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ARTS2248

Disasters and Society

Semester Two // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|--------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Marilyn Melo | marilu.melo@unsw.edu.au | Thursdays 11-12 | Room 361, Morven Brown Building | |

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential academic information, see <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Environmental Humanities*

Increases in disasters along with the current and future predicted impacts of climate change has meant that disaster management and disaster risk reduction have emerged as a key project and policy areas. This course provides you with critical perspectives to examine this natural disasters/society interface. The emphasis of the course is focused on natural disasters being better understood as social disasters with natural triggers. Thus, in the course you will develop an understanding of how forms of social vulnerability to hazards emerge and shape subsequent disaster impacts. You will also examine how natural disasters are disruptive events that can critically jolt and shape future social, economic and political outcomes in the context of governance and politics. In the first half of the course you will examine different theories and frameworks for understanding disasters. This will provide a critical platform for the second part of the course, where you will focus on different thematic areas of disasters governance and society, using case study disasters from around the world.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Explain how natural disasters, society, development programs, and policy are interrelated.
2. Appraise key authors and literature discussing disasters from a critical social science and humanities perspective.
3. Apply enhanced learning, analytic, and communication skills, to interpret links between society and disasters
4. Analyse disaster case studies from around the world with a range of different theoretical standpoints.

Teaching Strategies

The course requires students to engage with contemporary sociological and humanities analytical scholarship in exploring and analysing the intersection of disasters and society. It will require reflective and self-critical learning together with a capacity to assemble and synthesise information from a range of sources and disciplinary backgrounds. The course also will require students to apply these insights in a real world disaster example and to complete a major piece of assessment that examines their capabilities to do this. These objectives will be achieved through lectures, in-depth tutorial discussions, independent research and the preparation of assessment tasks. In order for students to develop the forms of critical reflection necessary for this course, participation in tutorial discussion will be emphasised and is reflected in the assessment schedule.

The subject will use a blended learning approach; with instruction occurring in the classroom (lecture and tutorials), aided with online engagement through assignments, discussions and activities. The online environment (through moodle) is a natural extension of traditional classroom learning. All assessments will be marked online in line with the Faculty broader move towards e-marking.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Student Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Final Essay | 50% | 29/10/2018 04:00 PM | 1,2,3,4 |
| Case Study Analysis | 30% | 10/09/2018 04:00 PM | 1,3,4 |
| Presentation | 20% | 23/08/2018 03:00 PM | 1,3,4 |

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Final Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2000 words

Details: A final essay (2,000 words) in which students answer one of a select number of questions. Feedback via written comments

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Case Study Analysis

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words

Details: The student will select a case study disaster, and use some of the theories developed in the course to adopt a critical analysis of its social and political dimensions. The assessment will be 1,000 words long. Feedback via written comments

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Presentation

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 5 minutes

Details: Five Minute Presentation Students will be required to present their selected case study project to the class and offer feedback on other students's presentations. Presentations are marked by the course convener, with additional feedback given by peers through a structured feedback process.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

Late Assessment Penalties

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending on the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless special consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a 'day' is deemed to be each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

Task with a non-percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student's mark is therefore $17 - [25 (0.05 \times 3)] = 13.25$

Task with a percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student's mark is therefore $68 - 15 = 53$

- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;
- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in an essential component of the course.

This information is also available at:

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- * Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- * Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- * Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,
- * Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration webstie:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

(<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>)

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

| Date | Type | Content |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Week 1: 23 July - 29 July | Lecture | Introduction |
| Week 2: 30 July - 5 August | Lecture | The Political Economy of Disasters |
| Week 3: 6 August - 12 August | Lecture | The Social Construction of Disasters / Media |
| Week 4: 13 August - 19 August | Lecture | Disasters and Development |
| Week 5: 20 August - 26 August | Presentation | Student Presentations |
| Week 6: 27 August - 2 September | Lecture | Disasters and Socio-Political Change |
| Week 7: 3 September - 9 September | Lecture | Climate Change and Natural Disasters |
| Week 8: 10 September - 16 September | Lecture | Disaster Governance in Australia |
| Week 9: 17 September - 23 September | Lecture | Disaster Scenario / mock event |
| Break: 24 September - 30 September | | |
| Week 10: 1 October - 7 October | Online Activity | More information to come |
| Week 11: 8 October - 14 October | Lecture | Epidemiological Terrors / Extra-terrestrial Disasters Guest Lecturer: Dr Paul Munro |
| Week 12: 15 October - 21 October | Lecture | Conclusions |
| Week 13: 22 October - 28 October | Tutorial | Final Essay Q&A |

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Recommended Resources

F Kruger, G Bankoff, T Cannon, B Orlowksi, E F Schipper (eds) (2015) *Cultures and disasters: understanding cultural framings in disaster risk reduction*, Routledge: London

G Bankoff, G Frerks and D Hilhorst (eds) (2004) *Mapping Vulnerability: Disasters, Development and People*, Earthscan: London:

S Boulter, J Palutikof, D J Karoly, and Guitart (eds) (2013) *Natural Disasters and Adaptation to Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press

K Hewitt (ed) (1983) *Interpretations of Calamity: from the viewpoint of human ecology*, Allen and Unwin: London

A Oliver-Smith and S Hoffman (eds) (1999) *The Angry Earth: Disaster in Anthropological Perspective*, Routledge: London

G Bankoff (2003) *Cultures of Disaster: Society and Natural Hazard in the Phillipines*, Routledge:London.

M Pelling (ed) (2003) *Natural Disasters and Development in a Globalizing World*, Routledge: London

Christof Mauch, Christian Pfister (2009) *Natural Disasters, Cultural Responses: Case Studies Toward a Global*, Lexington Books:

Piers Blaikie, Terry Cannon, Ian Davis, Ben Wisner (eds) (2003) *At Risk: Natural Hazards, People's Vulnerability and Disasters*, 2nd Edition, Routledge: London.

Some useful Journals

Disasters

International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

Global Environmental Change

Environment and Planning A

Geoforum

Natural Hazards

PLOS Currents: Disasters

Journal of International Development

Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

Environmental Hazards

Progress in Human Geography Ecology and Society Environment and Urbanisation Area Some Useful

Websites

www.emdat.be/

www.unisdr.org/

www.reliefweb.int/

www.preventionweb.net/

www.disasterscharter.org/

www.redcross.org.au/

www.emknowledge.gov.au/

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed, and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. It is encouraged that students complete their surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Feedback, whether in person or via emails, during the course, is encouraged.

Image Credit

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nepal_Earthquake_2015_002.JPG

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