



Academic Year 2022-2023
Syllabus
Disaster Risk Management
Prof. Marcus Abrahamsson

Course Description:

Disasters generate tremendous damage to e.g. life and health, property/infrastructure and the environment as well as causes major disruptions in the functioning of society at all levels every year around the globe. The course engages with strategies and tools for addressing the risk of potential, as well as effects of actual, disasters striking various parts of our society. Central concepts related to managing disasters before, during and after actual events are introduced and discussed.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course the students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of key concepts related to the management of disasters
- Demonstrate understanding of key hazard sources as well as aspects of vulnerability related to hazards
- Demonstrate understanding of key strategies and tools for addressing the risk of potential, as well as effects of actual, disasters striking various parts of our society

Teaching Method

The material will be covered using a mix of lectures, class discussions, and written reflections. 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

Session	Topic
Session 1	Course intro – central concepts
Session 2	Hazards and processes of change
Session 3	A framework for Disaster Risk Management
Session 4	A framework for Disaster Risk Management
Session 5	Risk assessment
Session 6	Risk assessment
Session 7	Risk reduction
Session 8	Risk reduction
Session 9	Preparedness planning
Session 10	Analytic input to preparedness planning
Session 11	Peoples needs and behaviours in disasters
Session 12	Scenario/contingency planning
Session 13	Simulation exercises
Session 14	Early warning systems
Session 15	Impact assessment
Session 16	Disaster response
Session 17	Recovery - Socio-economic recovery
Session 18	Recovery - reconstruction
Session 19	Capacity development for disaster risk management
Session 20	Case study
Session 21	Course summary

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, (4th edition), 2021, Butterworth-Heinemann. This is NOT a mandatory textbook.

Assessment

The grading will be based on the following: keep a class journal (35%), final exam (50%), and class participation (15%).

Non-attending students (more than 20% absence) will receive class material and directly take the final exam.

In case students reject their final exam score, they can retake the exam at a later date. In this case all previous scores from the class journal and the tests are voided. The score the student gets from the retake of the final becomes their course grade.

Office hours

Marcus Abrahamsson, upon appointment (marcus.abrahamsson@risk.lth.se).