**Research Seminar in Disaster & Emergency Management**

**DEMS 4708 M**

**Winter 2022**

**Course instructor:** Dr. Nirupama Agrawal

**Contact Email:** [nirupama@yorku.ca](mailto:nirupama@yorku.ca)

**Technical requirements for taking the course:**

* A stable, high-speed Internet connection, a laptop with a webcam and microphone or a smart device with these features
* There are online tests, such as [Speedtest](https://www.speedtest.net/), that can be run to determine the Internet speed.
* Zoom application installed
* Students are preferred to appear on video for seminar discussions and presentations

Useful links for students, computing information, resources and help:

* [Student Guide to Moodle](https://lthelp.yorku.ca/student-guide-to-moodle)
* [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](https://staff.computing.yorku.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/Zoom@YorkU-Best-Practicesv2.pdf)
* [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](http://staff.computing.yorku.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2012/02/Zoom@YorkU-User-Reference-Guide.pdf)
* [Computing for Students Website](https://student.computing.yorku.ca/)
* [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](http://elearning-guide.apps01.yorku.ca/)

**Times and locations:**

Fridays 11:30 to 2:30

Zoom class links provided on eClass ahead of time

In-Person class location: **ACW 209** - schedule available on eClass

**Organization of the course**

This course will be offered through blended delivery via zoom and in-person at the day and time noted above. The format of the course is interactive and discussion-based. Class discussions, exploration of current events and research topics, literature review, and presentation of research ideas will make up the course's primary organization.

**Course** **website**: Moodle

**Virtual office hours:** by request to course director [nirupama@yorku.ca](mailto:nirupama@yorku.ca)

**Expanded course description:**

AP/DEMS 4708 3.00 is a research seminar course that addresses topics in Disaster & Emergency Management. It is designed to intensify the students’ knowledge of historical and contemporary disasters and enhance their appreciation of the discipline’s complexity. The particular topics of this course will mostly include: the complex dynamic between hazards, people, and the environment, disaster risk and resilience, climate change impacts, the sustainability of systems, humanitarian assistance and refugee issues, disaster recovery, continuity of critical functions during emergencies, health hazards, disaster economics, and community participation for resilience building.

**Course objectives and learning outcomes:** The course trains and prepares students to:

* Appreciate the value of research through exploring existing works and identifying current and future needs
* Critically analyze issues from multiple perspectives before deliberating solutions, strategies, policy, etc.
* Develop original ideas and thoughts by engaging in meaningful debates
* Develop mature thinking and abilities to apply theoretical concepts to the real world
* Improve communication, presentation, and writing skills
* Design, develop, explore, and carry out independent research

### Course readings: The course does not require a textbook. The following literature is recommended for concepts and applications in the field.

1. Nirupama Agrawal. 2018. Natural disasters and risk management in Canada – an introduction, Springer, 366p
2. Keith Smith and David Petley. 2009. Environmental hazards: assessing risk and reducing disaster, Routledge, 306p. <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/oculyork/docDetail.action?docID=10277389>
3. Wisner B, Blaikie P, Cannon T and Davis I. 2004. At risk: natural hazards, people’s vulnerability and disasters, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 469p. <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/oculyork/docDetail.action?docID=10166310>

**Evaluation**

The following components will make up the course evaluation.

* Online discussion forums = 8 in total, 5% each
* Class participation/attendance = 40% (10 classes)
* The final class presentation = 20%

**Course policies**

The course will seek guidance from the university information and policy [guidelines](https://ipo.info.yorku.ca/privacy/guidelines-for-the-taking-and-use-of-photographs-video-and-audio-recordings-by-employees/) to conduct the course. In particular, 1) the zoom recordings should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to duplicate, copy and/or distribute the recordings outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also [FIPPA](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90f31)); and 3) all recordings will be destroyed after the end of classes.

