HONR 2305, Honors Seminar in the Humanities
Fall 2019: When Disaster Strikes
Instructor: Dr. Hama; e-mail: mark.hama@angelo.edu
Office: A021a; Telephone: 486-6147
Office Hours: MWF 12:00pm-1:00pm & 10:30am-12:00pm; also, by appointment if necessary, with 24hr. notice

CLASS POLICIES

Required Texts
   (ISBN 978d0691168623)
Additional readings will be made available with a class reading packet and handouts.

Please be aware that the ASU Bookstore returns unused copies of these texts to their suppliers relatively soon after the beginning of the semester, so make sure you purchase them all before that time. Each student is required to bring his/her own copy of each text to class during the assigned period, and you are strongly urged to buy the listed edition. In the case of possible open-book exams, students with the wrong edition may find themselves at a disadvantage in finding listed passages. Also, you must complete the assigned reading prior to the time we cover it in class.

Course Overview
HONR 2305 is designed to stimulate an exchange of ideas among first-year Honors students majoring in various disciplines. Topics and readings vary by semester, but focus on issues that can be viewed from multiple perspectives, including historical, cultural, philosophical, artistic, and scientific. This semester’s theme is disasters, natural and manmade—the events themselves as well as the human responses in the aftermath. Throughout the semester, we will examine and reflect upon how humans have responded and adapted to the unpredictability of life on earth as represented in great works of literature, philosophy, and film.

Student Learning Objectives
At the end of the course, students should be able to:

• demonstrate a basic understanding of historical, scientific, political, and cultural implications of disasters in all their global manifestations
• critically analyze a range of scientific/medical, philosophical, literary, and artistic representations of disaster
• demonstrate an understanding of how science, technology, and human culture advance through inquiry and experimentation
• demonstrate an awareness of how social and political ideologies affect our responses to disastrous events
• present information effectively in both written and oral formats

Absence Policy
Each student is allowed three unexcused absences without penalty. For each subsequent unexcused absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final semester grade. All absences will be charged against this allotment unless proper written documentation indicating the nature of the absence is presented; in any case, I reserve the right to determine whether the absence will be excused. Further, you are responsible for keeping up with the syllabus during any absence. You are also expected to be in the classroom and prepared for the day’s work at the start of class. If you arrive after the assigned class-time on any regular basis, I will bring the matter to your attention. At that point, any further late arrivals will each be counted as an absence. Finally, a total of ten or more absences will constitute grounds for failing the course.

Requirements and Grading
Assignments will include oral presentations, reading quizzes, active class participation, a 4-5 pg. paper, and a final exam. In the case of late written assignments, five points will be deducted from the grade for each day late, including weekends and holidays. To be considered for a passing grade, each student must complete and turn in all assignments. Class sessions will include lectures, class discussions, group work, and possibly some additional written assignments. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Reading quizzes 4 @ 7.5 pts. each----------30%
Oral presentation---------------------------15%
Paper--------------------------------------20%
Final examination------------------------25%
Class participation----------------------10%

Academic Honesty
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf. At minimum students who are determined to have violated this policy will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and may also receive a failing grade in the course.

Students with Disabilities
Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Student Life Office (Room 112 University Center; (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX); or Student.Life@angelo.edu), in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Absences for Observance of Religious Holy Day
Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence and make up any
scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe determined by the professor. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.

