

SOC 4240

Sociology of Disasters

Spring 2014

Tuesday & Thursday 2-3:15 pm (Blair Hall 3103)
Sociology & Anthropology, Eastern Illinois University

Professor: Dr. William E. Lovekamp
Office Phone: 581-6217
E-mail: wlovekamp@eiu.edu

Office: Blair Hall 3151
Office Hours: T & Th 1:00-2:00;
W 10:00-12:00 or by appt.

Required Text: Thomas, Deborah S.K., Brenda D. Phillips, William E. Lovekamp & Alice Fothergill (Editors). 2013. *Social Vulnerability to Disasters*. 2nd Edition. CRC Press.

Course Description & Objectives: This course provides an introduction to sociological aspects of disasters. We will focus on major theories & methods of research that are used to study the social aspects of disasters & hazards. We will examine human response to disasters & factors that influence vulnerability. We will also evaluate how individuals & institutions influence social policy. By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. understand how & why disasters are social events,
2. debunk myths about human behavior in disasters,
3. examine unequal social consequences that stem from disasters,
4. understand the relationship between disasters & theory, &
5. examine the relationship between action & policy in the disaster process.

Class Format: This course is designed as a seminar centered on lectures, reading & extensive class discussion. You are expected to come to class prepared to participate in the discussion & it is very important that you keep up with your readings. Exams are based partly on your readings & it is to your extreme disadvantage to consider the readings optional. At times, guest speakers & video presentations may be used to supplement the readings & the overall learning experience.

Course Etiquette:

Collegiality - You are expected to respect the viewpoints expressed by others. If you disagree with what someone has said, you are encouraged to express your disagreement but are expected to do so in a civil, respectful, & polite manner. Failure to comply will result in course dismissal.

Attendance/Participation - You are expected to attend class daily and participate fully. Attendance will be recorded daily. You will obviously miss critical information if you have excessive absences and this will be reflected in your exam and homework grades. Also, walking into class late is disrespectful to both your professor & your colleagues & will not be tolerated.

Readings - I write each lecture with the expectation that you have completed the assigned readings for the day. We will use class time to discuss & build on the readings. Reading is required to participate in class and for successful completion of this course.

Cell Phones/Texting/Technology - **NOT ALLOWED! Turn off or silence all cell phones** before entering class & **DO NOT use them for texting** during class. If I see someone texting, the entire class will have a pop quiz. You also **may NOT use laptops or tape recorders** in class.

Plagiarism/Cheating - Plagiarism is the use, without adequate attribution, of another person's words or thoughts as if they were your own. **You will automatically fail the course if you submit any work that shows evidence of plagiarism or cheating** & documentation will be filed with the Office of Student Standards as a violation of the student code of conduct.

Communication - I am always available to meet with you to discuss grades, lecture, exams or other the course matters. Please make use of my posted office hours, call my office phone, or use email to schedule appointments. If you use email, please be professional and follow standard email guidelines. 1) Put the course # in the subject line (SOC 4240), 2) include greeting (Dr. or

Professor Lovekamp), 3) use standard English, write in complete sentences, avoid abbreviations and text slang (TTYL, LOL), 4) and end with a signature (your full name).

Evaluation:

Midterm Exam	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.
<u>Homework</u>	<u>150 pts.</u>
TOTAL	350 pts.

Grading Scale:

A=(100-90%)	350-315
B= (89-80%)	314-280
C= (79-70%)	279-245
D= (69-60%)	244-210
F= (0-59%)	209 or below

Homework assignments: You will have to submit 5 homework assignments during the semester. These are small synthesis papers at least two pages in length. Guidelines are available in the assignments link in D2L. Also, if you fail to submit a homework assignment by the due date and time, you will have **24 hours** to submit the work late **with a grade reduction of 20%**.

Exams: There will be a midterm & final exam. The exams will consist primarily of short answer & essay questions. You will be required to draw upon your readings, lectures, class discussions, & video's/guest lectures to answer the questions fully. Exams will not be given early or late, & no make-up exams will be given. If you miss an exam on the scheduled day you will receive a zero for the assignment. Any deviation in this policy must be in accordance with EIU Internal Governing Policy 43.

Desire2Learn: You are required to use d2l for this course. Your User ID is your E-mail User ID. Once you successfully log in, you will find links to the syllabus, assignments, grades, ASA style guide, additional handouts & websites of interest.

Disabilities Statement Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

Medical Emergency Statement For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone & call 911. All faculty offices have telephones & during normal business hours (8-12 & 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor & room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Building Fire Statement In case of fire, activate the fire alarm & exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building & cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north & south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north & south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair & Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	ASSN DUE DATE
1/14,16	History & Sociological Study of Disasters, myth busting, measuring disasters, natural/tech		
1/21,23	Social Vulnerability & Resilience	Chapter 1	
1/28,30	Theory	Chapter 2	Homework 1 Due (1/30)
2/4,6	Sustainable Development	Chapter 3	
2/11,13	VULNERABLE GROUPS: Social Class	Chapter 4	Homework 2 Due (2/13)
2/18,20	Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 5	
2/25,27	Gender	Chapter 6	
3/4,6	Stratified Monopoly		Exam 1 (3/4)
3/18,20	Age	Chapter 7	Homework 3 Due (3/20)
3/25,27	Households & Families	Chapter 11	
4/1,3	Violence	Chapter 12	Homework 4 Due (4/3)
4/8,10	COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: Animals	Chapter 14	
4/15,17	Human Communities	Chapter 15	Homework 5 Due (4/17)
4/22,24	Social Change	Chapter 17	
4/29,5/1	Course wrap up		
5/8	Thursday 10:15-12:15		FINAL EXAM

1/27/14 deadline to withdraw from course w/ no grade; 4/1/14 deadline to withdraw from course w/ W.

**This syllabus serves as a contract between the student & instructor. The student is responsible for all information contained within this syllabus. Any changes the professor makes will be announced in class.