

Revised January 4, 2022

**PLAN 754: Natural Hazards Resilience Speaker Series Seminar  
Spring 2022 SYLLABUS**

**Lecturer:** Anna Schwab, JD, MRP  
Lecturer in the Department of City and Regional Planning  
[akschwab@email.unc.edu](mailto:akschwab@email.unc.edu) / 919-270-7711

**Class Time:** Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00PM Eastern Time

**Location:** Zoom / Gardner Hall, Rm 07

**Mode of Instruction:** **Multi-Modal:** Remote presentations by speakers plus two scheduled in-person class sessions during the semester (see Note on Class Modality below).

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://renci.zoom.us/j/92639334748>  
Meeting ID: 926 3933 4748  
646-558-8656

**NOTE on Class Modality:** This course consists of a series of presentations made by guest speakers followed by online student Q&A/class discussion. All classes will meet by Zoom except for two sessions when no speaker is scheduled. These will be held in-person in Gardner Rm#07 on March 8 (Mid-Semester) and April 26 (Last Day of Class) to allow for in-person class discussion, reflection and feedback, as noted in the class Syllabus. The two in-person class meetings may be changed to Zoom pending determination of the public health risk posed by the COVID-19 virus at that time. If I need to change the format of the class due to outbreaks of illness, I will announce this via email and the course Sakai site.

**NOTE on Class Recordings:** All class sessions will be recorded and made available to students on the class Sakai site, along with speaker slide decks. According to speaker preference, presentation recordings may also be posted on the UNC Coastal Resilience Center website where they will be viewable by the public (<https://coastalresiliencecenter.unc.edu>).

**NOTE on Excused Student Absences/Missed Assignments:** If you must be absent from class due to illness or other excused reason, please contact me by email, message via Sakai, or call my cell phone as you are able. Because all classes except the two scheduled in-person discussion sessions will be recorded and made available in Sakai, you may catch up what you missed as soon as the recorded material has been uploaded. If you need an extension for an assignment because of illness or other excused absence, please contact me to work out a reasonable time period to turn in your assignment.

**Course Overview**

Invited practitioners and scholars will discuss a range of topics in the field of natural hazards resilience, including research findings, experience in practice, current trends and policymaking. Speakers represent federal, state, and local jurisdictions; scholars from pertinent fields of study, including physical and social scientists; private and non-profit sector representatives, including environmental and social justice advocates; community leaders; members of relevant professional associations; and others as identified.

**Course Objectives**

- 1) Gain insights from natural hazards and disaster scholars and practitioners, including applied practice-based knowledge, awareness of career opportunities, and introduction and discussion of some of the most pressing issues in the field.
- 2) Gain a greater understanding of the link between the state of our natural environment and the effects of natural hazards and disasters on human settlements.
- 3) Gain a greater understanding of the management of natural hazards and disasters, including how nations, cities, communities, and organizations prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, adapt to and recover from extreme weather events.
- 4) Gain an awareness of some of the underlying socioeconomic conditions that can cause disparate impacts of disasters on under-represented and marginalized communities.

### **Student Evaluation**

Each requirement listed below is worth 50% of grade:

1. Class participation, including general class discussion/interaction with invited speaker
  - a. Each class counts equally towards the grade.
  - b. Students are expected to become acquainted with each speaker's presentation topic through assigned readings and independent research, and prepare at least two written questions prior to the speaker's scheduled class session.
    - i. Students may also ask questions during the presentation via the Chat function in Zoom. The instructor will select questions that have been prepared in advance and/or questions entered into the chat function of Zoom to facilitate live interaction between students and speaker.
  - c. Questions are to be uploaded to the Assignments tab in Sakai no later than 10:00AM on the Tuesday prior to the scheduled talk.
2. Writing exercise (2 per semester)
  - a. Students are expected to write two short papers in the form of a blog post of 600-800 words each over the course of the semester. The posts should include a brief summary of the selected speaker's talk, as well as the student's personal reflections, reactions, etc. These are due two weeks after each of the selected presentations. Each paper will be graded pass/no pass. Selected posts will be published on the Coastal Resilience Center (CRC) Blog (<https://coastalresilienceblog.web.unc.edu/>).
  - b. The Instructor will provide a sign-up sheet for students to select two speakers for the written assignment.

