

ECON 351 ST:DISASTERS AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Trimester 1, 2014

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
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Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 3rd March – Friday 6th June
Study Period: Monday 9th June – Thursday 12th June
Examination Period: Friday 13th June – Wednesday 2nd July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 14th March 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 16th May. 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

Lectures: Monday 10.30-11.20am in RWW 129
Wednesday 10.30-11.20am in GBL T3

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:

(the final list will also depend on the availability of guest lecturers and their specific expertise)

- 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)
- Human behavioural during and after disasters

Readings

All the five 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. *Risk and Opportunity: Managing Risk for Development* (2014). World Bank Development Report.
3. "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.
4. *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.
5. CES-ifo Forum on Natural Disasters (2010).

Books on specific disaster cases or topics (for final paper):

(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

The Big Truck that Went By by Jonathan Katz

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

From Trimester 1, 2014, a revised Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

In particular, there will be a new grade scheme, in which the A+ range will be 90-100% and 50-54% will be a C-.

Assessment for this course:

1. A 5-minutes (group or individual) presentation on a topic relevant to biological disasters. The presentations will all be done on 30/5/14, 9:00-12:00. 20% - Learning Objectives 2 & 4
 2. 2 short papers (2 pages each). Due on 2/4/14 and 7/5/14. 20% - Learning Objectives 2 & 3
 3. Attendance and participation 10% - Learning Objectives 1 to 4
 4. Final research paper. Due on 18/6/14 50% - Learning Objectives 1 to 4
- Guidelines for items (1), (2), & (4) will be provided on blackboard.

Penalties

I expect that students will attend all classes and participate in class discussions. Students who miss more than TWO classes unexcused 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 8 percentage points 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

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.
