

School of Economic and Finance

ECON 351 ST: DISASTERS AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Trimester 1, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

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

Trimester Dates

Monday 29th February – Friday 17th June (last assessment is due on 17/6/16)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 11th March 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 13th May 2016. 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 or [online](#).

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator/lecturer: Professor Ilan Noy (pronounced ee-lan)

Office: room RH401, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus

Email: ilan.noy@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesday 11:30am-12:30pm and Friday 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment
(Please contact me by email to arrange an appointment)

Course Administrator: Alice Fong

Office: room RWW120, Railway West Wing, Pipitea Campus

Email: alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz

Class Times and Room Numbers

Wednesday and Friday: 12:40-13:30; GBLT3

Readings

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

1. *The Sendai Report: Managing Disaster Risks for a Resilient Future*. World Bank (2015).
2. *What Is a Disaster? An Economic Point of View*. Stephane Hallegatte (2014).
3. *The Human Costs of Natural Disasters 2015*. CRED (2015).
4. *Global Assessment Report: The Pocket Version* by UNISDR (2015).
A longer version is available online [here](#).
5. *The Economics of Natural Disasters – A Survey*. Ilan Noy and Eduardo Cavallo (2011).
6. Other readings posted on Blackboard.

My writings on this topic can all be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/noyeconomics/research/natural-disasters>

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

Expected Workload

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

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

Assessment for this course:

1. A 5-minutes (group or individual) presentation on a topic relevant to a policy regarding a NZ disaster risk scenario. The presentations will all be done on Friday, June 3rd, 9:00-2:00pm.
If you choose to do your presentation with a group, all of you will receive identical marks.
30% - Learning Objectives 2 & 4
 2. A short paper (3-4 pages). Due May 4th.
20% - Learning Objectives 2 & 3
 3. Attendance and participation
10% - Learning Objectives 1 to 4
 4. Final research paper (10-12 pages). Due June 17th.
40% - 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 10 percentage points for this assignment's mark for every day of delay (unless the delay was pre-approved). I will not accept any assignment with an unexcused delay of more than 4 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. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. 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.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

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).

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.