Title: **A&S Spring 2016 Standard Evaluation** Dates: **04/25/2016 - 05/06/2016**
Course: **SDEVW3360_001_2016_1/DISASTERS AND DEVELOPMENT** Responses**: 15/24 - 62.50%**
Instructors: **John Colin Mutter** Number of Participants: **24**
Stephanie Lackner Enrollment of All Students: **24**

Graph Course Questions

1 **What percentage of the work (including reading) assigned for this course did you complete on schedule?** N=15

1	This question is not applicable	**0** (0%)
2	Some	**0** (0%)
3	Most	**3** (20%)
4	All or almost all	**12** (80%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **3.88** Mean **3.80** Std Dev **0.41**

2 **What is your overall assessment of the course?** N=15

1	Poor	**0** (0%)
2	Fair	**0** (0%)
3	Good	**1** (7%)
4	Very good	**4** (27%)
5	Excellent	**10** (67%)

Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.75** Mean **4.60** Std Dev **0.63**

3 **Would you recommend this course to another student?** N=15

1	Definitely not recommend	**0** (0%)
2	Probably not recommend	**1** (7%)
3	I'm not sure I'd recommend	**0** (0%)
4	Yes, probably recommend	**1** (7%)
5	Yes, definitely recommend	**13** (87%)

Median **5** Interpolated Median **4.92** Mean **4.73** Std Dev **0.80**

4 **How does the workload in this course compare to Columbia courses with a similar structure (e.g. a lecture, seminar, laboratory, or language course)?** N=15

1	No basis for comparison	**0** (0%)
2	Much lighter workload	**0** (0%)
3	Lighter workload	**5** (33%)
4	Similar workload	**9** (60%)
5	Heavier workload	**1** (7%)
6	Much heavier workload	**0** (0%)

Median **4** Interpolated Median **3.78** Mean **3.73** Std Dev **0.59**

Comments Course Questions

Q1 What did you learn - in terms of knowledge, skills, or perspectives - in this course?

- I had previously taken science for sustainable development and several other science classes that covered much of the earlier material so most of the physical science was a review for me. I really enjoyed many of the readings about disasters including Prof Mutter's book. Because of this class I understand how complex disaster relief and prevention can be as a cross-cutting multi-sector issue.

- So much, I learnt about important disaster case studies, concepts in development and recovery, and I even had the opportunity to attend a talk by the UN at SIPA!

- Basic science behind natural hazards, how natural hazards become social disasters, case studies of natural disasters, other topics more generally relating to development

- Honestly, in retrospect, I did not know a whole lot about natural disasters before this course. Over the course of the semester, I learned all about different types of natural disasters and their impacts in different regions. It was definitely the most interesting course I had this semester, and I always looked forward to coming.

- I learned almost everything there was on disasters. It forced me to focus on not only hte disaster but the evelopment after as well

- I have a better understanding of how various types of natural disasters develop and the methods of defining and assessing disasters as case studies. The course did an excellent job of relating disasters and their impacts to the economics of development and creating some significance to the long term prospects and consequences.

- The events before, during, and after disasters that we can use as information towards future development of areas in disaster prone areas. By learning from others mistakes or past successes, we can improve our mitigating and adapting capabilities.

- I learned about disaster types, how they will be impacted by global warming, and the impacts that disasters have in affected areas. Through this course I began to see flaws in the disaster response system and think critically about possible solutions.

- I gain a beter understanding of causes and locations of natural disasters , as well a better perspective in regards with best methods to cope with natural disaters and develop disater risk reduction management

- How disasters impact development specifically how poor people are vulnerable to disaster shocks.

- I learned immense amounts about natural disasters. To be honest, I knew very little about this topic before taking this class. Therefore, most of the material was new information. Mostly, I learned about how important social factors (like poverty and government) are in assessing an extreme event of nature. Also, I learned basics about the science behind various disasters, where they are most active, and how they might change with climate change.

Comments Course Questions

- Its a good review of literature with respect to understanding the economics of disasters, and explores the gaps in understanding the human effect of natural hazards.

- I learned about how various natural disasters impact the socioeconomic status of a country. While much of the information I heard before such as poverty traps, climate dynamics, it was useful to learn about them in the context of disasters.

