

*Course Information for ANT 3930: Anthropology of Disasters*  
Created and Taught by Crystal A. Felima, PHD | [felima@ufl.edu](mailto:felima@ufl.edu)



Photo: Flooding in the North. Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Crystal Andrea Felima (2016)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Whether caused by natural events or man-made forces, *flooding, genocide, famine, mass rape, terrorist attacks, deforestation, and public health epidemics* are all examples of disasters. This course offers students an overview of how these disasters emerge from the confluence of a natural or man-made force, risk, and vulnerability from an anthropological perspective. In addition, the themes of development, vulnerability, human rights, race, and gender in the context of disasters will also be explored. Students interested in non-profits, emergency response, humanitarian organizations, and disaster management should find this course particularly informative. This course aims to be heavily participatory in which students must engage in themes and topics regarding disasters and human catastrophes. As a team-oriented course, general questions to be addressed through the readings and classroom interaction are:

- What can we learn about culture and society from the study of past disasters?
- What is the role of humans in creating disasters or the conditions for disasters?
- How can we use information on past disasters to better prepare for and respond to emergent disasters?
- Who benefits from these vulnerabilities and why are they maintained even after repeated disaster events?
- What is the role of an anthropologist in disaster research and disaster management?

Specific issues to be examined through the readings and weekly discussions will include:

- Types of natural and man-made disaster events, their causes, impacts and implications
- The perception of disaster events by the humans
- Discussions of human rights and development
- How risk and damage are assessed in disaster events
- The interplay of race, income, gender, age, and disability in disaster events
- The impact of disaster upon community, public health, and infrastructures
- The post-disaster continuum of impact and intervention - from initial response efforts (humanitarian intervention) through reconstruction

**COURSE OUTLINE FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF DISASTERS**

*As with culture, this syllabus is subjected to change.*

<b>Week 1: Introduction of Course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Hoffman, Susanna M. (2005) “Katrina and Rita: A Disaster Anthropologist’s Thoughts”. In <i>Anthropology News</i>, <a href="http://aaanet.org/press/an/1105/Hoffman.htm">http://aaanet.org/press/an/1105/Hoffman.htm</a></li><li>○ Hoffman, Susanna M. (2010) “Of Increasing Concern Disaster and the Field of Anthropology”. In <i>Anthropology News</i>.</li></ul>
<b>Week 2: The Anthropology of and in Disasters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Oliver-Smith, Anthony (1995) “What is a Disaster?” Anthropological Perspectives on a Persistent Question (ch. 1) in <i>The Angry Earth</i></li><li>○ Oliver-Smith, Anthony (1996) Anthropological research on hazards and disasters. In <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 25:303-28.</li><li>○ Henry, Doug 2005. “Anthropological Contributions to the Study of Disasters”. In <i>Disciplines, Disasters and Emergency Management</i>.</li></ul>
<b>Week 3: Risk and Vulnerability in Disaster Scenarios</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Terry Cannon (1994) “Vulnerability Analysis and the Explanation of 'Natural' Disasters” in <i>Disasters, Development and Environment</i>.</li><li>○ Wisner, Ben 2003. “Sustainable Suffering? Reflections on Development and Disaster Vulnerability”. In <i>Regional Development Dialogue</i> 24 (1): 135-148.</li><li>○ Tobin, Graham A., Heather M. Bell, Linda M. Whiteford, and Burrell E. Montz 2006. “Vulnerability of Displaced Persons: Relocation Park Residents in the Wake of Hurricane Charley”. In <i>International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters</i> 24(1):77–109.</li><li>○ Mark Pelling, “Paradigms of Risk”</li></ul> <p><b>Additional Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Olorunfemi, F.B &amp; Raheem U. Adebimpe (2008) “Sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction in Nigeria: Lessons for Developing Countries”. <i>African Research Review</i> Vol. 2 (2) 2008 pp. 187-217</li><li>○ Cutter, Susan L. Bryan. J. Boruff, and W. Lynn Shirley 2003. Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards. In <i>Social Science Quarterly</i> 84 (1):242-261.</li></ul>

