# **Sociology of Disasters**

# SOCI 3560

## Fall 2022 / Face-to-Face

## Tanya Faglie

## **IMPORTANT UNT DATES**

Classes Begin: August 29th

Labor Day: September 5th

Census Date: September 12th

Mid-Semester: October 21st

Last Day to Drop: November 18th

Thanksgiving Break: November 23rd – 26th

Semester Ends: December 16th

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Contact with Professor: The best way to contact me outside of class is through email. Students should communicate with me using the Inbox in Canvas. If you email me from a NON-UNT email address it will likely end up in my junk folder and I won’t see it. Please allow 24 hours for a response in Canvas. If you do not receive a response within **24 hours**, please email me again.

Office Hours:Virtual and by Appointment

Unavailable:I may not respond to emails or messages in the evenings and on weekends. If you email me then, please expect a reply the next business day.

## **UNT INFORMATION**

The University of North Texas (UNT) is a major public research university deeply committed to advancing educational excellence and preparing students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens of the world.

### **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences / Mission and Vision**

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (formerly the College of Arts and Sciences) began in 1945 with a diverse set of 14 departments. Today, our family of 22 academic departments and programs remains eclectic. And so are the college's alumni, who number in the tens of thousands and live throughout the United States and many countries worldwide. Our alumni have distinguished themselves in areas ranging from scientific research to politics to business and finance.

**Mission:** Our mission is to kindle the thirst for truth, justice, and beauty; to foster cultural literacy and scientific investigation; and cultivate thinking, speaking, and writing abilities characterized by clear expression and logically coherent, evidence-based arguments. We see these as the values, forms of knowledge, and skills most needed by citizens of a democracy and productive members of the global workforce.

**Vision:** We seek a future in which the achievements of our faculty and students reach even greater heights of excellence and public recognition; in which a spirit of inclusion and mutual respect is maintained and strengthened among faculty and students with differing viewpoints and from diverse backgrounds; and in which increasing interdisciplinary collaboration opens up new opportunities for intellectual, empirical, and creative discovery.

### **Department of Sociology**

We are a dynamic community of faculty, staff, and students who share a commitment to developing sociological imaginations in ourselves and others. Our mission as a department is to provide undergraduate and graduate students with conceptual and methodological tools to analyze social patterns productively. High-level sociological training prepares our students for careers in education, marketing, social services, government, data science, health care, and many other fields.

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

SOCI 3560. Sociology of Disasters. 3 hours. Introduction to the study of human response to disaster events, including political and economic factors influencing vulnerability. Case studies of major disasters are used to explore topics such as the impact of gender, class, ethnicity, and age on vulnerability, response, and impacts; the effects of larger political and economic systems on disaster response; and the relationship of disasters to social change.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

This course meets in person on Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00 am – 9:50 am in Sage Hall, Room 354. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared each week, and complete and submit assignments by the due date outlined in the syllabus. This course will consist of quizzes, in-class discussions, one film analysis, and one activity summary.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**

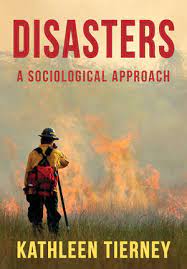
There are no prerequisites for the course, but you are expected to be familiar with Canvas using tools such as quizzes. Additionally, to be successful in this course, you will need to:

* Cite sources in your writing, giving credit to where you obtain information.
* Network with others and utilize tact when offered differing perspectives in the course discussions.
* Commit to spending at least 10 hours a week reading the assignments, reflecting on the material covered, and participating in other activities throughout the course.

## **COURSE LEVEL OBJECTIVES**

* By the end of the course, students will be able to:
  + Correctly define key terms (i.e. disaster, risk, hazard, vulnerability, resiliency, response, recovery, sustainability, etc.) used in the sociological study of disasters.
  + Explain the determinants of disasters and catastrophes.
  + Identify the various phases of disaster i.e. Preparedness, Mitigation, and Recovery.
  + Demonstrate an understanding of how Sociology uniquely views disasters.
  + Compare different aspects of and approaches to disaster.
  + Debate the merits of different approaches to the definition of disaster.
  + Investigate individual and organizational responses to a disaster.
  + Appraise organizational response to a disaster.
  + Appraise how social structures influence disaster experience.
  + Evaluate how media and other forms of popular culture influence our perceptions of disaster.

