

## **MET UA 510: THEORY, POLICY, AND PRACTICE IN DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING**

Headlines in print and other news media have increasingly circled the globe over the past thirty years, informing us about a new disaster and the corresponding loss of human lives, and the damage to housing and infrastructure. This course examines what happens after the cameras leave and the recovery work actually begins. Situated within theoretical and policy debates in the field of disaster recovery and hazard mitigation, the course brings into focus some of the significant themes in recovery planning, such as the effect of governance structures, funding practices, private interventions, and socio-economic arrangements on recovery outcomes. Through lectures, discussions, and readings, we will investigate and debate topics such as:

- What is the role of planners in disaster recovery?
- How are post-disaster public policies defined and pursued over time and with what results?
- What role does the public and the private play during disaster recovery?
- How is recovery funded?
- What strategies for housing recovery have proven effective (or not)?
- What are the key issues or challenges for mitigation as a strategy for disaster recovery?

The purpose of this course is to craft a global and broad understanding of issues in post-disaster reconstruction and recovery planning. At the end of this course, students will be able to independently analyze, assess, and evaluate the dynamic processes associated with urban recovery planning after disasters

### **COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS**

This class is schedule once a week for three hours and is organized around a lecture/discussion format. Course readings are based on journal articles and book chapters, and will be posted on Blackboard not more than two weeks prior to the class. Readings can be found under section titled ‘Course Documents’ on Blackboard, organized according to weekly themes.

**Attendance, Class Participation, and Reaction Papers (35% of the Grade):** Students are expected to attend classes regularly, read all assigned material, and come prepared to participate in the discussions of readings.

Each week students will be asked to submit a reaction paper, about 1-2 pages in length. Reaction papers should be a critical examination of the authors’ arguments, and not a summary of the readings. They should convey the themes/issues that caught your attention, discuss main arguments in the article, opine whether you are in agreement or not with the argument and why, illustrate your points with examples or experiences you have had, and make comparisons to previous articles you have read in this or other classes. Reaction papers will be evaluated on a scale of 10, based upon the clarity of writing (succinct with no spelling errors), ability to critically analyze arguments, articulation of your thoughts and opinions, ability to make a strong case/point through examples/illustrations.

**In-Class Presentations (25% of the Grade):** Students are expected to make two presentations during the course of the semester.

The first is a 15 - 20 min presentation of the weekly readings that addresses the main points in the articles for that week. Students will be randomly assigned to a week and are expected to come prepared and organized to lead a discussion and answer questions on the readings for that week. Presentations can be organized as a group effort or individually, but will be evaluated individually based on its clarity and quality.

The second is a short presentation of your research project to the class at the end of the semester. The presentations will be strictly limited to a 10 min conference style talk. They will be evaluated upon the clarity of content and clear communication of the main question/issue addressed in the paper, the context, research methods used, and the main findings and conclusions.

**Final Research Paper (40% of the Grade):** Each student is expected to write and submit a research paper on a topic of their personal interest and choosing that is related to the theme of the class. A paper proposal, 2-3 pages in length describing the paper topic, is due at the MCP/MUA Event on Week 7 (Oct 20). The full paper, 20-25 double-spaced pages, is due in class on Week 14 (Dec 8), with no exceptions to this deadline.

**Course Evaluation (Not Graded):** You will be asked to fill out two course evaluations, one during mid-term and the second, at the end of the semester. These evaluations are separate from the teaching evaluations required by the University. The evaluations will remain anonymous and will only be used to improve course content.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on a combination of activities and assignments mentioned above and the grade breakdown and structure is given below.

### *Grade Breakdown*

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Attendance, Class Participation, & Reaction Papers	35%
In-Class Presentations	25%
Final Research Paper	40%

### *Grade Structure*

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Range</b>
A	94 - 100
A-	90 - 93
B+	87 - 89
B	84 - 86
B-	80 - 83
C+	77 - 79
C	74 - 76
C-	70 - 73
D	≤69

**Late Works and Missed Assignments:** Late work in general will not be tolerated. If you plan to miss a class, please hand in your reaction papers within 24 hours of the missed class. Alternative arrangement can be made, but only with prior approval. Students are expected to keep track of assignment deadlines and grades. If you did not receive your reaction paper back or are missing a grade, please bring it to the attention of the instructor.

**Plagiarism Statement:** The copying of any work in whole or in part without citation is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students, whose work has been confirmed as plagiarized: a) will not receive any points for the plagiarized assignment, and/or b) in the case of more serious violation will receive a Fail (F) grade for the entire course.