### **Required Readings**

Readings will be selected and provided by guest speakers. Assigned readings will be uploaded to Sakai approximately one to two weeks prior to each talk. Additional readings may also be made available through the class Sakai site.

### **Grading**

Course Grades will be assigned as follows:

- High pass: Miss no more than 1 class. Both writing assignments receive a pass, 1 of which may be selected for publication on the CRC website.
- Pass: Miss no more than 2 classes. Both writing assignments receive a pass.
- Low Pass: Miss no more than 3 classes. Only one writing assignment passed.
- Anything below the requirements listed above will receive a FAIL.

## **Topical Areas -- TENTATIVE**

- Resilience in the face of climate change
- Role of the planner in building resilient communities
- Role of the State Climatologist
  - Communicating climate science
- Role of the State Resilience Office
- Role of the Meteorologist in Building Community Resilience
- Managing Natural Hazard Impacts – Policy and Practice
  - Wildfire
  - Flooding
  - Earthquake/Tsunami
- Housing issues in disasters
- Social equity issues – marginalized populations/social activism

## **Course Schedule**

*Note: Session topics, titles, and scheduled dates of appearance are subject to change based on availability of guest speakers*

### **Session #1, January 11: Course Introduction (class meets by Zoom)**

The first class will involve a review of the course. Students will introduce themselves, including their major, academic interests, future aspirations, and why they chose to enroll in the course. We will also share personal experiences with natural hazards (optional) and/or be prepared to share media coverage about a recent hazard or disaster for class discussion.

### **Session #2, January 18: Resilience in the Era of Climate Change (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. William H. Hooke, Associate Executive Director and Senior Policy Fellow, American Meteorological Society

### **Session #3, January 25: The Role of Planners in Enhancing Community Resilience to Natural Hazards (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Kory Wilmot, AICP, APA Hazard Mitigation and Recovery Section

### **Session #4, February 1: Social Equity in Disaster (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. Cassandra Davis, Research Associate Professor, UNC-CH Dept. of Public Policy

### **Session #5, February 8: The Role of the State Climatologist (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. Kathie Dello, NC State Climatologist / Director of the NC State Climate Office

### **Session #6, February 15: Engineering with Nature for Enduring Resilience (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. Todd Bridges, Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### **Session #7 (Feb. 22): The Role of Meteorologists in Enhancing Community Resilience (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. Christopher Zarzar, Assistant Professor, Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences, NC Central University

**Session #8, March 1: *The Role of NOAA in Natural Hazards Resilience* (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Adam Stein, Senior Policy Advisor, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

**Session #9, March 8: *Open Class Discussion – Feedback and Reflections to Date* (class meets in-person - Gardner Rm #07)**

**Session #10, March 15: *SPRING BREAK* (no class)**

**Session #11, March 22: *Response to the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami by Government and Industry in Japan* (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. Shintaro Bunya, Research Scientist, UNC-CH Center for Natural Hazards Resilience

**Session #12, March 29: *Climate Change and Housing* (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. Shannon van Zandt, Executive Associate Dean and Professor, Department of Landscape and Urban Planning, College of Architecture, Texas A&M University

**Session #13, April 5: *Reducing Community Risk to Wildfire* (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** Dr. Michele Steinberg, Wildfire Division Director, National Fire Protection Association

**Session #13, April 12: *Resilience Policy at the State Level* (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker (invited):** Dr. Amanda Martin, Chief Resilience Officer for the State of North Carolina

**Session #14, April 19: *Tentative Topic: Experience of Marginalized Communities in the Disaster Context* (class meets via Zoom)**

**Speaker:** TBD

**Session #15, April 26: *End-of-Course Class Discussion: Take-aways, impressions, personal reflections, etc.* (class meets in-person - Gardner Rm #07)**