Laurea / B.A. in Global Governance

Course Description

Change brings uncertainty, for the better or worse. When uncertainty is associated with negative results, it is called risk. And when uncertainty is associated with positive results, it is called opportunity. Both risk and opportunity are probabilities, meaning they did not happen yet. As individuals, businesses, governments and society, we strive for change. Our decision-making process is shaped by how we understand the risk & opportunities around us, what is acceptable and what is not, and how we manage crises if things go bad. This course provides a systematic approach to before, during and after a crisis or disaster. It builds on personal experience of students and recent events across the world. It also covers how factors such as rapid urbanization, demographic shift, consumption patterns etc. affect the risk in our societies and the systemic shock brought by climate change. The capacity to understand our risk and to manage it is a core tool to manage change. And as individuals, as governments, as businesses, as societies we change. This course aims to increase your capacity in managing change. The learning objectives are:

- Understand key risk management concepts.
- Understand the potential impacts of disasters on societies
- Understand strategies and tools to prevent, prepare and respond to disaster risks.
- Understand the international architecture governing risk management as well as key stakeholders

Teaching Method

The material will be covered using a mix of lectures, guest lectures, class discussions, and case studies. 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	Introduction and overview
Session 2	Are disasters "natural"? Understanding key concepts.
Session 3	The political economy of disaster risk
Session 4	The international architecture of risk management and disaster resilience
Session 5	Risk data and analytics pt 1
Session 6	Risk data and analytics pt 2
Session 7	The economics of disasters
Session 8	Assessing disaster impacts
Session 9	Preparedness
Session 10	Case study: Preparedness

Session 11	Taking stock and what next?
Session 12	Risk reduction
Session 13	Investing for resilience pt 1
Session 14	Investing for resilience pt 2
Session 15	Case study: Adaptive Social Protection
Session 16	The international humanitarian system
Session 17	Financial resilience
Session 18	Risk sharing and insurance
Session 19	Financial analytics
Session 20	Wrap up

Textbook and Materials

The course is presented as distinct stand-alone modules that complete each other. The instructor will circulate the material used in class and any relevant readings after each class session. For those interested in acquiring more material, useful references include (these are NOT mandatory textbooks):

- *Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: The Economics of Effective Prevention*, 2010, The World Bank and the United Stations - available here: https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/620631468181478543/pdf/578600PUB0ep i2101public10BOX353782B.pdf)

Assessment

The grading will be based on the following: final exam (80%), and class participation (20%).

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 are voided. The score the student gets from the retake of the final becomes their course grade.

Office hours

Bianca Adam, upon appointment (bianca.adam@gmail.com)
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NOTE: If you are an **Erasmus or a non Global Governance student** who would like to attend one or more courses in the Global Governance programme, please be aware that, **before enrolling in the course**, you should have read the code of conduct and the procedural rules characterizing our programme. We assume that, if you enrol in the course, **you have read and accepted all Global Governance values and rules**. Notice that attendance is required from the very first lesson and you need to attend at least 80% of the course to be considered an attending student.

Description of the methods and criteria for testing learning

The examination assesses the student's overall preparation, ability to integrate the knowledge of the different parts of the program, consequentiality of reasoning, analytical ability and clarity of

presentation, in accordance with the Dublin descriptors (1. knowledge and understanding; 2. applying knowledge and understanding; 3. making judgements; 4. learning skills; 5. communication skills).

The examination will be graded according to the following criteria:

Unsuitable: important deficiencies and/or inaccuracies in the knowledge and understanding of the topics; the topics are exposed in an incoherent manner and with inappropriate language.

18-20: barely sufficient knowledge and understanding of most of the topics, with some missing items; sufficient capacity for analysis; the topics are sometimes exposed in an inconsistent manner and with inappropriate/technical language;

21-23: basic knowledge and understanding of most of the topics; ability to analyze and synthesize correctly with sufficiently coherent logical argumentation, with possibly some inaccuracy in the technical language.

24-26: good knowledge and understanding of most of the topics; good analytical and synthetic skills with rigorously expressed arguments, though with possibly a few inaccuracies in the technical language.

27-29: complete knowledge and understanding of the topics; good capacity for analysis and synthesis. Arguments presented in a rigorous manner and with appropriate/technical language, with only minor inaccuracies.

30-30L: very good level of knowledge and thorough understanding of topics. Excellent analytical and synthetic skills and independent judgement. Arguments expressed in an original manner and in appropriate technical language.