

***Diversity and Social Vulnerability
in Public Safety Administration***

PAD 4398

(Three credits)

Prerequisites All lower division coursework

Course Description

This course focuses on issues related to social class, race, gender, diversity, and multiculturalism in public safety administration. Administrators in public safety agencies deal with diverse populations and communities in crisis and emergency management. Understanding the social, cultural, historical, geographical, and psychological factors that put people differentially at risk before, during, and after disasters is important in effective management of public safety and to enhance community resilience. Using an approach grounded in social vulnerability analysis, this course allows students to develop and understanding of the parameters, constraints, and opportunities that promote strategies for addressing diversity and multiculturalism.

Course Objectives:

- Acquire knowledge about dealing sensitively with many different social groups.
- Understand the need to communicate and facilitate understanding across a variety of cultures.
- Familiarize students with the root causes of social vulnerability, which tend to place some groups more at risk;
- Assess the determinants of structural and situational social vulnerability in particular places, times, and social contexts;
- Explore and critically assess a variety of types and sources of data for assessing social vulnerability;
- Conduct local social vulnerability analysis incorporating the capacity and resources as well as the needs of highly vulnerable groups;
- Gain knowledge of vulnerability analysis to develop a community-based action plan increasing resilience;

- Identify parameters, constraints, and opportunities that promote or limit strategies for addressing diversity and multiculturalism.
- Work effectively and equitably with highly vulnerable social groups.

Required Readings:

- D.S.K. Thomas, Phillips, B.D., W. Lovekamp, and A. Fothergill ed. (2013). 2nd ed. *Social Vulnerability to Disasters*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.
- Drabek, T. (2013) 2nd ed. *The Human Side of Disaster*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

In addition, supplemental readings and materials may be assigned from time to time during the course.

Students are also encouraged to use Internet information sources and may subscribe to discussion lists for a variety of disaster organizations and related professions and receive email notification of major earthquakes and other disasters, federal disaster relief announcements, job announcements, research opportunities, and other relevant professional news from the field.

Students should **become** familiar with the following sites:

- www.fema.gov - for basic information on the federal emergency management system, reports, legal documents, training and planning documents, and status reports on disasters, as well as links to state and local emergency management agencies (including a link to the Florida Emergency Management Agency).
- www.colorado.edu/hazards - for information regarding specific hazards, full texts of the Natural Hazards Center's series of working papers and quick response reports for recent disasters, and other information sources.

Other Supplemental Materials: The following topics can be found at

<http://www.fema.gov/help/publications.shtm>.

- [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#)
- [Fire Management Assistance Grant Program \(FMAGP\)](#)
- [Best Practices and Case Studies](#)
- [Emergency Management Guide for Business & Industry](#)
- [Extension's Agent's Handbook for Emergency Preparation and Response](#)
- [Long-Term Community Recovery \(LTCR\)](#)
- [Mitigation Planning](#)

Teaching Methodologies:

The course objectives shall be accomplished through discussions and lectures. Instructional methods include reading assignments, lectures, online discussions, writing assignments, exams, and videos.

Course Requirements

1) Attendance and Participation

Student responsibilities include reading all the assignments for the week and being an active member in class discussions. Your participation plays an important role and much learning comes from the contributions of others; students missing multiple classes and assignments inevitably do poorly when it comes to tests and grades. PowerPoint slides may summarize chapters, *but they are insufficient alone for understanding of the material.*

2) Quizzes: There will be three quizzes for this class. The quizzes are on the days noted on the syllabus and will be a combination of multiple-choice, T/F, matching and short answer questions. The quizzes will cover the materials discussed in the readings and classes. Please note that they are not cumulative. The quizzes will be held on dates noted on the syllabus. Further instructions for the quizzes will be available on Blackboard.

You must take all quizzes on the day(s) they are assigned. There will be NO MAKEUPS without express advance permission of the instructor. Requests for makeups must be made at least 1 month in advance except in the case of a documented emergency. Failing to take a test will result in an automatic grade of "F".

3) Comprehensive Final Exam: There will be a final exam given at the end of the semester during finals week that will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Be advised that no "make-up" exam will be given in this course.

Course Assessment and Grading Schedule:

Item	%
Attendance and Participation	20
Quizzes	45
Final Examination	35
TOTAL	100%

GRADES - Grades will be based on the following point ranges:

A93 - 100 % C73 - 76.9 %
 A-.....90 - 92.9 % C-.....70 - 72.9 %

B+.....	87 - 89.9 %	D+.....	67 - 69.9 %
B	83 - 86.9 %	D	63 - 66.9 %
B-.....	80 - 82.9 %	D-.....	60 - 62.9 %
C+.....	77 - 79.9 %	F	00 - 59.9 %

Letter grades are defined as follows:

- A to A- Exceptional work, above and beyond the requirements and exhibiting creative advancement in design theory or application.
- B+ to B- Good work, meeting all of the requirements and exhibiting creative solutions that respond to the important project issues, communicated clearly.
- C+ to C Average work, meeting the minimum requirements and exhibiting a consistent effort in research and design process, communicated clearly.
- C- to D- Marginal work, meeting less than the minimum requirements while exhibiting inconsistency in design research, process, and lacking in clarity.
- F Failing work, meeting less than the minimum requirements.