## **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**



ISBN: 978-0-745-67101-7

*Disasters: A Sociological Approach* (2019) Kathleen Tierney.

You must acquire this book ASAP! Everyone must have all of their course materials by week one, day one of the semester.

## **UNT ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

### **UNT Code of Student Conduct**

Click here to see the expectations regarding your conduct as a student of UNT. <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>

### **UNT Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. For more information, see: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/fs/resources/academic/integrity>

### **UNT Participation/Attendance**

The University of North Texas recognizes that student success is promoted by regular attendance and participation in class. It is the responsibility of the faculty member to notify students in writing of any special attendance requirements for the class. This policy applies to all modes of course delivery. For more information see: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>

### **Instructor Faglie’s Requirements**

You are expected to log into the Canvas site often and participate weekly in the course. You have work to complete every week in Canvas. If it appears that you are not participating in the course, I will use the Care Team reporting system to alert the university of your lack of participation. Someone will reach out to you.

### **Office of Disability Access**

UNT is committed to providing equal access to higher education for academically qualified students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Access assists students with disabilities in achieving their academic potential by coordinating a variety of services. The office acts as a liaison between the student, instructors, and other university resources and community agencies.

To be eligible for services, you must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) and provide current documentation of the disability. ODA recommends that students contact the office at least eight weeks before enrolling at UNT to ensure sufficient time to plan for individualized academic modifications and services. While every effort is made to accommodate students with disabilities, it is the student’s responsibility to make needs known, provide proper documentation, and request services in a timely manner. See: <https://disability.unt.edu>

### **UNT Writing Center**

The Writing Center at the University of North Texas provides support for undergraduate and graduate writers across the disciplines. Their mission is to help students improve as writers at all levels, and they support a culture of teaching and learning at UNT through peer tutoring, interactive workshops, classroom support, and consultation with faculty and staff. For more information, see: <https://writingcenter.unt.edu/our-mission>

### **UNT Title IX Information**

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a safe environment for all community members. Dating violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual coercion, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and stalking are prohibited. Please see their page on reporting sexual violence for more information. UNT is here to help. Find more information about sexual violence, including campus and community resources at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct?utm_medium=deanofstudents&utm_source=web&utm_campaign=dsa-home-page>.

## **INSTRUCTOR FAGLIE’S COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

### What you can expect from your instructor:

1. Respect and active listening.
2. Consistent grading with return time within one-two weeks.
3. Willingness to teach, learn, and answer questions.
4. To be prepared each week for our class.
5. To allow ample opportunity for you to do well in this course.
6. To be available by appointment for additional help.
7. To treat everyone equally and fairly.

### What I expect from you:

1. Patience with your instructor and with all others who participate in this class.
2. Active participation in our class as required by the syllabus.
3. To complete all assignments as they are scheduled in the syllabus.
4. To read the syllabus carefully each week and know what is supposed to happen. This is our contract. I will do all I can to abide by the syllabus, so I expect you to do the same.
5. To act with academic integrity during quizzes and completingting all writing assignments. Your work should be your own. Cheating will not be tolerated! See above for the UNT policy on academic dishonesty.
6. To read the grading comments that I provide on all of your assignments. I will incorporate tips about how you can do better on the next assignment. If you need extra help with your writing, I will suggest using the Writing Center on campus (Sage Hall).
7. To not plagiarize the reading materials used in this course. This means citing ideas and thoughts that are not your own.
8. To put assignments in the correct space in Canvas. If you put things in the wrong spot, you may receive a zero (0), and your work will not be graded.
9. To buy and use the correct version of the book (listed above).
10. To be responsible for your work and prepare for and handle situations of computer and Internet difficulties. If your Internet is out, go somewhere where it is working so that you do not miss any of the assignments.
11. If you need additional help in this course, it is your responsibility to contact me to make an appointment.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & TECHNICAL ISSUES**

All assignments should be submitted by the indicated dates and times embedded in the syllabus. There will be no extensions, except in cases of **emergencies**.