<p><b>Week 4: Myths, Realities, and Cultural Representations of Disasters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Masquelier, A. 2006. “Why Katrina’s Victims Aren’t Refugees: Musings on a ‘Dirty’ Word”. <i>American Anthropologist</i> 108/4: 7</li> <li>○ Kleinman and Kleinman (1996), “The Appeal of Experience; The Dismay of Images: Cultural Appropriations of Suffering in Our Times.” In <i>Daedalus</i>, Vol. 125 (1): 1-23.</li> <li>○ Tierney, Kathleen, Christine Bevc, and Erica Kuligowski. 2006. “Metaphors Matter: Disaster Myths, Media Frames, and Their Consequences in Hurricane Katrina.” <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 604(1): 57-87.</li> <li>○ Glantz, Michael H. 1977. Nine Fallacies of Natural Disaster: The Case of the Sahel. In <i>Climatic Change</i> 1: 69-84.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 5: Gendering Disasters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enarson, Elaine et al (2006) “Gender and Disasters: Foundations and Directions”. In H. Rodriguez, E. L. Quarantelli and R. Dynes (eds), <i>Handbook of Disaster Research</i>, pp. 130-146.</li> <li>○ Fothergill, Alice. 1996. “Gender, Risk and Disaster”. In <i>IJMED</i> 14 (1): 33-56.</li> <li>○ Enarson, Elaine (2000) “We will make meaning out of this: Women’s Cultural Responses to the Red River Valley Flood”. In <i>International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters (IJMED)</i> 18(1) 39-62.</li> <li>○ Charli Carpenter (2006) “Recognizing Gender-Based Violence Against Civilian Men and Boys in Conflict” in <i>Security Dialogue</i> 37: 83</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lindner, Evelin (2002) Gendercide and Humiliation in Honor and Human Rights Societies. <i>Journal of Genocide Research</i>. 4 (1) 137-155 (<i>This complements the article by Carpenter</i>)</li> <li>○ Fordham, Maureen (1999) “The Intersection of Gender and Social Class in Disaster: Balancing Resilience and Vulnerability”. In <i>International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters (IJMED)</i> 17(1): 15-38.</li> <li>○ Textbook: Chapter 4 - Maureen Fordham - “Gender, disaster and development: The necessity for integration”</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 6: Race, Ethnicity and Inequality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fothergil et al (1999) “Race, Ethnicity, and Disasters in the United States” in <i>Disasters</i> 23(2) 156-173.</li> <li>○ Erica M. Czaja (2008) “Katrina’s Southern ‘Exposure’: The Kanye Race Debate and the Repercussions of Discussion”</li> <li>○ Kathleen Bergin (2006) “Witness: The Racialized Gender Implications of Katrina”</li> <li>○ deSilva, M. W. Amarasiri 2008. “Ethnicity, Politics and Inequality: Post-tsunami Humanitarian Aid Delivery in Ampara District, Sri Lanka”. In <i>Disasters</i> 33(2): 253-273.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thomas J. Durant Jr. and Dawood Sultan (2008) “The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Race and Class Divide in America.”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 7: Public Health Emergencies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nading, Alex (2011) “Cities, Infectious Diseases, and the Embodiment of Place.” <i>Anthropology News</i>.</li> <li>○ Howe, Paul. (2002), Reconsidering ‘Famine’. <i>IDS Bulletin</i>, 33: 19–27.</li> <li>○ McGinn, Therese (2000) Reproductive Health of War-Affected Populations: What Do We Know? <i>International Family Planning Perspectives</i>. 26(4): 174-180</li> <li>○ Lakoff, Andrew, 2008. “The Generic Biothreat, or, How We Became Unprepared”. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i>. 23(3): 399-428</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Moore, Hen (1990) “When is a Famine Not a Famine?” <i>Anthropology Today</i> 6(1)</li> <li>○ Morgan, Oliver. 2004. Infectious disease risks from dead bodies following natural disasters. <i>Pan American Journal of Public Health</i> 15 (5): 307-12.</li> <li>○ Ambrose, Charles T. (2005) Osler and the Infected Letter. <i>Emerging Infectious Diseases</i> 11(5):689-693.</li> <li>○ Lowe, Celia. 