Late Work:

No late work will be accepted. However, students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences can be found at:

<http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/FAUcatalog/academics.php/> If a student must miss a seminar meeting to observe a religious holiday, please let me know during the first week of class to reschedule accordingly.

Computer Requirements

Note: You cannot take this class if you do not have regular and consistent access to a reliable working computer with Internet access.

Operating System

A computer that can run Mac OSX or Win XP or higher

Peripherals

Headphones or speakers

Software

I recommend the following software.

Software downloads when available are linked below.

Microsoft Office (2003 for Windows/2004 for Mac) or higher; or [Open Office 3](#) or higher

[Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) 9 or higher

[Flash Player](#) 10 or higher

[Shockwave Player](#) 11 or higher

[Windows Media Player](#) 12 or higher

[Quicktime Player](#) 7 or higher

[Real Player SP](#) or higher

[Java](#) 6 or higher

Anti-virus Software ([AVG Free](#))

Other software that the course requires or recommends and how to obtain it (if applicable)

Recommended Internet Browsers (at least one from the list below)

[Internet Explorer](#) 8 or higher

[Firefox](#) 3 or higher

If you do not have access to a computer, or if you experience technical difficulties with yours, you can use the campus open labs. Please see [Open Computer Labs - Location and Hours](#).

Communication

Course Website:

A course website is available at FAU Blackboard (<http://blackboard.fau.edu/>). All course documents, assignments and announcements will be post on Blackboard and you are expected to be aware of all postings. Time sensitive additions to Blackboard may be accompanied by an e-mail alerting you to new postings. I will use my FAU address to communicate with you; therefore, check your FAU email regularly. Do not hesitate to contact me if you need assistance with any aspect of the course content or assignments. You are responsible for being informed, and if you cannot attend a session, please contact your group members.

Email: Students are required to maintain active e-mail accounts throughout the term. Please use your FAU email only when emailing me.

Netiquette

Due to the casual communication common in the online environment, students are sometimes tempted to relax their grammar, spelling, and/or professionalism; however, remember you are now in a college level course. Such communication is not appropriate here. Maintain your professionalism at all times. Also, please note that in the online environment you do not have the advantage of voice inflection or gestures. As a result, using sarcasm, only capital letters, or other styles that might work in conversation can come across very negative online, so this form of communication should not be used.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

As members of the FAU community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. [Academic dishonesty](#), such as cheating of any kind on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation and the unauthorized possession of examinations or other course-related materials, is prohibited.

[Plagiarism](#) is unacceptable in the university community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course.

Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the University. Please view the complete list of [University Regulations](#) and http://www.fau.edu/ct/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Citing Sources

Papers written for this course will be required to be in APA format. The library has reference material for the APA style or you should purchase a style guide/APA manual.

Research Initiative

As part of FAU's ongoing quality assurance plan, samples of student performance such as test results, projects, papers, etc. may be used. The data gathered will not identify individual students and is not related to the student's grade for the course, but will be used to improve student learning at FAU.

Cellphones and Computers

During the class period, please turn off your cellular phones. In addition, you can only use laptops in class for taking notes and/or following the Power point slides. Email, chat, and surfing on the web are strictly prohibited during the class period.

Flexibility Clause

Generally, and particularly in the case of Florida, it is best to be prepared for the unexpected. Due to the possibility of hurricanes or other untimely events or emergencies, the course schedule is subject to alterations. A change in schedule is also possible in event that we progress faster or slower than anticipated. In the event that adjustments must be made to the schedule, students will be notified as expeditiously as possible.

Special Needs

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework are encouraged to register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie MOD1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305)—and follow all OSD procedures. More information, including office locations and contact information, is available at the OSD website: <http://www.osd.fau.edu/>

Course Schedule:

Week/Date	Material covered	Readings
Week 1	Introduction: Syllabus Course description, objectives, attendance, grading, professional and ethical conduct	
Week 2	Overview of Multiculturalism and Diversity through a Social Vulnerability Perspective	Thomas et al., Chapters 1 and 2 Drabek,, Chapters 1 -Laska, S., and Morrow, B. (2007). "Social vulnerabilities and Hurricane Katrina: An Unnatural disaster in New Orleans." <i>Marine Technology Society Journal</i> , 40(4) 16- 26.
Week 3	Race, Ethnicity, and Class	Thomas et al., Chapters 4 and 5 Drabek, Chapter 2
Week 4		Quiz 1
Week 5	Gender and Sexual Orientation	Thomas et al., Chapter 6 Drabek, Chapter 3
Week 6	Age and Disability	Thomas et al. Chapters 7 and 8
Week 7	Health and Public Safety	Thomas et al., Chapter 9 Drabek, Chapter 4
Week 8		Quiz 2
Week 9	Language, Literacy, and Households	Thomas et al., Chapter 10 and 11 Drabek, Chapter 5
Week 10	Violence and Disaster Myths	Thomas et al., Chapter 13 Drabek, Chapter 6
Week 11	Religion, Faith, and Faith- Based Organizations	Thomas et al., Chapter 14
Week 12	Volunteers and Non- Profits	Drabek, Chapter 7

Week 13		Quiz # 3
Week 14	Social Vulnerability and Diversity Analysis	Thomas et al., Chapters 15, 16, and 17
Week 15	Multicultural Awareness and Competencies for Public Safety	Thomas et al., Chapter 18 Drabek, Chapters 11 and 12
Week 16		FINAL EXAM