

Life Security (Anthropology of Disasters) – Tuesday 10.50, r. 1/230, Thursday 10.50, r. 1/311
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The recent earthquake followed by tsunami in Japan has taken thousands of lives and left many settlements destroyed almost completely. Hurricane Katrina, Boxing Day tsunami, NY 9/11 and so many other recent natural or man-made disasters marked so many tragic dates in the history of humankind. Although intensified because of the effect of global climate change triggered by various anthropogenic causes in the 20th century, the history of disasters goes as far back as Noah's flood and so does the evolution of people's perception, interaction, reaction to and recovery from these various types of disasters. This course introduces students to the basic theories of culture in disaster and to the ways in which culture shapes disasters and forms people's response to them. This course will ask: What is disaster? How disasters are socially and culturally constructed? What are the cultural responses to disasters? How people recover from disasters and reconstruct their lives? What is the place of race, class and ethnicity in disasters? How does gender effect the outcomes of disasters? Finally, what are the main disasters in Kyrgyzstan? This is a 1.5 credit hour course offered in the second half of the Spring semester.

Grades

Disaster presentation	- 25%
Paper analysis and presentation	- 20%
Final exam	- 30%
Attendance and participation	- 25%
Total:	- 100%

Disaster presentation

This is a team project with three students involved in one team. You should chose one type of disaster from the list of seven types below and make a presentation during one of the seminar classes according to the schedule. The presentation should include a short PowerPoint description of the nature of disaster and review of at least 3 articles provided by lecturer (one article per student). The list of disasters includes:

- Earthquakes
- Volcanoes
- Hurricanes
- Tsunamis
- Floods
- Fires
- Droughts

If you miss your presentation, you will not be given a second chance.

Paper presentation

Each seminar class three students will make presentations of papers assigned to them according to the schedule. There is no need for a written summary or PowerPoint presentation – very simple oral summary of the article will be sufficient. If you miss your presentation, you will not be given a second chance.

Final exam

Written final exam will be based on lecture materials and assigned readings. It will include 3 questions, each worth 10%.

Attendance and participation

For each class missed without a reason you lose 2% of your final grade. The reasons are limited to sickness or loss in a family. If you are sick you have to notify me (in Anthropology department) or the office manager in Psychology department BEFORE the class and then confirm your sickness with a note from your doctor. Notes from a doctor without prior notification are not accepted. Maximum of 2 missed classes are accepted. If you miss 3 classes you will automatically get X.

Please, sign up for the class presentations in the table below:

Tue, Mar 22	<p>What is a disaster? Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p> <p>Earthquake Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p>
Tue, Mar 29	<p>Cultural and social construction of disaster Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p> <p>Volcanoes Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p>
Tue, Apr 5	<p>Cultural responses to disasters Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p> <p>Hurricanes Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p>
Tue, Apr 12	<p>Recovery and reconstruction Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p> <p>Floods Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p>
Tue, Apr 19	<p>Race, class and ethnicity of disasters Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p> <p>Fires Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p>
Tue, Apr 26	<p>Gender and disaster Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p> <p>Earthquake Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p>
Tue, May 3	<p>Disasters in Kyrgyzstan? Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p> <p>Droughts Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____ Student 3 _____</p>