**Classroom Decorum**
In order to succeed in the course, each student must be completely prepared with all assigned reading and must undertake an active, responsible role in all classroom activities. The 10% for class participation is not awarded simply for attendance; each student must earn it by contributing to the exchange of ideas upon which every successful course depends. Please do not come to class unprepared; if you do, I reserve the right to ask you to leave and to charge you with an absence. Any student who falls asleep will be awakened and asked to leave the class. If these actions would embarrass you, please come to class prepared and alert. Also, eating, drinking, talking disruptively, habitually forgetting the textbooks, and doing coursework for other classes are prohibited. Following University tobacco-use policy, no tobacco or vaping products of any kind, including chew or dip, are to be used in the classroom. Finally, please turn off all electronic communications devices—cell phones, smart phones, etc.—and place them out of sight. If I see one out during class, I will ask you to put it away. The next time I may ask you to leave class and charge you with an absence.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 8/26</td>
<td>Class introduction</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Research Project and Presentations assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 8/28</td>
<td>Overview on ASU Library databases and MLA formatting</td>
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<td>F 8/30</td>
<td>Judeo-Christian origin story: excerpts from <em>Genesis</em>, packet</td>
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<td>M 9/2</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<td>W 9/4</td>
<td>Greek origin story: Prometheus/Pandora Myths, packet</td>
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<td>F 9/6</td>
<td>The Question of Human Suffering: excerpts from <em>The Book of Job</em>, packet</td>
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<td>M 9/9</td>
<td>Victor Hugo, “Et Nox facta Est,” packet</td>
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<td>W 9/11</td>
<td><em>Tambora</em>, pp. 1-71</td>
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<td>F 9/13</td>
<td><em>Tambora</em>, pp. 72-149</td>
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<td>M 9/16</td>
<td><em>Tambora</em>, pp. 150-234</td>
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<td>W 9/18</td>
<td>George Gordon, Lord Byron, “Darkness,” packet</td>
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<td>F 9/20</td>
<td>Presentation Group 1: Late Bronze Age Collapse (Bunuelos/Wallace)</td>
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<td>M 9/23</td>
<td>Presentation Group 2: The Black Death (Caufield/Sullivan)</td>
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<td>W 9/25</td>
<td>Film: Ingmar Bergman, <em>The Seventh Seal</em></td>
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<td>F 9/27</td>
<td>continue <em>The Seventh Seal</em></td>
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<td>M 9/30</td>
<td>class discussion: <em>The Seventh Seal</em></td>
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<td>F 10/4</td>
<td>Presentation Group 3: Earthquakes (Clark/Smith)</td>
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<td>M 10/7</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #1</strong></td>
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<td>Voltaire, <em>Candide</em>, all</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 10/9</td>
<td>discuss <em>Candide</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>F 10/11</td>
<td>discuss <em>Candide</em></td>
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M 10/14  Presentation Group 4: Famine (Crawford/Scott)

W 10/16  Presentation Group 5: Fall of the Ming Dynasty (Duhon/Schilling)

F 10/18  Presentation Group 6: The Middle Passage (Holland/Salam)

M 10/21  **Reading Quiz #2**  
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*, all

W 10/23  discuss *Beloved*

F 10/25  discuss *Beloved*

M 10/28  Presentation Group 7: The Congo Free State (Lewis/Rouse)

W 10/30  **Reading Quiz #3**  
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, all

F 11/1   discuss *Heart of Darkness*

M 11/4   discuss *Heart of Darkness*

W 11/6   Presentation Group 8: World War I—Life in the Trenches (Hill/Hillman)

F 11/8   The Poetry of WWI: packet

M 11/11  The Poetry of WWI: packet

W 11/13  Presentation Group 9: The Spanish Flu (Martin/Rogers)

F 11/15  Presentation Group 10: The Holocaust (Montell/Rich)

M 11/18  **Reading Quiz #4**  
Elie Wiesel, *Night*

W 11/20  discuss *Night*

F 11/22  discuss *Night*

M 11/25  Presentation Group 11: Hiroshima/Nagasaki (Pluff/Calfa)

W 11/27  Thanksgiving Holiday

F 11/29  Thanksgiving Holiday

M 12/2   Documentary film: *White Light/Black Rain*
W 12/4  Research Project Papers due
         continue *White Light/Black Rain*

F 12/6  Last day of class
         Discuss final exam

**Final examination:** Monday, Dec. 9, 10:30am-12:30pm