**RELEVANT UNIVERSITY/LA&PS/SCHOOL REGULATIONS**

**Applicable to all ADMS and DEMS courses**

**RELEVANT UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

Should there be any updates to these regulations, you can review the most recent Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies regulations, which are used by SAS (the School of Administrative Studies) at:

<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/sas/academic-resources/common-course-policies/>

**Deferred Final Exams:**Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or to submit their outstanding course work on the last day of classes. Details can be found at <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing>

DSA Form: <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf>In order to apply for deferred standing, students must register at: [**http://sas-app.laps.yorku.ca**](http://sas-app.laps.yorku.ca)**.** Followed by handing in a completed original Deferred Standing Agreement (DSA) form and supporting documentation directly to the main office of the School of Administrative Studies (282 Atkinson) and adding your ticket number to the DSA form.  The DSA and supporting documentation must be submitted no later than five (5) business days from the date of the exam.  These requests will be considered on their merit and decisions will be made available by logging into the above-mentioned link. No individualized communication will be sent by the School to the students (no letter or emails).

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Any request for deferred standing on medical grounds must comply with University regulations. At the time of writing this outline, the requirement for APS forms had been suspended due to COVID-19. If it resumes, the University will inform you of such resumption, and you would include an Attending Physician’s Statement form; a “Doctor’s Note” will not be accepted**.

Students with approved DSA will be able to write their deferred examination during the School's deferred examination period. **Deferred exams might take place during the regular exams period or in subsequent weeks depending on the course**; precise dates are known when the Office of the Registrar publishes the final exam schedule of the term. No further extensions of deferred exams shall be granted. The format and covered content of the deferred examination may be different from that of the originally scheduled examination. The deferred exam may be closed book, cumulative and comprehensive and may include all subjects/topics of the textbook whether they have been covered in class or not.

**Academic Honesty**: The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies considers breaches of the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty to be serious matters. The Senate Policy on Academic Honesty is an affirmation and clarification for members of the University of the general obligation to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. As a clear sense of academic honesty and responsibility is fundamental to good scholarship, the policy recognizes the general responsibility of all faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to be mindful of and abide by such standards. Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist.

Students should review the York Academic Honesty policy for themselves at:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Students might also wish to review the interactive online Tutorial for students on academic integrity at:<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

**Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy:**The grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) shall be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and, under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade, with the following exceptions:

*Note: Under unusual and/or unforeseeable circumstances which disrupt the academic norm, instructors are expected to provide grading schemes and academic feedback in the spirit of these regulations, as soon as possible.* For more information on the Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy, please visit: <http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=86>

**In-Class Tests and Exams - the 20% Rule**: For all Undergraduate courses, except those which regularly meet on Friday evening or on a weekend, tests or exams worth more than 20% will not be held in the two weeks prior to the beginning of the official examination period. For further information on the 20% Rule, please visit: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/limits-on-the-worth-of-examinations-in-the-final-classes-of-a-term-policy/>

**Reappraisals**: Students may, with sufficient academic grounds, request that a final grade in a course be reappraised (which may mean the review of specific pieces of tangible work). Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals; in such cases, students are advised to petition to their home Faculty. Students are normally expected to first contact the course director to discuss the grade received and to request that their tangible work be reviewed. Tangible work may include written, graphic, digitized, modelled, video recording or audio recording formats, but not oral work.  Students need to be aware that a request for a grade reappraisal may result in the original grade being raised, lowered or confirmed. For reappraisal procedures and information, please visit the Office of the Registrar site at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/grade-reappraisal-policy>

**Accommodation Procedures:** LA&PS students who have experienced a misfortune or who are too ill to attend the final examination in an ADMS course should not attempt to do so; they must pursue deferred standing. Other students should contact their home Faculty for information. For further information, please visit: <http://ds.info.yorku.ca/academic-support-accomodations/>

**Religious Accommodation**: York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. For more information on religious accommodation, please visit: <https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (Senate Policy)**

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder. For more information, please visit the Student Accessibility Services (formerly known as Counselling and Disability Services) website at [https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca](https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/)

York’s disabilities offices and the Registrar’s Office work in partnership to support alternate exam and test accommodation services for students with disabilities at the Keele campus. For more information on alternate exams and tests, please visit <http://www.yorku.ca/altexams/>

Please alert the Course Director as soon as possible should you require special accommodations.