**Office Hours and Contact:** Drop in office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 4:45 to 5:45pm in 202 Photonics Building (PHO). Questions about course, readings, and assignments can be addressed through email as well: [mukherji@bu.edu](mailto:mukherji@bu.edu). Please give 48 hours for a response.

## COURSE THEMES AND READINGS

### Week 1 (Sep 8): Introduction / Video ‘Disasters: America’s Stormy Dilemma’

### Week 2 (Sep 15): Key Terms and Linkages – Vulnerable Communities and Disasters

Alexander, David. 1997. “The study of natural disasters, 1977-1997: Some reflections on a changing field of knowledge” in *Disasters*, vol. 21, no. 4, pp. 284-301

Blaikie, Piers, Cannon, Terry, Davis, Ian, and Wisner, Ben. 1994. “The challenge of disasters and our approach”, pp. 3-16, in *At Risk: Natural hazards, people’s vulnerability, and disasters*. London; New York: Routledge

Morrow, Betty Hearn. 1999. “Identifying and mapping community vulnerability” in *Disasters*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 1-12

Wisner, Ben. 2001. “Risk and the neoliberal State: Why post-Mitch lessons didn’t reduce El Salvador’s earthquake losses” in *Disasters*, vol. 25, no. 3, pp. 251-268

### Week 3 (Sep 22): The Role of Planners in Recovery Planning

Berke, Philip, R. & Campanella, Thomas, J. 2006. “Planning for post-disaster resiliency” in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, vol. 604, March 2006, pp. 192-207

Schwab, Jim, et.al. 1998. “The role of planners in post-disaster reconstruction”, pp. 3-20, in *Planning for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction*. Chicago, IL: American Planning Association

Schwab, Jim, et.al. 1998. “The planning process”, pp. 75-111, in *Planning for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction*. Chicago, IL: American Planning Association

Wamsler, Christine. 2006. "Mainstreaming risk reduction in urban planning and housing: a challenge for international aid organizations" in *Disasters*, vol. 30, no. 2, pp. 151-177

#### **Week 4 (Sep 29): Policy Perspectives**

Burby, Raymond J. 2006. "Hurricane Katrina and the paradoxes of government disaster policy: Bringing about wise governmental decisions for hazardous areas" in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, vol. 604, March 2006, pp. 171-191

Comerio, Mary. 2004. "Public policy for reducing earthquake risks: a US perspective" in *Building Research and Information*, vol. 32, no. 5, Sep-Oct 2004, pp. 403-413

Comerio, Mary. 2000. "Paying for the next big one" in *Issues in Science and Technology*, vol. 16, no. 3, Spring 2000, pp. 65-72

Schwab, Jim, et.al. 1998. "Policies for guiding planning for post-disaster recovery", pp. 43-74, in *Planning for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction*. Chicago, IL: American Planning Association

#### **Week 5 (Oct 6): Urban Housing Recovery**

Comerio, Mary, C. 1997. "Housing issues after disasters" in *Journal of Contingencies and Crises Management*, vol.5, no.3, September 1997, pp. 166-178

Hirayama, Yosuke. 2000. "Collapse and reconstruction: Housing recovery policy in Kobe after the Hanshin Great Earthquake" in *Housing Studies*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 111-128

Oliver-Smith, Anthony. 1991. "Successes and failures in post-disaster resettlement" in *Disasters*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 12-23

Solo, Tova-Maria. 1991. "Rebuilding the tenements: Issues in El Salvador earthquake reconstruction program" in *Journal of the American Planning Association*, vol. 57, no. 3, Summer 1991, pp. 300-312

#### **Week 6 (Oct 13): Substitute Monday Schedule of Class / Urban Recovery in Historical Context**

Chen, Beatrice. 2005. "Resist the earthquake and rescue ourselves: The reconstruction of Tangshan after the 1976 earthquake", pp. 235- 251, in Vale, Lawrence, J. & Campanella, Thomas, J. (eds.), *The Resilient City*. New York: Oxford University Press

Davis, Diane, E. 2005. "Reverberations: Mexico City's 1985 earthquake and the transformation of the capital", pp. 255-276, in Vale, Lawrence, J. & Campanella, Thomas, J. (eds.), *The Resilient City*. New York: Oxford University Press

Hein, Carola. 2005. "Resilient Tokyo: Disaster and transformation in the Japanese city", pp. 213-232, in Vale, Lawrence, J. & Campanella, Thomas, J. (eds.), *The Resilient City*. New York: Oxford University Press

**Week 7 (Oct 20): MCP-MUA Event - The Edge: Urban and Regional Conversations at Boston University / PROPOSAL FOR FINAL PAPER DUE**

