

PSYCHOLOGY 395, SECTION 02 (3 ELECTIVE CREDITS FOR THE PSYCH MAJOR)

SPECIAL TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY: PSYCHOLOGY AND DISASTERS

SPRING 2024

Instructor: Dr. Sandy Neumann

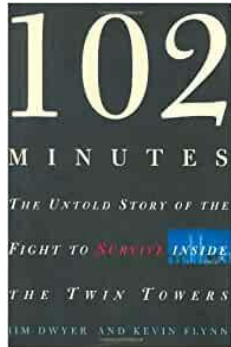
Office: Zoom Land

Office hours: Times TBA

Prereq: C- or better in PSYC 110 or consent of Dr. N.

REQUIRED TEXTS

ISBN 13: 978-0060815653



ISBN 13: 978-0307352897



Readings in Canvas



A book of your choice (this is an example)



WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF DISASTERS!!

Or Disasterology or disaster psychology, or I suppose many other names. Whatever you want to call this topic, we will be studying the intersection of psychology and disaster risk reduction.

This semester, we will examine the human side of disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. We will study things like what it means to be prepared, why people don't prepare for disasters, how we are likely to act in the middle of a disaster, some interdisciplinary ways we can recover from disaster, and lessons learned as we prepare for the next one.

HOW IS THIS ONLINE, ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS STRUCTURED?

As you already know, I am teaching this class online in an asynchronous format. Our primary mode of interaction will be through Canvas. I will hold regular office hours during which I will record lectures for this class. I will also be available to just hang out with you to talk about disasters. Office hours will be determined based on student input. And just like another other college class, there will be readings to complete, lectures to sit through, group work to mutter about under your breath, and (hopefully) guest speakers. This syllabus will serve as our outline for the semester; as I figure out more details, I will let you know as soon as possible.

WHAT SKILLS SHOULD I EXPECT TO GAIN IN THIS CLASS?

By the end of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Discuss how psychology explains general patterns of behavior while also recognizing individual behaviors.
2. Recognize the importance of considering individual diversity as a way to promote equity and for inclusion.
3. Analyze disasters using the Pillar Model of psychology.
4. Evaluate self and others' disaster readiness.
5. Determine behaviors that increase chances to survival.
6. Evaluate the Survival Arc theory.
7. Design a plan to mitigate against a specific class of disasters.

WHAT ARE MY ASSIGNMENTS THIS SEMESTER?

Attendance

“Attendance” will not count toward your grade. But I do want to keep track of everyone. So, if you suddenly disappear without warning, expect a check-in email from me.

1. **Choose your own Disaster** **50 points**
You will investigate a disaster of your choice and post a video in Canvas for all of us to learn you’re your brilliance. Seriously.
2. **Discussion Boards** **144 points (12 @ 12 points each)**
You will engage with your peers using discussion boards.
3. **Preparedness Self-Assessment** **42 points**
You will complete an analysis of your preparedness for hazards that are most relevant to you.
4. **Survival Arc paper** **50 points**
You will write a paper analyzing the Survival Arc in the context of a specific disaster.
5. **Mitigation paper** **75 points**
You will write a paper tackling the mitigation of one class of disasters.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS Will Be Accompanied by an additional handout providing more information.

HOW WILL WE COMMUNICATE OUTSIDE OF CLASS?

Canvas Announcements

You will see Announcements on Canvas as soon as you open our class page. I generally won’t publish Announcements to remind you about due dates. Instead, I will post announcements if there is a change of plans (e.g., change of content, change of due dates, class cancellation). These will be published when (or if) the need arises.

Email

I'm not a big fan of emails. I’m old school – I believe in face-to-face interactions with one’s professor. Clearly, this class format makes these kinds in interactions virtually impossible (get it, “virtually” 😊).

At the beginning of the semester, I can generally respond to your emails within 24 hours except on weekends. But, as the semester progresses, so does my response time. So, the best way to get and sustain my attention is to follow these guidelines. Emails should...

- be sent to my UWSP account (sneumann@uwsp.edu).
- use only our class number (PSYC 395) in the subject line.
- use salutations such as “Hello”, “Dear Dr. N”, “Good afternoon”.
- For extra credit, send me an email using these recommendations, and include the following phrase, “I hope this email finds you channeling your rage in the proper directions such as (insert your own unique idea)”.

CAN I TURN IN WORK LATE?

- **PPTs**: Please do not ask me to post lectures on Canvas. Check Canvas in case they are already posted or ask a peer for their notes to supplement yours.
- **Attendance**: Remember that attendance doesn't count toward your grade. But I will check in on you from time-to-time.
- **Disaster presentation, Preparation Self-Assessment, & Survival Arc paper**: You all start the semester with a 5-day grace period. These 5 days are yours to use (or not) for any single assignment, or to spread out for multiple assignments. Once all 5 days are used, no other late assignments are accepted. Please plan wisely. The first late day begins immediately after the deadline posted in Canvas.
- **Discussion Boards**: Because these assignments affect everyone, I will not allow late work. But if unplanned circumstances prevent you from completing either of these assignments, please let me know ASAP.
- **Mitigation paper**: Since this paper is due on the last day of class (i.e., our final exam period), I will not accept any late papers.
- **Extra credit**: Not accepted late.
- If you encounter any of the events listed below, please contact Dr. N immediately to arrange a modification to this late policy (if it is properly documented):
 - military service
 - jury duty or other subpoenaed court appearance
 - religious observances
 - federally protected medical procedures including pregnancy-related complications and childbirth

HOW WILL MY FINAL GRADE BE CALCULATED?

