

ENVS 510 – Environmental Consequences of Natural Disasters
Fall 2013 (Section 11601): TR 5-6:15, Owens G07

Instructor: Dr. Marsha Bollinger, G06 Bancroft, 323-4944, bollingerm@winthrop.edu
Office hours: TR 3-4:30, but available many other times.

Texts:

Freudenburg et al., 2009. Catastrophe in the Making: The Engineering of Katrina and the Disasters of Tomorrow.
Schuller and Morales (ed), 2012. Tectonic shifts: Haiti Since the Earthquake.
Additional readings provided via websites, pdf documents, or library reserve.

Course Goals: Students will be introduced to environmental consequences of selected natural disasters.

Upon course completion, students should be able to

- describe environmental hazards that result from selected natural disasters,
- discuss the role that humans have in “creating” and “solving” these problems,
- describe the interdisciplinary nature of planning for and recovering from these problems, and
- discuss the role of local, regional, national, and international organizations in planning for and recovering from these disasters.

Global Learning Initiative: The global learning component of this course is the following: international approaches to dealing with environmental consequences of natural disasters will be presented as appropriate. For instance, the class will use an event in Haiti as an example of issues related to earthquakes.

Grading: Your grade will be based on written summaries of readings, discussion leadership, a research paper and presentation, a final exam, and daily participation/preparation. Rubrics will be provided and written assignments should be word processed in 12 pt. font and double spaced, if at all possible.

Written summaries (8 x 25 pts. each)	200 points
Discussion leadership	50 points
Research paper and presentation	100 points
Final exam	100 points
Daily participation and preparation	50 points

Late assignments: You must turn in all assignments on the due day; 20% will be lost if an assignment is late by one day and after that, assignments will not be accepted. Plan ahead (or make arrangements in extreme circumstances).

Students with Disabilities: Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 803-323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

As noted in the **Student Code of Conduct**: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy in the online Student Handbook (<http://www.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

Use of handheld devices: Generally, handheld communication devices should be turned off during class time unless time is provided for work on individual or group assignments. Laptops and similar may be used for note-taking during class time unless they become a distraction. Be considerate of others.

Syllabus change policy: Changes to this syllabus may be necessary during the semester. Students will be notified by email or blackboard of any changes. In some cases, students will be involved in the decision-making process. Please note the date at the top of both this class description and the class schedule.

Tentative schedule (and changes): We will start the semester with a tentative schedule of topics, activities and dates. However, due to the nature of the course these dates may change, so be sure to keep up with this site and class discussions. You will be notified of significant changes via email and blackboard.

Environmental Consequences of Natural Disasters: Tentative Schedule

<i>Updated on 1 Aug. 2013</i>		Topic and/or activity	What's due?*
Aug.	20	Course goals, expectations, overview	
	22	Patterns of disasters	
	27	UNEP* document discussion ()	UNEP (Ch. 3 only); written summary
	29	Dealing with disasters	
Sept.	03	FGLE* book discussion ()	FGLE 1 (prologue-Ch. 2); written summary
	05	Hurricane basics	
	10	FGLE* book discussion ()	FGLE 2 (Ch. 3-5); written summary
	12		
	17	FGLE* book discussion ()	FGLE 3 (Ch. 6-7); written summary
	19	Guest lecture: Local preparedness	
	24	FGLE* book discussion ()	FGLE 4 (Ch. 8-10); written summary
	26	EQ basics	
Oct.	01	SM* book discussion ()	SM 1 (Ch. 1 and 5) ; written summary
	03	Guest lecture: Historical context, Haiti	
	08	SM* book discussion ()	SM 2 (Ch. 6 and 9); written summary
	10		
	15	<i>Fall break – no class</i>	
	17	Wildfires: Wildland Urban Interface intro	
	22	SJP* reading discussion ()	SJP 1 (selected articles); written summary
	24	Research project discussion	
	29	SJP* reading discussion ()	SJP 2 (selected articles); written summary
	31		Project proposal
Nov.	05		
	07		
	12	Project presentations (3)	
	14	Project presentations (3)	
	19	Project presentations (3)	
	21		
	26	<i>No class meeting, but instructor available</i>	Research paper due by 5 pm
	28	<i>Thanksgiving – no class</i>	

Dec.	03	Study Day	
	07	Saturday at 11:30 am – Final Exam	Take home “exam” due by 3 pm

*UNEP =UN Environmental Program (2009); pdf of document on class bb site

Environmental Emergencies - Learning from multilateral response to disasters

FGLE = Freudenburg, Grambling, Laska and Erikson, 2009.

Catastrophe in the Making – The Engineering of Katrina and the Disasters of Tomorrow

SM = Schuller and Morales (ed), 2012.

Tectonic Shifts – Haiti Since the Earthquake

SJP = Stephen J. Pyne, selected readings on wildfires available in pdf on class bb site