TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 351 ST: DISASTERS AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Trimester 2, 2013

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator/lecturer: Professor Ilan Noy (pronounced ee-lan)
Office: room 201 Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus
Email: ilan.noy@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:00pm or by appointment
(Please contact me by email to arrange an appointment)

Course Administrator: Alice Fong
Office: room 318 Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus
Email: alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 15 July – Friday 18 October

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 26 July 2013.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 27 September. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late'* including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Monday and Wednesday: 1:40-2:30pm in RHLT3 (Rutherford House)

Course Delivery

12 weeks of lectures. Some sessions will have guest speakers.

Expected Workload

Total number of hours of work expected from students is 150.

Prescription
The economic aspects of disaster management and policy, including these topics: the economic history of natural disasters; the literature on the economics of natural disasters; a comparison with other types of economic shocks (finance, wars).

Course Learning Objectives
1 Analyse the history of disasters and their differing economic impacts.
2 Distinguish between direct, indirect, short, and long-run impacts on different facets of the economy and the micro and aggregate levels.
3 Evaluate ex-ante mitigation policy and its cost-benefit.
4 Appraise post-disaster interventions and their efficacy.

Course Content
Possible topics to be covered (preliminary list)
- History of disasters and their economic impact
- Disaster risk management
- Economic vulnerability to disasters
- Prevention/mitigation of disaster impact
- Disaster impact on poverty and inequality
- Political factors in determining vulnerability
- Post disaster growth and reconstruction
- Long-run growth and disaster risk
- Fiscal policy and disaster risk management
- Foreign aid and disasters
- Insurance (implicit and explicit – fiscal, household)
- Climate change and disaster risk
- International aspects of disasters (migration, remittances, and aid)

Readings

All the four required sources mentioned below are available on Blackboard as pdf files.

1. *Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: The Economics of Effective Prevention* (2010). World Bank Press.
2. "The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey" by Ilan Noy and Eduardo Cavallo. *International Review of Environmental and Resource Economics* (2011), 5(1), 63-102.
3. *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation.* Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Cambridge University Press, 2012.
4. *CES*-ifo Forum on Natural Disasters (2010).

Books on specific disaster cases or topics:
(books are available in VUW or Wellington City libraries or for purchase as e-books or hard copies in city bookstores)
Isaac's Storm by Erik Larson
The Last Day by Nicholas Shrady
A Paradise Built in Hell by Rebecca Solnit
The Big Truck that Went By by Jonathan Katz
Collapse by Jared Diamond

Haiti after the Earthquake by Paul Farmer
The Year without Summer by William Klingaman
Krakatoa by Simon Winchester
The Great Mortality by John Kelly
Rising Tide by John M. Barry
The Great Earthquake and Firestorm of 1906 by Philip Fradkin
A Crack in the Edge of the World by Simon Winchester
The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan
Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

Assessment

Short (group or individual) presentation on a topic related to the 2010-11 Canterbury earthquakes	20% - Learning Objectives 2 & 4
2 short test paper	20% - Learning Objectives 2 & 3
Attendance and participation	10% - Learning Objectives 1 to 4
Final research paper	50% - Learning Objectives 1 to 4

Penalties

I expect that students will attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Students who miss more than TWO classes will have their attendance/participation grade marked down by 2 percentage points (of final grade) for each additional class missed.
For late submission of assignments you will be marked down 2 percentage points (of final grade) for every day of delay (unless the delay was pre-approved). I will not accept any assignment with a delay of more than 5 days.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine http://www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. A copy of submitted materials will be retained on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Mandatory Course Requirements

No mandatory requirements.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

I will contact you via email through the blackboard system. It is your responsibility to make sure you receive these emails in an up-to-date email address. If you need to contact me, do it exclusively by email (if the VUW email system is down, you can contact me at noy@hawaii.edu).

Student feedback

As is usual at VUW, you will be able to provide feedback about this course through course and instructor evaluation forms.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at:
www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

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