



Social Policy: International Disaster Management

POLS 3393 (01) and (02)
3 Credit Hours

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Classroom: Online
Time: Online
Office Hours: MT: 11–12:00; by Appt.

Course Description

A review of social and traditional media outlets indicate that there has been an increase in the number and severity of disaster events around the world. In recent months, events such as the DrillChem Explosion (2015), Tianjin City Warehouse Explosion (2015), Texas-Oklahoma Flood (2015) and Mount Everest Avalanches (2015) revealed that no community is immune from the consequences of disaster. For the last several decades, communities have started to pressure local, state and national officials to implement policies to moderate the consequences of natural and man-made disasters. In many instances, these officials will receive support from international institutions, as well as, nonprofit and private actors. These actors, policies and practices are known collectively as the field of international disaster management. The objective of this course is to enable students **to gain factual knowledge about** the terminology, classifications, methods and trends related to the practice and profession of international disaster management.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the historical and contemporary evolution of disaster management;
2. Differentiate between natural, man-made and technological hazards;
3. Summarize the basic elements of hazard, risk and vulnerability analyses;
4. Distinguish between the four phases of the disaster management cycle;
5. Describe the disaster management roles of major public, private and non-profit actors; and
6. Recognize the complexity of the issues (for example, coordination, media, politics, terrorism, early warning and corruption) related to disaster management activities.

Course Textbook

Coppola, Damon P. (2015). *Introduction to International Disaster Management*, 3rd Edition. Oxford, United Kingdom: Butterworth-Heinemann, 760 pages. Available at SHSU Bookstore.

Course Policies

Communication: Students should have access to, and check on a daily basis, their SHSU email account. This is the only means that faculty have to communicate with all students. All course announcements will be posted to the Blackboard page. These announcements will also be distributed to students via email. Email is the best way to reach me. I will do my best to respond to email within 24 hours during the week, and within 48 hours during the weekend.

Attendance: This is an online course. As such, students are expected to access the Blackboard page and the course materials on a regular basis. Attendance may be taken to determine whether students are complying with university policies. For a complete listing of the university policy on Student Absence Notification, see: www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/absence.html.

Evaluation: The grade that students will earn in this course will be based upon the following considerations: online activities (30%); online reading quizzes (15%); and three online examinations (55%). Students must honor the principles of academic honesty, as expressed by the *Code of Student Conduct and Discipline*. A soft copy of the *Code* can be found online at: www.shsu.edu/students/guide. This course will be graded on a 100 point scale as follows:

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	59 and lower

Deliverables: The following is a description of deliverables that will be submitted by students in this class. Students to check the Blackboard page regularly to determine whether they are responsible for deliverables not indicated in this course syllabus. Where appropriate, a rubric for how I will grade will be posted on Blackboard. Late submissions will not be accepted. I will do my best to complete the grading with 72 hours of the submission deadline.

- **Activities:** Students must complete several online activities during the semester. These activities will draw upon the readings and ask students to use the concepts that they are learning about. Additional information about the activities will be posted on Blackboard. Students are expected to complete the activities as scheduled in the syllabus. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Quizzes:** Students must complete several online reading quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will cover the material assigned for the week that the quiz is distributed. Students are expected to complete the quizzes as scheduled in the syllabus. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Examinations:** Students must complete three online examinations, which will cover the course readings to date, and may include sections on vocabulary, multiple-choice, matching, and short-answer essay. Students are expected to complete the examinations as scheduled in the syllabus. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Student Conduct: Students must honor the principles of academic honesty, as expressed by the Sam Houston State University's *Code of Student Conduct and Discipline*. A copy of the *Code* can be found online at: www.shsu.edu/students/guide.

Citation Guidelines: Students must properly document all sources, including ideas, quotations, and material taken from the internet. This course does not require students to use a particular citation style in their assignments and papers. Students who need help with citations should visit the following website: <http://shslibraryguides.org/citations>.

Blackboard: Detailed information about the topics covered during each unit/week of the semester, the flow of unit/weekly activities, and the assignment deadlines can be on Blackboard. Students are responsible to checking the Blackboard page regularly to determine whether they are responsible for deliverables not indicated in this course syllabus.

University Policies

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#).

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the policy, see: www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with

the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE:** No accommodation can be made until you register. For a complete listing of the university services and policies for students with disabilities, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability>.

Classroom Visitors: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Course Schedule¹

WEEK / UNIT 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION	
Questions:	What are the learning objectives and outcomes for this course? How will the course be managed during the semester? How will students be evaluated during this course? How can students communicate with the professor?
Read:	Course Syllabus [To Be Provided].
Watch:	Lecture 01.1: Course Welcome and Overview Lecture 01.2: Introduction to Blackboard Lecture 01.3: Introduction to the Professor News Video: Louisiana Floods is Worse Since Hurricane Sandy, Red Cross Says News Video: Flood-Ravaged Louisiana: Only One in Eight have Flood Insurance
Deliverables:	Assignment 01: News Reflections and Personal Goals
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Familiarize yourself with our course's Blackboard page.

