SOCI 3560D

Sociology of Disaster

Spring 2016

Instructor: James Harris
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Office Hrs: M/W 1:30 to 2:00
Division: Liberal Arts and Life Science
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Course Number: SOCI 3560D
Section Number: 001
Class Meeting Times: MW 8:30 to 9:50am
Credit Hours: (3)

Textbooks:
Provided:
The Culture of Calamity: Kevin Rozario, The University of Chicago Press
Catastrophe and Culture: School of American Research

Required:
Title Response to Disasters 3ed.
Author: Fischer
ISBN# 9780761841173
Publisher UPA University Press

Description:

This course is a sociological study of disasters in society, which will include understanding and responding to natural and man-made disasters. Efforts will be made to analyze the impact of disasters from: social, political, economic, cultural, and historical perspectives.

This course focuses on an introduction to the study of human response to disaster events, including political and economic factors influencing vulnerability. Case studies of major disasters are used to explore topics such as the impact of gender, class, ethnicity, and age on vulnerability, response, and impacts; the effects of larger political and economic systems on
disaster response; and the relationship of disasters to social change. Prerequisite(s): SOCI 1510 or equivalent.

Course Objectives

This course is a sociological study of social behavior and social structures, emphasizing the importance, knowledge, and appreciation of the multi-cultural, and multi-dimensions of society. Topics include cultural elements such as values, norms, beliefs, language, roles, group processes, social conflict and social change. Topics are examined through several sociological perspectives, encouraging critical thinking and personal responsibility towards both current and controversial issues. In essence, to question how you think not what you think about your social world.

Students will apply sociological theories, concepts along with critical thinking to address the social issues, concerns, and problems that disasters create for society. As a class, and individually, we will generate intellectual conclusion to the social phenomena of disasters.

Intellectual Competencies

1. Reading – the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials (books, documents, and articles) above 12th grade level.
2. Writing – the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience above 12th grade level.
3. Critical Thinking – The ability to analyze information, both qualitative and quantitative. Identifying key components, examining each and synthesizing one’s own thoughts in written and spoken languages.
4. Speaking- Demonstrate the ability to speak to communicate orally in a clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience- above the 12th grade level.
5. Listening- Exhibit the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication- above the 12th grade level.
6. Computer Literacy-Demonstrate the ability to understand out technical society and use computer based technology in communicating, problem solving, and information acquisition.

Exemplary Educational Objectives/ Student Learning Outcomes

1. To examining social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures and cultures.
2. Identify and discuss the field of Sociology, it’s methods, theories, key sociologist who have made significant contributions.
3. To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. To recognize and assume one’s responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and obtaining information through news mediums, text books, and other appropriate sources about public policy.
Course /Format

1. Introduction to class
2. Understanding sociology. Using sociological perspectives to understand social phenomena
3. Analyzing disasters from: conflict, functionalist, symbolic interactive perspectives
4. Class discussions/debate
5. Writing exercises
6. Testing and Evaluations

Course Calendar

A detailed course calendar will be provided on Blackboard

Test 1 (covering chapters 1 and 2)
Test 2 (covering chapters 3 and 4)
1st Written Assignment (individual) due , no exceptions. Students cannot submit written assignments via email or by another student!
Test 3 (covering chapters 6 and 7)
Test 4 (covering chapters 8 and 11)
2nd Written Assignment (group) due , no exceptions
Final Exam/Test (comprehensive)

Important Dates

Spring 2016 - Full Term
Classes Begin.... January 19
Last Day to Add... Friday, January 22
Census Day Wednesday, February 3
Last Day to Drop a Class without a W .... Wednesday, February 3
Last Day to Request Pass/No Pass Course Status.... Friday, February 26
Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines
Last day to withdraw from a course with a grade of W... Friday, April 8
(Written Consent of Instructor Required)
Last day a student may withdraw from all classes for the semester Friday, April 22
Midterm Exams ...Monday, March 7 – Friday, March 11
Midterm Grades Due/Viewable Online-Midterm grades are submitted online... Saturday, March
Last Day of Classes...... Thursday, May 5
Reading Day (Study day prior to final exams).... Friday, May 6
Final Exams... Monday, May 9 – Friday, May 13

University Closings/No Classes
Martin Luther King Day ... Monday, January 18
Spring Break ... Monday, March 14 – Sunday, March 20
**Financial Aid:**

If you are receiving financial aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

**The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)**

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student's basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher.

**Academic Honesty:**

Academic honesty is expected, and integrity is valued in the North Texas University System. Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the UNT-Dallas Code of Student Conduct.

**ADA Statement:**

If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office.

**Religious Holidays:**

Absences for observance of a religious holiday are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holiday is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time before or after the absence.

**6 Drop Rule:**

For students who enrolled for the first time Fall 2007, The Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. Students may drop no more than 6 courses during
your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus
counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exception. Please
exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas institution of higher education.

**Other Classroom Policies**

Please turn off all electronic devices

Please submit all written assignments on time (This included the due date and time)

**Inclement Weather:**

Bad weather can occur at any time during the school year. In the event of inclement weather,
tune in to local television or radio stations for a report of possible closings or delays of UNT
locations, or check the UNT website for possible early or late opening and closing.