

EPT 120
SOCIOLOGY OF DISASTER

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

This course is designed to overview sociological disaster research, disaster system, and alternative research approaches. Topics include human and organizational behaviors, long term disaster impact on communities, disaster warning, and evacuation considerations. Upon completion, students should be able to assess and predict the impact of disaster-related human behavior. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- a. Acquire an introduction to research pertaining to the sociological aspects of disaster.
- b. Define disaster sociologically
- c. Determine the different types of disasters
- d. Explain the disaster life cycle.
- e. Describe and differentiate among units of analysis.
- f. Describe disaster-warning responses as social processes.
- g. Explain the social processes whereby families evacuate.
- h. Identify special populations.
- i. Explain warning disbelief or threat denial responses.
- j. Identify the seven key functions that comprise the evaluation-dissemination subsystem within all warning systems.
- k. Describe and illustrate three myths about public responses to disasters.
- l. Describe the relevance of emergent systems for disaster managers.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. What Is A Disaster
 - a. Natural Disaster
 - b. Technological Disaster
 - c. Conflict Disaster
- II. Disaster Warning Responses
 - a. Adaptive response to disaster warning: receiver characteristics
 - b. Adaptive response to disaster warning: message characteristics
- III. Family Evacuation Patterns
 - a. Evacuation Pathways
 - b. Constraints on Shelter Selection
 - c. Evacuation Facilitators

- IV. Community Warning and Evacuation
 - a. Warning Time
 - b. Proportion Leaving
 - c. Unnecessary Evacuations

- V. Disaster Victim Response
 - a. Victim responses
 - b. Conditions required for panic behavior

- VI. Non-Victim Responses to Disaster
 - a. Three myths about non-victim responses
 - b. Convergence Behavior
 - c. Therapeutic Communities
 - d. Constraints

- VII. Theory of Disaster Response
 - a. Kreps Structural Code
 - b. DRC archives
 - c. Dimensions of Role Enactment

- VIII. Long-Term Disaster Impacts
 - a. Generalization
 - b. Dread and Trauma
 - c. Social Factors
 - d. Future Disasters
 - e. Recommendations
 - f. Impacts

- IX. Media in Disasters
 - a. Impact of the media on public perceptions
 - b. Sequential model of media responses to disasters

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

Textbook to be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.