



**Syllabus
Natural Disasters: Prevention and Reaction
“Introduction to Disaster Risk Management”
CFU 6
Prof. Donato Abruzzese, Prof. Erdem Ergin**

Course Description

The occurrence of extreme events is increasing around the world, causing significant human suffering and socio-economic on development and growth. To the known natural events such as earthquakes, floods, landslides etc. we now have to add the impact of climate change. These events interact with demographic shift, rapid urbanization, inadequate management of natural resource, etc. to increase the risk in our societies. The combination of these factors is unique to each country/city. Many cities and countries need thus to develop their own, tailored disaster risk management (DRM) strategies. The course takes a systemic approach to DRM and is structured around 3 modules, aiming to:

- Develop an understanding of disaster risk management concepts, terminology and dynamics;
- Provide a detailed overview of various DRM strategies including sample/case studies;
- Build up capacity to integrate DRM strategies into various field of interest.

Teaching Method

The material will be covered using a mix of lectures, discussions, simulations and hands-on exercises. A field visit is possible. Regular class attendance and active participation are expected, as they will help achieve the learning goals and contribute to an overall positive learning environment.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Principles, Concepts, Definitions,
Topic 2	Natural Hazards (Earthquake, Floods, Landslides, etc.)
Topic 3	Risk Assessment Methodologies
Topic 4	DRM phases (Preparedness and Response)
Topic 5	DRM phases (Protection and Recovery)
Topic 6	DRM phases (Prevention and Reconstruction)
Topic 7	Disasters, Governance and Development

Textbook and Materials

The course is presented as distinct stand-alone modules that complete each other. The instructor will circulate the presentation and material used in class after each class session. For those interested in acquiring more material, a good reference textbook is: Introduction to International Disaster Risk Management, Damon Coppola, (3rd edition), 2015, Butterworth-Heinemann. This is NOT a mandatory textbook.

Assessment

The grading will be based on the following: mid-term (25%), final (25%), group presentation (20%), exercises (20%) and class participation (10%). Both the mid-term and final will be written exams.

Office hours

Erdem Ergin, Wednesday upon appointment (erdemergin6@gmail.com).