Natural Disasters

Natural disasters represent both a shock and a challenge for the people involved. Indeed, recent literature highlights that, given that the socio-economic system may change its structure adapting to the new scenario, natural disasters are also opportunities. Furthermore, in the light of the ecological literature, the socio-economic system has to be retained is integral to nature – e.g. human activities are spontaneously influenced by the course of nature. Accordingly, the socio-economic disturbances generated by natural disasters need to be taken carefully into account. To this purpose, several aspects need to be considered in evaluating the impact of natural disaster on the economy, such as socio-economic exposure, vulnerability, resilience, and risk.

The aim of this course is to provide students with the basis for the identification of any disaster cycle, namely all the phases that take into account the interaction between natural events and socio-economic system: a pre-event situation (e.g. preserving the status quo or preparing to the natural event), followed by the actual occurrence of the natural event, and concluded by the post-event situation that is the emergency and recovery phase. The course will include 10 contact hours taught by the course convenor, Dr. Marco Modica. The course is optional.