“Understanding the psychological consequences of natural disasters upon victims, and Disaster Response interventions that might help to mitigate the development of psychiatric illnesses.”

Class 1: Traumatic stress disorders:
Understanding traumatic stress disorders: Specific symptoms differentiating the various traumatic stress disorders, how symptoms are organized, and how they are diagnosed.

Classes 2 & 3: Human-made and man-disasters and their differences:
The relationship and/or differences between natural disasters and human-made disasters, and to what degree they correspond with functional impairment, with traumatic stress, and other psychological disorders (e.g., major depression, phobias, etc) among victims of such disasters.

Class 4: How traumatic stress disorders affect both physical health and psychological health:
How traumatic stress disorders affect both physical health and psychological health, including overlapping disorders, such as addictions, phobias, learned helplessness, and depression. Are there certain vulnerabilities in people more prone to psychiatric illness, or certain traits that promote resiliency to mental disturbance post disasters?

Class 5: How disasters impact children:
The impact of disasters on children, and interventions to help minimize long-term mental illness.

Class 6: Neurobiological repercussions of traumatic events:
How understanding of these might influence strategies in disaster response, and potential treatment interventions of victims of disaster.

Class 7: Early interventions after trauma:
What are exposure therapies and do they diminish, increase, or have no effect on the traumatic stress and other psychiatric disorders?

Class 8: What is the role of perceived self-efficacy, supportive DR interventions, etc. in the development or non-development of psychiatric disorders subsequent to experiencing natural disasters?
Are currently proposed alternative models of intervention helpful?

Class 9: Alternative interventions:
Alternative interventions to help mitigate against the formation of or severity of psychiatric disorders in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Class 10-12: Final Project:
Based upon knowledge gained from this class and other sources of learning, what hypothesis would you propose regarding the effectiveness or lack thereof of the disaster relief interventions utilized by MA Math? Might these interventions be effective in reducing the severity and incidence of traumatic stress disorders in the wake of natural disasters? Please design a study to measure your hypotheses.
Reading List:

Class I  (28)

Acute Stress Disorder. (Feb 06, 2016). Trauma & dissociation. (2 pgs)


DSM-5 Criteria for PTSD, Brainline Military Site. (1 pg)


Class II  (21)


Galea, Sandro, Arijit Nandi, and David Vlahov. "The epidemiology of post-traumatic stress disorder after disasters." Epidemiologic reviews 27.1 (2005): 78-91. (8pgs)

Class III  (22)


Class IV  (~25)


Stewart, Sherry H. "Alcohol abuse in individuals exposed to trauma: a critical review." Psychological bulletin 120.1 (1996): 83. (relevant sections)

Class V  (28)


Class VI:  (26)


**Class VII:** (~35)


Morris, DJ. (after 2013). “Trauma post trauma: The “gold standard” treatment for PTSD makes many vets’ symptoms even worse.” (3p)


**Class VIII:** (34)


**Class IX** (33)


