PLAN 670
Seminar in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance

Fall 2016
Monday 6:00 – 8:30 PM
Saunders Building, Room 713

Office Hours
Thursday 2:30 pm- 4:30 pm or by Appointment

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OVERVIEW
The course provides an overview of disaster management and humanitarian assistance with a specific focus on risk reduction. It serves as the entry course for the Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance. It provides background knowledge and skills for urban and regional planners and others who are increasingly concerned about the connections between environmental change, risk reduction, and resilience. The course considers the broad field of disaster studies as well as different phases of the disaster cycle. Invited international speakers will speak on topics including preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation and adaptation to hazards, threats, and environmental change. In addition to case studies, the course integrates training courses from the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (ndptc.hawaii.edu). The course is a core requirement for the Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• Describe the foundations and evolution of disaster management
• Understand the concepts of risk, vulnerability, resilience
• Identify the objective and priorities in international and domestic disaster governance frameworks
• Understand the interdisciplinary nature of the field and identify the core capabilities, and roles and responsibility of stakeholders in whole community approach
• Identify the role of federal, state, and local government, international organizations and the community in emergency response and disaster preparedness
• Discuss the potential and challenges to applying innovative data and technologies in disaster management
• Integrate planning theories, methods, tools, and practices in disaster mitigation, recovery, and climate change adaptation
• Summarize measures for effective risk perception, risk communication, risk reduction, and risk sharing.
• Understand and apply the concept of urban resilience in disaster management

COURSE STRUCTURE
The course is structured as a graduate level, international seminar. Disasters are teachable moments. They magnify underlying, structural, economic and social problems within communities. Disasters provide an opportunity to consider vulnerabilities as well as the exposures, sensitivities, and coping capabilities with harm causing events or processes. The course blends readings and classroom discussions with team and individual projects. Lessons from various disasters, proactive and reactive recovery cases will be discussed. Parts of the class will include lectures from international faculty and researchers who are part of the Asia-Pacific Initiative hosted and facilitated by the Telecommunications and Information Policy Group (TIPG). We will also include lectures and presentations from Hawaii-based researchers and professionals in the field of disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

There are no assigned textbooks. All required course readings will be available on the course website. Students are encouraged to take advantage of web-based and other electronic media on other aspects of disaster management.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Class Attendance: As a member of this seminar, you will be expected to attend each class and to arrive on time and be well prepared. If you cannot attend class because of illness, an emergency, or another legitimate reason, please email the instructors ahead of time. Otherwise, excessive absences or disruptive behavior could result in a lower or failing grade, or possible expulsion.

Participation: Your participation in discussions, activities and small group work is critical to the success of the class. You are expected to participate in meaningful interactions and treat each other with courtesy and respect.

Course Website: The online portal would be an essential tool for you this semester. You will need to enroll and learn the basics – how to access course readings and documents, and how to post messages to the class discussion boards. We will use the Moodle Portal for sharing information.

GRADING POLICIES
Your grade will be determined by:
• Assignment 1 What Went Wrong? – 15%
• Assignment 2 Book Review – 20%
• Assignment 3 Completion of 1 online courses – 20%
・ Final Paper: Resilience Paper – 40%
・ Class Participation – 5%

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND HONOR POLICY
Students engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom. Use of cell phones and computers without permission of the instructor is considered disruptive behavior. Students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning are expected to adhere to all University of academic honesty policies. Any incidence of cheating, copying, signing rosters for others, or other attempts to deceive will be penalized by lowered grades, course failure, and/or referral to the University Honor Court. Students are responsible for reading and abiding by the University's student code of conduct and academic honesty. http://www.studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/

DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION (5%)
You will sign up as discussion leaders at the beginning of the semester. You will lead the discussion on relevant topics. You can bring in additional readings. Please send your discussion outline and additional material to the instructors at least one week before the class to be shared with the class in advance. You can add to the course portal in terms of finding links, articles, files and other contributions. You can participate in our international discussions. You think of interesting people to invite to class. You can share your ideas, energy, and discoveries with us. There are many ways to participate. You can help make this a lively, useful, and thought-provoking experience. You can help all of us to make the interesting connections between your backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge and the course themes.

ASSIGNMENTS
All the assignments should be submitted to Laulima website before the beginning of the class on the due date.