* Students are to contact me through the Inbox in Canvas to discuss your situation **BEFORE** missing the assignment in the event of a legitimate emergency.
* If your emergency situation is very serious, I will prompt you to contact the Dean of Students to receive a blanket excuse from the University for your work.
  + Caitlin Edgar, M.S., Student Services Coordinator, Dean of Students Office, [Caitlin.edgar@unt.edu](mailto:Caitlin.edgar@unt.edu), 940-565-2648.

Students are responsible for knowing the Canvas environment. This means that students are responsible for their training in Canvas. Technical problems with Canvas software are to be directed to the **Help Desk**.

[UNT Help Desk](https://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/) - 940-565-2324 / Sage Hall 330 / helpdesk@unt.edu  
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am-midnight  
Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday noon-midnight

Technical problems with computers or Canvas **ARE NOT** satisfactory excuses for missing assignment deadlines. I suggest that you **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to submit assignments. If you experience trouble with your computer or your home Internet access, you are expected to use the computer clusters on campus to complete your work on time. If the campus is closed for some reason (e.g., due to COVID), you are expected to find some other means to complete your work.

**Details on Course Assignments**

**Quizzes – (8 @ 25 pts each - 200 Points Total):**

Throughout the semester, you will complete 8 quizzes that will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions and have a time limit of 40 minutes. These assessments are each worth 25 points. These quizzes are to help you learn and master the material. You should not wait until the last moment to begin reading the course material. Paying attention to the course material, participating in class, and doing well on these quizzes will help your final grade in the class. The quiz for each week’s material will close on Sundays at 11:59 pm.

**Exams (2 @ 200pts each – 400 Points Total):**

You will have two exams in this class (taken online instead of meeting face-to-face). Each exam contains 50 questions and is worth 200 points. Exam questions are based on assigned readings, learning modules/lectures, and class activities. Exams are multiple-choice. Exam 1 covers Chapters 1-4, and Exam 2 covers Chapters 5-8 of your textbook. You will have a set amount of time in which you must complete the exam. You should have more than enough time to complete the exam, but please think carefully before remaining in this class if timed tests will cause you undue pressure or angst. Missed Exams: You will be allowed to make up a missed exam only if you have a documented university excused absence or contact me BEFORE the missed deadline to make arrangements. The EXAM 2 MUST BE TAKEN AT THE DESIGNATED TIME. NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN. If you have a computer crash, lose internet service, or otherwise go away from the exam after starting it, the timer will continue to run down. If this happens, you will be able to reaccess the exam as long as the timer has not expired. If you do not finish the exam after the 60-minute window, what you have completed will be automatically submitted for partial grading/credit. No additional time is given for exams without documented support from DSS, so please ensure you study before starting the exam. The university is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, if unexpected server outages or unusual technical difficulties prevent students from completing a time-sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

**Film Analysis (175 Points):**

Students will watch a disaster movie of their choice. In a disaster movie, the disaster is the main character. This is an important distinction. Just because a movie contains or references a disaster does not mean that it is a disaster movie. Failure to analyze a film in which a disaster is the main character will result in a grade of zero. We will discuss this further in class. In **NO** more than 2 pages double-spaced, first, explain why the film selected is a disaster movie. Second, explain what an average person who has never been in a disaster and has no disaster training would learn from the film. Then, discuss whether this knowledge would be beneficial or not if they experienced a disaster themselves one day. You must draw upon what you are learning in this class for this assignment. Based on what you learn in the first few weeks, would the messages in the film be considered beneficial or helpful to someone watching the movie? Your answer should also include why you believe that. The rubric that will be used to grade this assignment is located below. **This paper is due by 10/16/2022 BEFORE 11:59 pm.**

