Even with all our technology and the inventions that make modern life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all that away and remind us that, here on Earth, we’re still at the mercy of nature (and man).”

Neil deGrasse Tyson

**EHOH 6625 International Disasters & Global Humanitarianism**

**Reality lab series: The Great Earthquakes NEPAL 2015**

Fall 2016 Credits: 3

Course Form: Hybrid (In-person & Online)

In-person Class Meeting Dates: 8/29, 9/12, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/24, 10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12 (the course will utilize Canvas)

In-person Class Meeting Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

In-person Class Meeting Location: Anschutz Medical Campus, Room Ed 2 North P28-1206 (some dates held at Center for Simulation and Disaster Management Institute 9235 E. 10th Dr. Denver, CO 80230)

Course Instructor: Dr. Debra Kreisberg (Debra.kreisberg@UCDenver.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to unveil the unique context of disasters at the international level. To achieve this goal, the class will examine the “Anatomy” of disasters from both the human and natural causes of disaster that trigger response and humanitarian action, discuss the actors involved in the international disaster network, and investigate the inherent difficulties in responding to humanitarian emergencies on the global stage and the long term impact on public health.

What makes this course unique and exciting is that the entire course is taught in the context of an emergent disaster case study on the Nepal Earthquakes of 2015. Within the context of the case study, a conceptual overview of humanitarianism will be provided and a comparative analysis will investigate the interactions between nations as they interact and cooperate in response and recovery activities within the disaster impacted countries. In addition, the course will underscore the myriad of challenges facing the global disaster community including poverty, politics, urbanization, terrorism, and the dilemma of disaster assistance in complex emergencies.

Additionally, the case study context will be used to gain applied drill and response exercise skills. The course offers a live tabletop exercise (TTX) which involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in real time. The TTXs is used to validate plans, policies, agreements and procedures, clarify roles and responsibilities, and identify resource gaps in an operational environment. We plan to offer an Operations-based Exercise providing students a bird’s eye view of the scope and content of a disaster utilizing Hyper-reality training at the Center for Simulation and Disaster Management Institute at Community College of Aurora. The facility employs sophisticated simulation technology that bridges the gap between classroom and live exercises, and enables students to gain insight to understand the response to both small and large scale disasters.

Tabletop Exercise (TTX)

Hazmat Drill