



NHERI



University of Colorado **Boulder**

CONVERGE TRAINING MODULES

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT



Course: SOC 353 Environment and Society

Description: 3 credits, undergraduate level, upper division course offered every semestester. Analyzes the relationship of society and the natural environment (global, national, and local levels) using empirical and theoretical methods. Specific topics include the toxics crisis, Central America, work, and environmental racism. Interprets societal structures and processes that lead to ecological crises and responses to them.

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Session: Spring 2023

CONVERGE SOCIAL VULNERABILITY TRAINING MODULE ASSIGNMENT

Overview:

As C. Wright Mills noted, sociology can be both terrible and magnificent. Terrible in the sense that many of the problems we face are deeply rooted in social structures and processes. Magnificent in the sense that we now know where to begin our search for solutions. As sociologists argue, natural events do occur; but there are no natural disasters. Disasters are uniquely human with social dimensions, that impact different populations (e.g., lower income, elderly, disabled, those without transportation) in different ways. Not surprisingly, some communities and populations are at significantly greater risk and bear a disproportionate burden of the impacts when disasters occur. An understanding of social vulnerability to hazards and disasters can assist organizations in the development of a workforce that is better trained to help high-risk communities avoid, prepare, and recover from disasters.

In recognition of this, the [CONVERGE](#) facility, located at the [Natural Hazards Center](#) at the University of Colorado Boulder, has developed a series of [free, online training modules](#) designed to quickly background individuals on fundamental research findings, theory, and methods in the multi-disciplinary hazards and disaster field. For this assignment, you will be required to complete the **CONVERGE Social Vulnerability and Disasters Training Module**, (it should take you less than an hour), score higher than 80% on the quiz at the end, and submit your certificate of completion in Brightspace.

You are encouraged to bring your thoughts from the training to the group discussions in Perusall. Can you think of ways that the lessons from storms, fires, and earthquakes might be applied to issues related to toxic hazards, resource extraction, or negative externalities in general?

Instructions:

1. Go to the [CONVERGE website](#).
2. Click on 'Resources' and select 'Training Modules'.
3. Click 'Register Here'. Register and Log in.
4. Select 'Social Vulnerability' training module.
5. At the close of the module, you will have the opportunity to take a 10-question quiz. If you get 8 out of 10 questions correct, you will receive a certificate of completion.
6. Submit your certificate of completion in Brightspace.



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Assignment Rubric or Evaluation Criteria: This assignment is graded as “all or nothing”. Submit your certificate of completion to receive a 100%.

Due Date: April 17, prior to our class meeting

Points Possible: 10

****Note: Instructors are welcome and encouraged to include any additional information as necessary to help explain the requirements for the assignment.***

Additional Context: The readings for this course are available to students through Perusall. In Perusall, the class is divided into subgroups of about 8 students. The goal is to have students move through the readings collectively rather than individually, completing annotations and engaging in discussions throughout the semester. I often initiate discussion topics by posing questions. The CONVERGE training module provides great material to get students thinking and discussing topics related to inequality, environmental justice, and social movements/social change.