Assignment #1 - What Went Wrong? (15%)
Write a 3-4 page (double spaced) description of a disaster. Why does the particular event qualify as a disaster? What definitions of a disaster did you utilize in identifying this as a disaster? Who was affected and how where they affected? Identify the causes and consequences of the disaster. Identify the risk factors and generate a map of risk factor causal pathway. Make sure to include a bibliography of the sources you consulted. In addition, prepare a short 10 minute (3 slides) presentation to accompany your assignment.
Due on September 12, 2016

Assignment #2 – Book Review (20%)
Pick a recent book related to disaster management and/or humanitarian assistance. Please notify the instructors of your chosen book by September 19th. Write a 4-5 page (double spaced) review of the book. Share your review through group discussions in class. The first part of the review should succinctly describe the contents of the book. What is the main argument(s)? What data does the author(s) use to make the argument(s)? What methods do they rely on? The second part of the review should
critique the book. What’s missing? How could the methods, data, or other aspects of the book be improved? The third part of the review should focus on the book’s contributions to field of disaster management and humanitarian assistance. Describe how the information contained in the book is useful (or not) in terms of disaster preparedness, response, recovery or other aspects of the disaster cycle, or in the theory or practice of humanitarian assistance. Share and discuss your book review in class on Oct 17.

**Due on October 17, 2016**

**Assignment #3** – Completion of an online certificate program (20%)  
Choose a self-study program of your interest relevant to disaster management from the following online certificate programs (minimum 2 hours). **Please notify the instructor your choice by October 31st.** It is strongly encouraged that you choose a program earlier in the semester. Share your learning and thoughts on the topic with the class through discussions. Pass the final exam and obtain a certificate by the end of the semester.  
Online self-study certificate programs:  
The Columbia regional learning center: http://ncdp.crlctraining.org/.  
**Certificate due via email to the instructor by November 14, 2016**

**Final Paper** Disaster Resilience Paper (30%)  
Write a 8-10 page (double spaced) paper on urban resilience. The Rockefeller Foundations' 100 Resilient Cities program proposes that city resilience "Is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience." How do you think? Specifically, address the following questions.

- What does it mean to be a resilient city?  
- What are the challenges AND the opportunities?  
- How do we measure success?  
- What are appropriate ways in which urban resilience programs and projects are taking shape?  
- What are the lessons to be learned?  
- How transferable are the findings to other places, cultures, and environments?  
- What, if anything, could be done to improve in future?

You will be assessed on how you were able to integrate the course knowledge, tools, lectures, presentations, and readings with your particular academic interests relevant to disaster management and/or humanitarian assistance. Please closely review the course syllabus as well as other sources and relate the topic to the relevant course content. Prepare a 15 minutes presentation to accompany your paper. The presentation count for 5% of the final grade, and the paper will be account for 25% of the total grade.

**Due December 8, 2016**
Course Schedule & Readings

August 22 — Introduction and Overview of the Course

- What is this course about?
- How will the course be organized?
- What are your interests and backgrounds?
- What are expectations?
- What are the connections between planning and disaster management?
- Discuss grading and assignments


August 29 —Risk and Vulnerability


September 5 – NO CLASS (LABOR DAY)
- Time to organize for the rest of the term;
- Identify and propose your projects and papers:
- Work on the first assignment – What went wrong?

September 12 — What went wrong discussions


September 19 — Disaster Governance Frameworks


September 26 — Disaster Response: Collaboration and Leadership (Field Trip)


October 3 — Disaster Preparedness


October 10 — Risk Perception and Communication


October 17 — Book Review (presentation and discussion in class)

October 24 — Supporting Disaster Management using Data and Technologies

Disaster-related Datasets and tools. https://www.data.gov/disasters/


Brian Forde (2013). What startups taught the white house during disaster. Mashable. http://mashable.com/2013/05/05/brian-forde-sandy-technology/#rXQIsXmXhuqY


October 31 — Disaster Mitigation and Risk Reduction


November 7 — Risk Sharing: Flood Insurance


Nov 14 — Recovery


Nov 21 — Learning from Katrina


Explore the data and reports on the following website. What do you learn and what do you suggest for future development in New Orleans and other floodprone places? http://www.datacenterresearch.org/reports_analysis/new-orleans-index-at-ten/
November 28— Climate Change Impacts and Urban Resilience


The national security implications of a changing climate (2015)  


December 5— Final Presentation and Class Wrap Up

Syllabus is subject to change by Instructor.  
It is likely that changes to the syllabus will be made over the course of the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to confirm that the most recent version of the syllabus is being used.