2010. “Viral Clouds: Becoming H5N1 in Indonesia.” <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 25(4): 625-649</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 8: Displacement, Resettlement, and Development as Disaster</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Levine, Joyce N., Ann-Margaret Esnard and Alka Sapat (2007) “Population Displacement and Housing Dilemmas Due to Catastrophic Disasters”. <i>Journal of Planning Literature</i> 22 (1) 3-15.</li> <li>○ Colson, E. (2003) “Forced Migration and the Anthropological Response”. In <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i> 16 (1): 1-18.</li> <li>○ Nygren, Anja (2003) “Violent Conflicts and Threatened Lives: Nicaraguan Experiences of Wartime Displacement and Postwar Distress”. <i>Journal of Latin American Studies</i> 35 (2) : 367-393.</li> <li>○ Lawrence Vale &amp; Annemarie Gray (2013): “The Displacement Decathlon”. <i>Design Observer</i>.</li> <li>○ Jennifer Wells (2003) “A dam for the people, and a people damned”. <i>The Toronto Star</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gebre, Y. (2003) “Resettlement and the Unnoticed Losers: Impoverishment Disasters among the Gumz in Ethiopia”. In <i>Human Organization</i> 62 (1): 50-61.</li> <li>○ Bernal, Victoria 1997. “Colonial Moral Economy and the Discipline of Development: The Gezira Scheme and ‘Modern’ Sudan”. In <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 12(4): 447-479.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 9: Children and Disasters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jason Hart (2006) “Saving Children: What Role for Anthropology?” <i>Anthropology Today</i>. 22 (1): 5-8</li> <li>○ Gibbs, S. 1994. “Post-war Social Reconstruction in Mozambique: Re-framing Children’s Experience of Trauma and Healing”. In <i>Disasters</i> 18 (3): 268-276.</li> <li>○ Ensor, Marisa (2008) “Children, Climate Change and Disasters: Challenges and Opportunities for Disaster Anthropology”. In <i>Anthropology News</i>, April.</li> <li>○ Babugura, Agnes A. 2008. “Vulnerability of Children and Youth in Drought Disasters: A Case Study of Botswana.” <i>Children, Youth, and Environments</i> 18(1): 126-157.</li> </ul> <p><b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mitchell, Tom, Katharine Haynes, Nick Hall, Wei Choong, and Katie Oven. 2008. “The Roles of Children and Youth in Communicating Disaster Risk.” <i>Children, Youth, and Environments</i> 18(1): 254-279.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 10: Communities Confronting ‘Natural’ Disasters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Van Willigen, Marieke, Terri Edwards, Bob Edwards, and Shawn Hesse. (2002) “Riding Out the Storm: Experiences of the Physically Disabled during Hurricanes Bonnie, Dennis, and Floyd.” <i>Natural Hazards Review</i> 3(3): 98-106.</li> <li>○ Ehren B. Ngo (2001) “When Disasters and Age Collide: Reviewing Vulnerability of the Elderly”. <i>Natural Hazards Review</i> 2:80-89.</li> <li>○ Stonich, S. 2008. “International Tourism and Disasters: The Case of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras” in <i>Capitalizing On Catastrophe: Neoliberal Strategies in Disaster Reconstruction</i>. Edited by Nandini Gunewardena, Mark Schuller</li> <li>○ J.C. Gaillard, Fanny Navizet (2012) “Prisons, prisoners and disaster”. <i>International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thomas J. Durant, Jr. (2011) “The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Elderly The Utility of Vulnerability and Social Capital Theories in Studying”. <i>Journal of Family Issues</i> 32:1285</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 11: Trauma, Grief and Loss among Disaster Affected Populations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adams, V., T. Van Hattum, and D. English (2009) “Chronic disaster syndrome: Displacement, disaster capitalism, and the eviction of the poor from New Orleans”. In <i>American Ethnologist</i> 36(4): 615-636.</li> <li>○ Krzysztof Kaniasty and Fran H. Norris (2004) “Social support in the aftermath of disasters, catastrophes, and acts of terrorism: altruistic, overwhelmed, uncertain, antagonistic, and patriotic communities” in <i>Bioterrorism: Psychological and Public Health Interventions</i>. ed. R. J. Ursano, A. E. Norwood &amp; C. S. Fullerton</li> <li>○ Breslau, Joshua 2000. “Globalizing Disaster Trauma: Psychiatry, Science, and Culture after the Kobe Earthquake”. In <i>Ethos</i> 28(2): 174-197</li> <li>○ Alexander Laban Hinton (1998) “Why Did You Kill?: The Cambodian Genocide and the Dark Side of Face and Honor.” <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> (57) 1: 93-122.