

SYLLABUS – as of 10/18/15

SPEA E100 – Disasters, Humans, and the Environment

Class # 12342, Course ID 043519
Fall 2015
M-W 6:00–8:30 PM
Auditorium A151

Instructor: Les Wadzinski

Office: SPEA 412
Office hours: Thursday 2:30-3:30
and by appointment
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Staff support: Jennifer Mitchner at
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Course Materials

- A. Oncourse readings (under the Resource tab)
- B. On-line readings
- C. Handouts

Course Description

This course is a general study of disasters and their relationship to people. This topic is very broad and it would be impossible to cover all aspects in just one short course. We will therefore focus on the basics of just a few types of disasters: those that get in the news a lot or are prevalent here in the Midwest. The main focus will be on natural disasters, but we will also touch on some human caused disasters such as terrorist attacks and the issue of human caused climate change.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will:

- ✓ Understand the natural processes that cause disasters.
- ✓ Understand how people can be affected.
- ✓ Understand how the environment can be affected, sometimes for the good.
- ✓ Learn about some ways that authorities and organizations respond to disasters.
- ✓ Learn some safety tips to protect yourself when faced with a disaster.

Schedule: The class schedule is posted on the Canvas calendar.

Class policies, an assignment summary, and grading policies may be found on the following pages.

Class Policies. Please consider the following policies to be a contract for this class.

- ✓ **Oncourse.** I will use the class webpage on Canvas to post the syllabus, schedule, grades, readings, announcements, and lecture outlines.
- ✓ **Attendance.** There will be daily discussion and team assignments which are worth significant points; see grading section on the next page.
- ✓ **Lectures.** My teaching style is that of using power points for lecture, engaging students in discussion, and using team based learning. I do not provide lecture notes and I don't post class notes or the power points, so attendance and good note taking skills are *very* critical. To assist with your note taking, I will post outlines that will generally mirror the power points.
- ✓ **Readings.** Readings can be found linked from the Canvas assignments section or the calendar. In the case of a discrepancy between lectures and readings, the lecture material will take precedent on the tests.
- ✓ **Due dates.** Due dates are listed on the class schedule. For some assignments, I will use the plagiarism tool Turnitin which is incorporated into Canvas. However, I will still require a hardcopy by the due date. Late submissions will receive a reduction of 10% off the possible points for that assignment for each day the assignment is late (fractions will be rounded). For extraordinary situations entirely beyond your control, you will be required to provide documentation of the situation and I will make a determination. There will be no extensions or makeups granted for missed quizzes or team assignments. However, you may drop your two lowest scores
- ✓ **Exam dates.** Make up exams will not be administered except in the case of extraordinary circumstances beyond your control (see above) or for reasons that meet criteria stated in the University Religious Holy Days/Holidays policy that can be found at <http://enrollmentbulletin.indiana.edu/pages/relo.php?Term=1> There is a religious holiday request form that is to be submitted to me by the end of the second week of class.
- ✓ **Written assignments.** Written assignments must be typed, organized, grammatically correct, and supported with relevant literature. Your paper must follow the bibliographic citation rules found on the class on Canvas. You may not work together on assignments except when specified.
- ✓ **Courtesy and ethics.** The obvious: turn off cell phones, don't bring your newspaper, no side conversations, web surfing, texting, be civil, etc. Violations may result in a reduction in your class participation score. Even more obvious, don't cheat and know what plagiarism is. Incidents of academic and personal misconduct will be handled according to procedures prescribed in the University Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct found at <http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtml> . Specific information about academic dishonesty can be found at <http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/responsibilities/academic/index.shtml>
- ✓ **Schedule changes.** Topics and assignments will follow the class schedule as closely as possible; however, this is subject to change. Be sure and check the Canvas calendar frequently for schedule updates, new readings, and announcements.
- ✓ **Special Needs.** If you have special needs such as a DSS accommodation, please be sure to inform me asap.
- ✓ **Email.** Please note that I may not be near a computer on some days and I'm not as wired as many of you, so email me asap if you have a pressing need.

Grading

Assignments (see Canvas calendar for due dates)	Points	Weight
Plagiarism quiz (non-calculating but required)		
Reading quizzes and class participation for 14 lectures (will drop two lowest)	2 each	5%
In class team assignments for 10 opportunities (will drop two lowest)	10 each	25%
Media report	10	5%
Case study paper and oral presentation	50	20%
Review of case studies	20	5%
Two exams	100 each	40%

Plagiarism Quiz – A take home quiz to ensure you understand plagiarism.

Reading Quizzes – There will be a short one question quiz at the start of every session starting Wednesday October 21. The quiz will cover the readings assigned for that day. I will drop your two lowest scores so you can miss twice or get two low scores with no penalty. I do not accept documentation for misses so use your misses wisely.

Team Assignments – Generally the first half of class will be a traditional lecture. The second half will usually include one or more of the following: class discussion, perhaps a video clip, handout, or computer exercise, and then followed by a team assignment based on the information presented that day. No shows get a zero. I will drop your two lowest scores so you can miss twice or get two low scores with no penalty. I do not accept documentation for misses so use your misses wisely.

Media report – A short write up regarding a recent news article of your choice concerning a disaster.

Case study paper and oral presentation – A paper regarding a disaster that you have researched. You will also make a presentation of your findings to the class.

Review of case studies – You will be required to attend and provide a summary of the case studies presented by other class members.

Exams – Exams will likely be a combination of multiple choice questions and essays. The final will be a cumulative exam but will be more heavily weighted toward material covered after the second exam. The final exam will be a take home.

Final Grade - Grades are not curved. The percentages displayed below are the minimum needed to achieve that grade category, thus, the percentages are not rounded up. For example, 89.98 % will not get you an A-, but 90% will. There will be no extra credit opportunities.

Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	
A+	97	B+	87	C+	77	D+	67	F < 60%
A	93	B	83	C	73	D	63	
A-	90	B-	80	C-	70	D-	60	