

Students are encouraged to come to class prepared, make thoughtful contributions to class discussions, respect others’ views, and help each other out in collaborative learning groups.

**Assignment guidelines**

Students are encouraged to have study groups and help each other with the assignment. However, the work submitted must be individual work. Plagiarism will be prosecuted.
Late Submission Policy

In fairness to all students, especially those who work hard to meet deadlines, late assignments will be penalized 5% per day. Assignments and project report more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity Statement

PSU’s Student Code of conduct prohibits “All forms of academic dishonesty, cheating, and fraud, including but not limited to: (a) plagiarism, which includes, but is not limited to, word for word copying, using borrowed words or phrases from original text into new patterns without attribution, or paraphrasing another writer's ideas; (b) The buying and selling of all or any portion of course assignments and research papers; (c) Performing academic assignments (including tests and examinations) for other persons; (d) Unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information; and (e) Falsification of research data.”

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu,https://www.pdx.edu/drc.

If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.

Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.

For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the Fire and Life Safety webpage (https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety) for information.

Title IX Reporting Obligations

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that federal, state, and PSU policies require faculty members to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. Similarly, PSU faculty are required to file a report if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child with whom they come into contact has suffered abuse, or that any person with whom they come into contact has abused a child. If you would rather share information about these experiences with an employee who does not have these reporting responsibilities and can keep the information confidential, please contact one of the following campus resources (or visit this link):
- Women’s Resource Center (503-725-5672)
- Queer Resource Center (503-725-9742)
- Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC): 1880 SW 6th Ave, (503) 725-2800
- Student Legal Services: 1825 SW Broadway, (SMSU) M343, (503) 725-4556

For more information about the applicable regulations please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus in your D2L.
CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

Part I: Foundations for Disaster Management

Week 1 (April 1): Introduction - Disaster Management


Week 2 (April 8): Understanding Resilience and Recovery


✔ Due: Reading Summary 1

Week 3 (April 15): Social Vulnerability, Social Capital, and Household Resilience


✔ Due: Reading Summary 2

Week 4 (April 22): Business Vulnerability and Economic Resilience


✔ Due: Reading Summary 3
Week 5 (April 29): NGOs and Faith-Based Organizations in Community Recovery


✔ Due: Reading Summary 4

❖ **Guest Speaker: Dr. Rob Olshansky**

❖ Students should also attend Dr. Rob Olshansky’s public lecture on April 30.

**Part II: Planner’s Toolkit**

Week 6 (May 6): Community Resilience and Recovery Planning

- *The Oregon Resilience Plan: Reducing Risk and Improving Recovery for the Next Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami*

✔ Due: Reading Summary 5

❖ **Guest Speaker: Jay Raskin**

Week 7 (May 13): Funding and Assistance


✔ Due: Reading Summary 6

❖ **Guest Speaker: Dr. Maria Watson**

Week 8 (May 20): Resilience Measures

- *Building and Measuring Community Resilience: Actions for Communities and the Gulf Research Program*

Week 9 (May 27): Memorial Day, no class

Week 10 (June 3): Final Project Presentation