**Stratified Monopoly Paper (200 Points):**

At one point during the semester, we will divide into groups and play a game of Monopoly in class. We will not play with the usual Monopoly rules, so it is essential that you not miss class this week. When you finish the game, you will write a paper applying your experience with the game (and your final standing) to a disaster scenario. Your paper must be double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman, and follow the formatting guidelines used in your respective majors. **This paper is due by 11/20/2022 BEFORE 11:59 pm.**

| **Assignment Category** | **Number of Graded Items** | **Point Value per Item** | **Total Points** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Syllabus Contract | 1 | 25 | 25 |
| Quizzes | 8 | 25 | 200 |
| Exams | 2 | 200 | 400 |
| Film Analysis | 1 | 175 | 175 |
| Stratified Monopoly Paper | 1 | 200 | 200 |
| **Total Course Points:** | | | 1000 |

**Tanya Faglie’s Grading Scale**

At the end of the semester, I will base your grade on the Grading Scale below.

| **Final Grade** | **Final Points/Average** |
| --- | --- |
| A | 585-650 |
| B | 520-584 |
| C | 455-519 |
| D | 390-454 |
| F | Below 389 |

**Course Evaluation**

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students to confidently provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. SPOT evaluations for this course become available on November 21, 2022, and remain available until December 8, 2022.

Student feedback is an important and essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14, and 15, **November 21 – December 8** of the long semesters to allow students to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website (Links to an external site.)](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

**\*\*\* Keep Scrolling for a Tentative Course Calendar \*\*\***

**SOCI 3560: Sociology of Disasters: Fall 2022 Schedule**

Tentative Calendar of Readings, Examinations, Activities, and Assignments

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading/Assignments** |
| **1** | 8/29-9/4 | Course Orientation | **Read/Review**: All module pages (especially the syllabus).  **Watch**: Buffalo Creek Flood  **Complete**: Bonus Opportunity & Syllabus Contract (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm). |
| **2** | 9/5-9/11  (NO CLASS ON 9/6 - University Closed for Labor Day) | Introduction: The Social Significance of Disasters | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 1, & any articles assigned  **Complete**: Chapter 1 Quiz (Due by Saturday before 11:59 pm) |
| **3** | 9/12-9/18 | Disaster Research in Historical Context | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 2, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: Chapter 2 Quiz (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **4** | 9/19-9/25 | Sociological Research on Disasters | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 3, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: Chapter 3 Quiz (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **5** | 9/26-10/2 | Theoretical Approaches and Perspectives | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 4, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: Chapter 4 Quiz (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **6** | 10/3-10/9 | EXAM 1 (Midterm) & REVIEW: Chapters 1-4 | **Review**: All pages in Modules 1-4, Chapters 1-4, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: EXAM 1 – Midterm (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm). |
| **7** | 10/10-10/16 | Film Analysis | **Complete**: Film Analysis Paper (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **8** | 10/17-10/23 | Confronting Disaster Research Challenges | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 5, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: Chapter 5 Quiz (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **9** | 10/24-10/30 | Disaster Vulnerability | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 6, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: Chapter 6 Quiz (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **10** | 10/31-11/6 | Disaster Resilience | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 7, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: Chapter 7 Quiz (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **11** | 11/7-11-13 | Stratified Monopoly | Nothing Due - **Make sure to attend class or you can NOT Complete** the Stratified Monopoly Paper assignment. |
| **12** | 11/14-11/20 | Stratified Monopoly | Stratified Monopoly Paper Due Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **13** | 11/21-11/27  NO CLASS 11/23  (Thanksgiving Break) | What the Future Holds (Part 1) | Nothing Due |
| **14** | 11/28-12/4 | What the Future Holds (Part 2) | **Read/Review**: All module pages, Chapter 8, & any assigned articles  **Complete**: Chapter 8 Quiz (Due by Sunday, **BEFORE** 11:59 pm) |
| **15** | 12/5-12/11 | EXAM 2 REVIEW: Chapters 5-8 | Review: All pages in Modules, Chapters 5-8, & any assigned articles |
| **16** | 12/12-12/16 | EXAM 2 | Complete: FINAL EXAM (Due by Friday before 11:59 pm). |

# **No cell phones or other electronic devices are permitted except when instructed for in-class activities or as part of ODA approved accommodations**