Disaster Management

Dr. Alexander Korolev (Ph.D.)
alexander.nku@gmail.com

Module 3 (Jan.-Mar.2013)
Saturday, 10:30 - 15:00, SAS Rm.101
Office hours: Wed. 14:00-16:00, SAS Rm.110

Course Outline
We live in a world highly vulnerable to disasters and crises of all kinds. Such disastrous events as floods, droughts, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, etc. occur all the time in nature. Over the last three decades disasters have been happening more frequently and have caused greater devastations. These events, while being part of the natural world, often have massive ramifications for both domestic politics of different countries and the international affairs in general. That we often hear such terms as “disaster diplomacy” or “risk politics,” “earthquake diplomacy”, “politics of tsunami relief” reveals the fact that disaster-related activities may create diplomatic opportunities as well as catalyze various political actions. Sometimes, natural disasters can cause major social changes and open the window for reform.

This seminar aims to examine how various crisis-, disaster-related activities affect conflict resolution, assist/hinder different countries’ diplomatic efforts, and shape international affairs. The first part of the course examines conceptual issues in disaster studies and explores the political aspects of disaster management. Among the topics covered are the issues of public leadership in the times of crisis, the impact of traditional values on the manner in which disasters are tackled, agencies and state institutions involved in the relief operations, the role of the military in disaster-relief policies, and the problems of state capacity building. The second part of the course explores various practices of disaster management. It will review the history of natural disasters and then focus on major disasters happened in the recent decades, including Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, Hurricane Katrina in the U.S., the Indian Ocean tsunami, earthquakes in China and Japan, Haiti’s food crisis, the outbreak of SARS in China and other events.

By the end of the seminar, students are expected to be able to critically evaluate various disaster management strategies and, most importantly, to recognize “the political” in crisis management.

Course Materials
- Electronic copies of all course materials are provided by the teacher.
- Useful Internet resources:
  - http://www.disasterdiplomacy.org/publications.html
  - http://www.ilankelman.org/
  - http://www.ilankelman.org/disasterdeaths.html
  - http://www.islandvulnerability.org/

Requirements
1. Students are required to read and synthesize all materials before coming to class. In order to engage with the course material seriously, you must read all the articles and book chapters carefully. You are also encouraged to search and read relevant articles in Russian.
2. Active and informed discussions are vital to the life of the course. Every student is expected to actively contribute to the scholarly exchange throughout the course. Regular contributions will
help you to succeed in the seminar and will enhance the learning experience of all participants (including mine).

3. Students are required to lead-off discussion on a rotating basis. Each class two or three students will lead the readings with a 10-15 minute presentation. Rather than simply summarizing the reading under question, the discussion leader should critically engage with the material and tease out special questions or problems that appear worthy of attention. Students are to show the relevance of theoretical knowledge to broader real-world events.

4. To successfully fulfill the course requirements students must pass write a final paper exam based on theoretical and empirical questions designed by the teacher. Students will receive the questions at the beginning of the course and will be allowed to choose two questions they are interested in (one theoretical and one empirical) and provide written answers. Each answer should be 5-7 double-spaced pages.

Absentee policy
Attendance is critical. Students are allowed one absence during the course of the module. For each additional absence students must write 1000 words summary of the readings for the missed class. In this paper, due at the beginning of the next class, you must discuss the main themes and debates raised by the authors. If you do not submit this summary paper at the beginning of the next class or it is of poor quality, you will lose a half grade on your final grade.

Grading
Grades will be assigned on the following basis:
✓ Attendance and active participation: 25% (on your evident grasp of the readings and the quality and relevance of your questions in classroom discussion)
✓ Chief discussant essays and presentations: 25% (quality of the essays and clarity of the presentations)
✓ Final paper: 50% (demonstration of the knowledge of literature and critical skills)

***************************************************************************************

1. Disaster management as socio-political phenomenon (Jan.19)
   ◦ Richard Stuart Olson, “Toward a Politics of Disaster: Losses, Values, Agendas, and Blame.”
   ◦ Arjen Boin & Paul’t Hart, “Public Leadership in Times of Crisis: Mission Impossible?”

2. Disasters as catalysts for change (Jan. 26)
   ◦ Lowell Juilliard Carr, “Disaster and the Sequence-Pattern Concept of Social Change.”
   ◦ Mark Pelling & Kathleen Dill, “Disaster politics: tipping points for change in the adaptation of sociopolitical regimes.”
   ◦ Louise K. Comfort, “Disaster: agent of diplomacy or change in international affairs?”

3. Disasters and foreign policy (Feb. 2)
   ◦ Ilan Kelman, “Disaster Diplomacy: Can tragedy help build bridges among countries?”
   ◦ Ilan Kelman, “Disaster Diplomacy: How Disasters Affect Peace and Conflict.”
Ilan Kelman “Acting on Disaster Diplomacy.”
James Ker-Lindsay, “Greek-Turkish rapprochement: The impact of disaster diplomacy?”

4. Tsunami politics and international relations (Feb. 9)
Eva-Lotta E. Hedman, “Introduction: the politics of the tsunami response.”
Jean-Christophe Gaillard, Elsa Clavé, and Ilan Kelman, “Wave of peace?-Tsunami disaster diplomacy in Aceh, Indonesia.”
Kalinga Tudor Silva “‘Tsunami third wave’ and the politics of disaster management in Sri Lanka.”
Masaru Tamamoto, “After the tsunami: How Japan can lead.”

5. The politics of earthquakes in China and Japan (Feb. 16)
Masaru Tamamoto, “After the tsunami: how Japan can lead.”
Dennis Lai Hang Hui, “Politics of Sichuan earthquake, 2008.”
Jessica C. Teets, "Post-earthquake relief and reconstruction efforts: The emergence of civil society in China?”
Masahiro Matsumura “Japan’s earthquake: The politics of recovery.”
Королёв А.Н. “‘Кризисная дипломатия возвышения’ Китая”

6. Hurricanes and Cyclones (Feb. 23)
Ilan Kelman, “Hurricane Katrina disaster diplomacy.”
Eric Stover & Patrick Vinck, “Cyclone Nargis and the politics of relief and reconstruction aid in Burma (Myanmar).”
Donald M. Seekins, “State, Society and Natural Disaster: Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (Burma).”
Stuart Ford. “Is the Failure to Respond Appropriately to a Natural Disaster a Crime against Humanity-The Responsibility to Protect and Individual Criminal Responsibility in the Aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.”

7. Politics of draught and food crises relief (Mar. 2)
Ilan Kelman, “Norway-Somalia drought diplomacy?”
Alex De Waal & Alan Whiteside, “New variant famine: AIDS and food crisis in southern Africa.”

8. Diseases and politics (Mar. 23)
Simon Shen “The ‘SARS Diplomacy’ of Beijing and Taipei: Competition between the Chinese and Non-Chinese Orbits.”
Bryan A. Liang & Tim Mackey, “Preparing for Health Diplomacy Negotiations: Global Governance and the Case of Taiwan, WHO, and SARS.”
Tom Christensen & Martin Painter, “The politics of SARS–rational responses or ambiguity, symbols and chaos?”