

SUNY New Paltz

Minor in Disaster Studies Course Descriptions

The Minor in Disaster Studies focuses on events of natural, technological and human-induced origin and on how these affect individuals, communities, organizations and the nation and is designed to recognize the multi-disciplinary nature of both research and practice in disaster studies. Courses highlight scholarship and practice related to disaster and trauma mitigation and prevention; response; support; recovery; treatment; policy formulation and planning; as well as the implications of these events at the individual, group, organizational, and community level.

CORE COURSES

80456 – Disaster Psychology (3)

The psychological impact of disaster and trauma including normal and severe reactions such as PTSD and Acute Stress Disorder will be studied. Acute and long-term interventions, vicarious traumatization and self-care will be examined.

80330 - Crisis Intervention (3)

Basic counseling and crisis intervention skills using a didactic/experiential approach under professional psychological supervision. Theory of intervention in suicide, substance abuse, and developmental crises. Role play practice.

Prerequisites: PI

80494 – Fieldwork in Psychology (3)

This fieldwork course will emphasize crisis intervention and response to potential emergencies and disasters. Students may perform duties at a crisis hotline in Ulster County, work in the community or on campus on issues relating to disaster preparedness and be part of a Critical Incident Stress Response Team supervised by Ulster County Mental Health. Students will have the opportunity to be “on-call” for the American Red Cross Emergency Services, serving on Disaster Action Teams or in other capacities, in case of disaster. Students with other interests/talents may have placements in education, public relations or other supportive areas in these agencies. All students will keep a journal in which they respond to assigned readings and will meet as a group with the Fieldwork coordinator for discussion and group supervision. Class meeting will also include presentations from a variety of departments and perspectives. Students will spend eight hours per week in the field.

UNDERSTANDING STRESS, COPING, ILLNESS AND DISEASE

80403 - Health Psychology (3)

An examination of how biological, psychological, and social factors interact to

influence individual behavior related to promoting health, preventing illness, and coping with illness, pain, and stress. Research techniques and ethical dilemmas in health psychology. Students will keep an Intellectual Journal. Writing Intensive. Prerequisites: 80272 & one additional psychology course

WORKING WITH DIVERSE POPULATIONS

17420 - Counseling Underrepresented Students (3)

Peer counseling of freshman students of underrepresented groups. Study of theories and approaches to counseling; achievement behavior; goal setting; academic and social adjustment; and self-examination. Students study and discuss the literature and interact with freshmen assigned to them.

90359 - Communication Among Cultures (3)

Understanding how culture shapes our perceptions and communication behaviors. Strategies for effective cross-cultural and intercultural communication.

07250 - ECOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (3)

Introduces students to ecological anthropology. Emphasis is placed on how humans and the cultures they create are fashioned by their environment. We explore adaptations to distinct environments, indigenous systems of knowledge, and human-induced environmental changes.

07481 - TRANSCULTURAL HEALTH (3)

Examination of aspects of culture that affect bio-physical and psychological health status, illness, and therapeutic behavior in diverse and multi-cultural settings. The application of anthropological research and methods to understanding and instituting change in medical systems. Designed for advanced level students without prior training in anthropology.

POLITICAL ASPECTS OF DISASTER

77318 - Local Politics (3)

The operation and interaction of cities and suburbs, counties, towns and villages. The workings of public benefit corporations, school districts and other special purpose local governments. Special emphasis on local government in New York. Prerequisites: 41160 & 41180 & 77216

77319 - Politics and Media (3)

This course explores the relationship between the various media, politicians, and government officials. Particular attention is paid to the way the press and legislators, political executives, lobbyists, and members of the legislature interact.

PRINCIPLES OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

87350 - Introduction to Human Services (3)

Historical and contemporary influences in human services including European Social Pedagogy. Exploration of generalist practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities. Development of practice skills based on the ecological person-in-environment perspective. Prerequisites: JR OR SOC EXP OR PI

87455 - Social Work Intervention (3)

Preparation for intervention in individual, family, and organization problem areas through a combination of case studies, instruction in case presentation methods, and a thorough grounding in relevant social theory, with special emphasis on mental health. Prerequisites: 87350

ELECTIVES

90101 - MEDIA AND SOCIETY (3)

Introduction to the history, content, economics, regulation and effects of the major American mass media (books, newspapers, magazines, film, radio, sound recordings and television) and new media, including the Internet.

90202 - Interpersonal Communication (3)

Communicating successfully in personal and social relationships. Survey of the human element in communication with a focus on skills in self assertion, listening, perception, and understanding relationships.

90358 - Conflict Management (3)

Exploration of antecedents, processes, and outcomes associated with conflict communication in friendships, courtships, marriages, divorces and the workplace.

87323 - Death in American Society (3)

Examination of dying and death as social phenomena. Perspectives on death, personal fears about dying and death, interaction with the dying, care of the dying, children and death, grief, bereavement, funerals, and post-death problems. Prerequisites: 87100

80306 - Social Psychology (3)

Theories and research regarding social behaviors such as conformity, altruism, aggression, attitude-formation, and discrimination. Prerequisites: 80272 OR 87100

53315 - Public Relations 1 (3)

A theoretical and practical introduction to the (1) role of public relations in an information-based, democratic society and (2) skills involved in relaying information to and getting feedback from various publics. Focus on preparation of material, especially press releases, for editors in print and electronic media.