¹ The professor reserves the right to modify this schedule. The authoritative weekly schedule will be posted on Blackboard, on a weekly basis, under "Weekly Content." If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

WEEK / UNIT 2: THE MANAGEMENT OF DISASTERS

Questions:	How have past civilizations addressed issues of disaster management? What are the elements of the four-phase approach to disaster management? How might you describe international disaster management? What are some recent trends in disaster management?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 1
Watch:	Lecture 02.1: The Management of Disasters
Deliverables:	Assignment 02: Ancient Disasters: The Real Pompeii Reading Quiz 01: Questions will be from Chapter 1
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

WEEK / UNIT 3: HAZARDS

Questions:	What are the three general categories of hazards? What methods can be used to identify hazards? What is hazard sequencing and hazard analysis? What are the primary hazards that exist in your community? What are the primary hazards that exist in your own home?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 2
Watch:	Lecture 03.1: Hazards
Deliverables:	Assignment 03: Disaster Planet Reading Quiz 02: Questions will be from Chapter 2
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

WEEK / UNIT 4: RISK AND VULNERABILITY

Questions:	Why might some people not fear risk? What formula is most typically used to conceptualize risk? What is the difference between risk and vulnerability? What are the risk factors that influence (positively or negatively) vulnerability?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 3
Watch:	Lecture 04.1: Risk and Vulnerability
Deliverables:	Reading Quiz 03: Questions will be from Chapter 3
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard. The first examination is scheduled for next week.

WEEK / UNIT 5: FIRST EXAMINATION

Questions:	None.
Read:	Review assigned readings, lecture notes, and examination review guide.
Watch:	None.
Deliverables:	First Examination (You will have 90 minutes to complete the examination).
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	None.

WEEK / UNIT 6: DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Questions:	What is disaster mitigation? What are the five general goals of mitigation activities? What is the difference between structural and non-structural mitigation? Why might it be difficult to fully implement mitigation activities? What have you done to mitigate the hazards and risks in your home?
Read:	Sylves (2015) – Chapter 1 [To Be Provided].
Watch:	Lecture 05.1: Disaster Management and the Disaster Cycle
Deliverables:	Assignment 04: <i>The Storm that Drowned a City</i>
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

WEEK / UNIT 7: MITIGATION

Questions:	What is disaster mitigation? What are the five general goals of mitigation activities? What is the difference between structural and non-structural mitigation? Why might it be difficult to fully implement mitigation activities? What have you done to mitigate the hazards and risks in your home?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 4
Watch:	Lecture 07.1: Mitigation
Deliverables:	Assignment 05: Photo Scavenger Hunt Reading Quiz 04: Questions will be from Chapter 4
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

WEEK / UNIT 8: PREPAREDNESS

Questions:	What is disaster preparedness? What are the central elements of an emergency operations plan (EOP)? What are the central elements of a public education and disaster warning messages? What are the important obstacles to public education? What have you done to prepare for the hazards and risks in your community? What have you done to prepare for the hazards and risks in your home?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 5
Watch:	Lecture 08.1: Preparedness
Deliverables:	Assignment 06: UNISDR: <i>Stop Disasters</i> Reading Quiz 05: Questions will be from Chapter 5
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

WEEK / UNIT 9: RESPONSE

Questions:	What is disaster response? How does pre-disaster recognition differ from post-disaster recognition? Why is coordination an important issue with respect to disaster response? What are the most important issues related to the establishment of shelters? What are the most important issues related to the provision of food and water?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 6
Watch:	Lecture 09.1: Response
Deliverables:	Assignment 07: The Storm Reading Quiz 06: Questions will be from Chapter 6
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

WEEK / UNIT 10: RECOVERY

Questions:	What is disaster recovery? What is the difference between short-term and long-term disaster recovery? What are the components related to disaster recovery? Why should communities resist the “urge to return to normal?” What are the obstacles that prevent and effective recovery? In what ways can recovery begin before the occurrence of a disaster?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 7
Watch:	Lecture 10.1: Recovery
Deliverables:	Reading Quiz 07: Questions will be from Chapter 7
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard. The second examination is scheduled for next week.

UNIT 11: SECOND EXAMINATION

Questions:	None.
Read:	Review assigned readings, lecture notes, and examination review guide.
Watch:	None
Deliverables:	Second Examination (You will have 90 minutes to complete the examination)
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	None.

UNIT 12: GOVERNMENT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Questions:	Which agencies are typically involved in disaster management activities? How does jurisdictional level tend to impact governmental structures? What is the role of the military with respect to disaster management activities? What is bilateral assistance? How do national institutions contribute to international disaster activities?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 8
Watch:	Lecture 11.1: Government Agencies
Deliverables:	Reading Quiz 08: Questions will be from Chapter 8 Assignment 08: What went wrong?
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

UNIT 13: NONGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

Questions:	What is an NGO? What are some of the roles that NGOs play in disaster management? How might NGOs and the military interact with each other? What are two important issues related to the success of NGO operations? How do academia and the private sector contribute to disaster management?
Read:	Coppola (2015) – Chapter 9
Watch:	Lecture 12.1: Government Agencies
Deliverables:	Reading Quiz 09: Questions will be from Chapter 9
Deadlines:	Saturday at 11:59 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted.
Notes:	Weekly topics may be divided into several smaller video lectures. Additional assignments and materials may be posted on Blackboard.

WEEK / UNIT 14: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Questions: None.

Read: Review assigned readings, lecture notes, and examination review guide.

Watch: None.

Deliverables: None.

Deadlines: None.

Notes: None.

WEEK / UNIT 15: THIRD EXAMINATION

Questions: None.

Read: Review assigned readings, lecture notes, and examination review guide.

Watch: None

Deliverables: **Third Examination** (You will have 90 minutes to complete the examination)

Deadlines: **Saturday at 11:59 pm.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

Notes: None.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAY BREAK!!!