**Week 8 (Oct 27): Financing Urban Recovery**

Coburn, Andrew & Spence, Robin. 2002. "The cost of earthquakes", pp. 37-69, in *Earthquake Protection*. England: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Comerio, Mary, C. 1998. "Current policies, current problems", pp. 197-232, in *Disaster Hits Home: New policy for urban housing recovery*. Berkeley; Los Angeles: University of California Press

Freeman, Paul, K. 2004. "Allocation of post-disaster reconstruction financing to housing" in *Building Research & Information*, vol. 32, no. 5, September/October 2004, pp. 427-437

Kamel, Nabil M.O. & Loukaitou-Sideris, Anastasia. 2004. "Residential assistance and recovery following the Northridge earthquake" in *Urban Studies*, vol. 41, no. 3, pp 533-562

**Week 9 (Nov 3): Public and Private Roles**

Bolin, Robert & Stanford, Lois. 1998. "The Northridge earthquake: Community-based approaches to unmet recovery needs" in *Disasters*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 21-38

Inam, Aseem. 1999. "Institutions, routines, and crises: Post-earthquake housing recovery in Mexico City and Los Angeles" in *Cities*, vol. 16, no. 6, pp. 391-407

Pandya, Chhandasi. 2006. "Private authority and disaster relief: The cases of post-tsunami Aceh and Nias" in *Critical Asian Studies*, vol. 38, no. 2, pp. 298-308

**Week 10 (Nov 10): Issues of Social Equity / Inequity**

Bolin, Robert & Stanford, Lois. 1991. "Shelter, housing and recovery: A comparison of U.S. disasters" in *Disasters*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 24-34

Kreimer, Alcira. 1980. "Low-income housing under 'Normal' and post-disaster situations: Some basic continuities" in *Habitat International*. Vol. 4, no. 3, pp. 273-283

Oliver-Smith, Anthony. 1990. "Post-disaster housing reconstruction and social inequality: A challenge to policy and practice" in *Disasters*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 7-19

Phillips, Brenda D. "Sheltering and housing low income and minority groups after the Loma Prieta earthquake" in USGS Report to Congress.

**Week 11 (Nov 17): Mitigation As a Strategy for Recovery Planning / Guest Lecture by Edward A. Thomas Esq. (Floodplain Manager, Attorney, and Disaster Response and Recovery Specialist)**

Godschalk, David. R, et.al. 1999. "Evolving mitigation policy directions", pp. 27-79, in *Natural Hazard Mitigation: Recasting disaster policy and planning*. Washington, DC: Island Press

Godschalk, David. R, et.al. 1999. "Florida after Hurricane Andrew", pp. 103-160, in *Natural Hazard Mitigation: Recasting disaster policy and planning*. Washington, DC: Island Press

Godschalk, David. R, et.al. 1999. "Iowa after the Midwest Floods o 1993", pp. 193-229, in *Natural Hazard Mitigation: Recasting disaster policy and planning*. Washington, DC: Island Press

Sanderson, David. 2000. "Cities, disasters and livelihoods" in *Environment and Urbanization*, vol. 12, no. 2, October 2000, pp. 93-102

### **Week 12 (Nov 24): Community Participation in Recovery Planning / Video 'Darlington Story'**

Davidson, Colin, H. et. al. 2007. "Truths and myths about community participation in post-disaster housing projects" in *Habitat International*, vol. 31, pp. 100-115

Godschalk, David. R, et.al. 2003. "Public participation in natural hazard mitigation policy formation: Challenges for comprehensive planning" in *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, vol. 46, no. 5, pp. 733-754

Schilderman, Theo. 2004. "Adapting traditional shelter for disaster mitigation and reconstruction: Experiences with community-based approaches" in *Building Research and Information*, vol. 32, no. 5, Sep-Oct 2004, pp.414-426

### **Week 13 (Dec 1): Recovery Planning After Hurricane Katrina**

Austin, Diane E. 2006. "Coastal exploitation, land loss, and hurricanes: A recipe for disaster" in *American Anthropologist*, vol. 108, no. 4, pp. 671-691

Bates, Lisa K. "Post-Katrina housing: Problems, policies, and prospects for African-Americans in New Orleans" in *The Black Scholar*, vol. 36, no. 4, pp. 13-31

Campanella, Thomas, J. "Urban resilience and the recovery of New Orleans" in *Journal of the American Planning Association*, vol. 72, no. 2, pp. 141-146

Olshansky, Robert, B., Johnson, Laurie A., Horne, Jedidiah, & Nee, Brendan. 2008. "Longer view: Planning for the rebuilding of New Orleans" in *Journal of the American Planning Association*, vol. 74, no. 3, pp. 273-287

### **Week 14 (Dec 8): Student Presentations of Final Research Paper / FINAL PAPER DUE**