Q2 **What is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths? In what ways might it be improved? In answering this question, you might address the value of readings and assignments, the structure of the course (including the relationship of sections to lectures), the contribution of the course to your knowledge of the subject matter and to the development of your analytical and reasoning skills, etc. We encourage you to use specific examples where possible.**

- The course was very useful. I plan on going into renewable energy consulting/construction, so being aware of disaster prone areas and how to prevent disasters from happening will help me. Being aware of resources available to disaster prone areas is also useful. The basics of economics was necessary to understand why some countries could afford mitigating technology and others couldn't. The most interesting is doing case studies on seemingly the same disaster in the same area just at different times, but how the response was vastly different and the disaster outcome reflected as such.

- I think the case studies took too much out of the class, whereas I would have enjoyed delving deeper into the economics of development as it relates to disasters and the specifics of recovery and preparation in a more structured manner rather than simply listening to presentations on different cases of disasters.

- I thought the case studies was useful in operationalizing the information we got during the first half of the semester.

- I knew a lot of the background science but it was really interesting to look at some of the economic and social drivers of disasters.

- As mentioned before, the only thing I think should be improved for the first half of the course is to upload the slides for the lecture before class. I think that the case studies during the second half of the semester were great, though some of them were lacking credible information to report on them (such as the Afghanistan Blizzard). I also think that the first half of the course should focus more inequality and corruption with regards to natural disasters.

- I really like this course. I think having students present on disasters helped us really understand the challenges of disaster relief.

Comments Course Questions

- I really enjoyed this class. I learned a lot and found it interesting and enjoyable. I liked doing the case study presentations-- I enjoyed listening to others present, and I got a lot out of presenting myself. I also liked writing and researching the final paper a lot. I liked that we were able to have class discussions about topics. Readings were interesting and very good supplements to the class. JITTs were also a very helpful way to reinforce reading and course topics.

- Great course, touching up on major natural disasters and lessons learn to prepare and deisgn more effcent response and recovery strategies. I greatly enjoy the interactive lectures/discusion.

  Navigating through the case studies part of the course was a great experience, but I think a great improvement could be to define a more sttructured approach to each presentation (since somethimes students were confused what role they have- presenter, discussant, etc) and definetly students after the presetation to post the the group PP as a whole on coursework.

- I enjoyed the course. Having a number of grad students really allowed me to learn from their diverse experiences. All readings and assignments were carefully thought out, and it has helped piqued my curiosity in learning more about disaster resilience.

- It was good, but i found myself bored after a while. I think we could have covered better things. I think the presentations are awesome, but man do some people talk. I think that the midterm was a little too difficualutr for the course.

- I really enjoyed this course and have learned a lot. I have very few complaints. The only improvement I would suggest would be the JITTs. They were very helpful assignments, but I wish that we had received answers to the questions or at least talked about them in class. Often, I was unsure about an answer that I gave on a JITT, but was never able to find out if I had answered it correctly.

Q3 **Please qualify your recommendations if you wish:**

- It is very relevant to Susdev.

- I really enjoyed this class

- Prof Mutter is great and the material is super important to anyone who might want to work in NGO or disaster relief field.

- Very interesting course with excellent professors! I felt that the workload was well laid out. It neither seemed like too much nor too little. Thanks for a great semester!

- I have already recommended this course to other people. It is incredibly interesting, and we learn a lot with a manageable workload.

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Instructors: **John Colin Mutter**
           Stephanie Lackner

Dates: **04/25/2016 - 05/06/2016**

Responses**: 15/25 - 60.00%**

Enrollment of Registered Students:**25**

Enrollment of All Students:**25**

Comments Course Questions

Q4 **How many hours a week did you devote to this course? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including class time, discussion sections, readings, assignments, studying, etc.)**

- 5

- 5 hours

- About 4-5 hours of work including class time each week

- 5-6 (Depending on the week, it might have been slightly more)

- 4

- 4

- I probably spent about 4-5 hours a week dedicated to this course other than for major assignments (final paper and studying for midterm).

- 8

- 8 hours

- 6-8 hours

- 10 hours