

## General Information

**Title:** Catastrophe: Community Resilience in the Face of Disaster

**Type:** Program

**Time of Day:** Day

**Year:** 2016-2017

**Terms Offered:** Spring

## Teaching

\*Zoltan Grossman, Shangrila Wynn, Kristina Ackley

## Enrollment

**Standing:** SO-SR

**Spring:** 48 seats at 16 credits

## Banner Courses

## Description

This program will explore the role of natural and human-made disasters—including earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, droughts, volcanic activity, landslides, wildfires, pandemics, wars, attacks, uprisings, and radioactive and toxic leaks—in shaping human society and consciousness. A central focus will be on how many of these place-based upheavals are becoming more common or intense in the climate crisis, and how communities can plan, respond, and adapt under new conditions. The program will apply the lessons from elsewhere in the world to locally in the Pacific Northwest.

On one hand, many so-called “natural” disasters have their roots in exploitation of the Earth and human beings, and social inequalities put the greatest burden of recovery on the poor (such as in earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal). “Disaster capitalism” is often used to centralize political and economic control in the aftermath of mass catastrophes, as Naomi Klein describes in *The Shock Doctrine*. These inequalities will be worsened as climate change generates more intense storms, sea-level rise, droughts, and flooding.

On the other hand, responses to disasters (such as hurricanes Katrina and Sandy) have become opportunities to build better relationships to each other and our ecosystems, as Rebecca Solnit describes in *A Paradise Built in Hell*. Planning for “disaster cooperativism” strengthens the ability of local communities and cultures to sustain shocks (such as climate change), unite communities across racial and cultural barriers, and promote greater social and ecological equality.

Our inquiry will draw insights from communities that have survived disasters and are recovering from historical trauma, including Indigenous and other colonized peoples, war refugees, and military veterans. It will learn from Indigenous epics that describe disasters through oral tradition, and methods of resilience that Native societies have used to

persevere over the centuries. These insights will be explored through texts, lectures, workshops, field trips, films, art, and literature.

The program will explore how communities and nations can democratically prepare and practice for disasters, as Elaine Scarry describes in *Thinking in an Emergency*. Planners and activists can use emergency planning and response to increase awareness of ecological ways to prevent future disasters, the need to share resources among neighbors, and deepen lasting cooperation. In particular, climate change adaptation can be effectively used a reason to quickly make necessary changes for a healthier future that otherwise may take many more years to implement.

Our inquiry will be at conducted at the intersections of climate justice studies, Native studies, and geography. It will use varied research methodologies as tools of inquiry, including ethnographic interviews that establish narratives (storytelling), community mapping, film analysis, government document research, case studies of disasters, Students will have the opportunity to participate in community emergency response training.

### Areas of Study

**Thematic Planning Groups:** Environmental Studies, Native American and World Indigenous Peoples, Sustainability and Justice

**Fields of Study:** community studies, environmental studies, geography, international studies and sustainability studies

### Details

**Campus Location:** Olympia

**Preparatory for studies or careers in:**

Disaster preparedness, Hazards and risk assessment, Community development, Climate change adaptation and resilience

### Online Learning

**Online instruction:** Hybrid Online Learning

### Schedule

**Spring:**

Day	Duration	Preferred Times	Room Type	Pref. Location	Activity
Tue	2hours	1:30-3:30	Seminar / Workshop	2 Seminar rooms (incl. 1 larger for cross-seminar workshop)	
Tue	3hours	9:30-12:30	Lecture / Film / Workshop	1105 or Longhouse	
Wed	3hours	9:30-12:30	Lecture / Film / Workshop	1105 or Longhouse	

<b>Day</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Preferred Times</b>	<b>Room Type</b>	<b>Pref. Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Fri	2hours	1:30-3:30	Seminar / Workshop	2 Seminar rooms (incl. 1 larger for cross-seminar workshop)	
Fri	3hours	9:30-12:30	Lecture / Film / Workshop	1105 or Longhouse	

### **Fees and Expenses**

#### **Spring:**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Optional</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Entrance Fee	\$15.00	N	Olympic Peninsula field trip
Motor Pool	\$50.00	N	Olympic Peninsula field trip
Overnight Field Trip	\$100.00	N	Olympic Peninsula field trip
Registration	\$95.00	N	Community Emergency Response Team training

#### **Special Expenses:**

Required: \$165 for 3-day field trip to Olympic Peninsula (Grays Harbor, and Quinault, Quileute, Makah nations).

Optional: \$95 registration for 3-day Thurston County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training