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ibañez, G. E., et al (2003), “Qualitative analysis of social support and conflict among Mexican and Mexican-American disaster survivors”. <i>J. Community Psychol.</i>, 31: 1–23</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 12: Community Reconstruction and Restoring Livelihoods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lindsay, Reed. (2010) Haiti's excluded. <i>The Nation</i> 290 (12): 18.</li> <li>○ Myriam Gervais (2003) "Human Security and Reconstruction Efforts in Rwanda: Impact on the Lives of Women". <i>Development in Practice</i>, Vol. 13, No. 5:542-551</li> <li>○ Damiani, Bettina (2008) "Post 9/11 Recovery" in Gunewardena, Nandini and Mark Schuller (eds) <i>Capitalizing on Catastrophe</i>. Lanham: AltaMira.</li> <li>○ DeSilva, D.A.M. and Masahiro Yamao (2007) "Effects of the Tsunami on Fisheries and Coastal Livelihoods". In <i>Disasters</i> 31(4): 386-404.</li> </ul> <p><b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Department for International Development (DFID) 1999. Sustainable Livelihoods Guidance Sheet. <a href="http://www.efls.ca/webresources/DFID_Sustainable_livelihoods_guidance_sheet.pdf">http://www.efls.ca/webresources/DFID_Sustainable_livelihoods_guidance_sheet.pdf</a></li> <li>○ Cernea, M. (2000) "Risks, Safeguards, and Reconstruction: a Model for Population Displacement and Resettlement". In M. Cernea and C. McDowell (eds), <i>Risk and Reconstruction Experiences of Settlers and Refugees</i>, pp. 11-55. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.</li> <li>○ Evans-Cowley, Jennifer S., and Meghan Zimmerman Gough (2007) Is "Hazard Mitigation Being Incorporated into Post-Katrina Plans in Mississippi?" In <i>International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters</i> 25(3):177-217.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 13: Policy Frameworks and Practical Strategies for Human Security in Disaster-Affected Contexts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kent, Randolph C. (2004) "The United Nations' Humanitarian Pillar: Refocusing the UN's Disaster and Emergency Roles and Responsibilities", In <i>Disasters</i> 28 (2): 216-233.</li> <li>○ Kilby, Patrick (2008) "The Strength of Networks the Local NGO Response to the tsunami in India". In <i>Disasters</i> 32(1): 120-130.</li> <li>○ Skoufias, Emmanuel (2003) "Economic Crises and Natural Disasters: Coping Strategies and Policy Implications". In <i>World Development</i> 31(7): 1087-2003.</li> <li>○ Mustafa, Daanish (2003) "Reinforcing vulnerability? Disaster Relief, Recovery and Response in the 2001 Flood in Rawalpindi, Pakistan". In <i>Environmental Hazards</i> 5:71-82</li> <li>○ Revet, S. (2013), 'A small world': ethnography of a natural disaster simulation in Lima, Peru. <i>Social Anthropology</i>, 21: 38-53.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 14: Conceptualizing and Enhancing Resilience and Adaptive Capacity: personal, cultural, social and ecological interactions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Klein, R.J.T., Nicholls, R.J. and Thomalla, F (2003) “Resilience to natural hazards: how useful is this concept?” In <i>Environmental Hazards</i> 5: 35-45.</li> <li>○ Alexander, Sara (2008) “The Resilience Vulnerable Households” Chapter 6 in Gunewardena, Nandini and Mark Schuller (eds) <i>Capitalizing on Catastrophe</i>. Lanham: AltaMira.</li> <li>○ Gaillard, Jean-Christophe (2007) “Resilience of Traditional Societies in facing Natural Hazards”. In <i>Disaster Prevention and Management</i> 16(4): 522-544.</li> <li>○ Masten, A. S., and J. Obradovic (2007) “Disaster preparation and recovery: lessons from research on resilience in human development”. <i>Ecology and Society</i> 13(1): 9. [online] URL: <a href="http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol13/iss1/art9/">http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol13/iss1/art9/</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Presentations</b></p>	
<p><b>Presentations</b></p>	
<p><b>Presentations</b></p> <p><i>Last Day of Class</i> <i>Final Research Reports are Due</i></p>	