I use a point structure in assigning final grades. To determine your final grade, add up the points you've earned (as posted in Canvas), divide by the number of point possible, and then multiply by 100. This will be the percentage of points you've earned. Use this percentage to identify your letter grade.

Grade	% of total points	Grade	% of total points
A	100% - 93%	C+	79% - 77%
A-	92% - 90%	C	76% - 73%
B+	89% - 87%	C-	72% - 70%
B	86% - 83%	D+	69% - 67%
B-	82% - 80%	D	66% - 60%
		F	59 % and below

NOTE: DO NOT USE THE OVERALL GRADES THAT CANVAS COMPUTES (THE ONES LISTED IN BLACK INK) – THESE WILL BE WRONG AND CAUSE US BOTH MUCH STRESS. USE THE GRADES LISTED IN BLUE INK FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHEAT?

Just don't. Really. But if you insist...

- Any student found to have engaged specifically in plagiarism will be given the opportunity to repeat the work to be graded on its merits [UWS 14.04 (c)] and a written reprimand will be placed in the student's disciplinary file [UWS 14.04(h)].
- Any student found to have engaged in subsequent acts of academic misconduct, further disciplinary sanctions [e.g., UWS 14.049(f) & (g)] will be pursued.
- Every student has the right to appeal any disciplinary sanction. Please refer to UWS 14.05 and UWS 14.06 for details.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Unit 1: Preparedness for a Disaster			
1	January 22	Orientation to class The role of psychology	The science of psychology Cash, Drotning, & Miller (2017) Gheytanchi, Joseph, Gierlach, Kimpara, Housely, Franco, & Buelter (2007)
		The language of disasters Start working on your disaster presentation	Collins (2023) International Council for Science's report
2	January 28	Preparedness overview Continue/Start working on your disaster presentation	Read up on Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs
		Specific hazards: Using the EM-DAT Are disasters ever "natural"?	Smith (2006)
		National preparedness Finish your disaster presentation	2023 National Preparedness Report (pp. 2-18 & whatever else you want)
3	February 4	Household preparedness	2020 National Household Survey Levac, Toal-Sullivan, & O'Sullivan, 2012
		Work on your preparedness self-assessment	Blessman and others (2007, pp. 324-326)
4	February 11	Preparing for vulnerable populations	See Canvas for reading options
		Prepping 101 & Barriers to prepping Finish your preparedness self-assessment	Blessman and others (2007, entire article) Guest speaker
Unit 2: Preparedness for a Disaster			
5	9/28	Disaster preparedness: An overview	Levac, Toal-Sullivan, & O'Sullivan (2012) Smith (2006)
	9/30	National and Individual readiness	Council for Excellence in Government (2006) Blessman, Skupski, Jamil, Jamil, Bassett, Wabeke, & Arnetz (2007)
6	10/5	Evacuating & Sheltering pets	Chadwin (2017) TBA about sheltering pets
	10/7	CE class on the Peshtigo fire A precursor to <i>The unthinkable</i>	No reading
7	10/12	Crisis on Campus Guest speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle Boernke, Marshfield campus executive Ann Herda-Rapp, Wausau campus executive 	Dagenhard, Thompson, Dake, Pescara-Kovach, & Rega (2019) Preparedness self-inventory paper due
Unit 3: Responses to a Disaster			
7	10/14	Overview of the Survival Arc	<i>The unthinkable</i> (Introduction)

		Denial	<i>The unthinkable</i> (Part 1)
8	10/19	Deliberation	<i>The unthinkable</i> (Part 2)
	10/21	Decisive moment	<i>The unthinkable</i> (Part 3)
9	10/26	No CLASS	
	10/28		

10	11/2	Perceptions of civilian reactions vs. reality: The Twin Towers evacuation study	102 minutes (Authors' Note & Prologue) Wester (2011) Excerpt from Proulx, Fahy, & Walker (2004)
Unit 4: Recovery from a Disaster			
10	11/4	Class cancelled – University decision	
11	11/9	Domestic violence in the time of COVID Guest speaker: Stephanie Wright	TBA reading
	11/11	Agricultural concerns: HPAI outbreak in 2015 Guest speaker: Dr. Darlene Konkle, Assistant State Veterinarian for Wisconsin	
12	11/16	Global warming as a disaster Guest speaker: Dr. Laura Lee, Associate Professor of Biology	TBA reading
	11/18	The Survival Arc applied to the Peshtigo firestorm	<i>Firestorm at Peshtigo</i> (C. 9-12)
13	11/23	Recovery from a school shooting	Vieselmeier, Holguin, & Mezulis (2017)
	11/25	Writing day – no formal class, but Dr. N will be on Zoom to answer questions Survival Arc paper due November 25	
Unit 5: Mitigation Against the Next Disaster			
14	11/30	Evacuation of an animal shelter	Irvine (2007)
	12/2	Why did they “choose” to stay: Race and class during Hurricane Katrina	Stephens, Hamedani, Markus, Bergsicker, & Eloul (2009)
15	12/7	End-of-life decisions	Zottarelli (2010) Rosenthal (2013)
	12/9	Video: America's Tsunami	Read up on the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami Ripley (2006) Silver & Fischhoff (2011)
16		Mitigation paper due no later than 10am on Tuesday, December 15	