Executive Masters in Crisis and Emergency Management  
Crisis and Emergency Management  
ECEM 711

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Course Description:  
This course focuses on the evolution of U.S. disaster policy and the corresponding practice of emergency management. It presents comprehensive emergency management fundamentals, examines major policy issues, differentiates definitions of disasters, and discusses commonly held myths about disasters. Lessons are drawn from major disasters ranging from the attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon in 2001 to the Katrina Hurricane. The current national debate over the organization of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be a major focus.  

Course Objectives:  
• Understand the evolution of disaster policy and the practice of emergency management in the U.S. and elsewhere  
• Understand the roles of local governments and nonprofit agencies in disaster management, the development of emergency management standards, and the professionalization of the field  
• Discuss major policy issues in emergency management  

Objectives Measurement:  
There will be a midterm exam, a research project, and a final exam for this course.  

The midterm and final will be take-home examinations in essay format and will be posted on WebCT. Discussion questions will be posted as indicated in the syllabus. Students are expected to participate in the on-line discussion. Thoughtful discussion of current topics is the goal.  

The research project should focus on an emergency management issue or function, such as alert and warning systems or evacuation systems, or on a specific hazard or disaster, such as landslides or a major hurricane. Students should survey the literature (library and Internet), assess the state of knowledge about the issue, function, hazard, or disaster and provide an analysis that identifies information needs, lessons learned, and/or other concerns for emergency managers, policymakers, and communities at risk. Papers should be 12-15 pages in length and students should be prepared to provide a 5-10 minute
overview in class. Topics should be discussed with the instructor to make sure they are appropriate.

Required Reading Assignments:
Books:


Supplementary Materials:
Journals:
- *The Australian Journal of Emergency Management*
- *Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal* (UK)
- *Disaster Recovery Journal* (for Business Continuity Planners)
- *Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management*
- *Environmental Hazards: Human and Policy Dimensions*
- *Homeland Protection Professional*
- *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* (International Research Committee on Disasters, American Sociological Association)
- *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* (The Netherlands)
- *Journal of Emergency Management*
- *The Liaison (for Civil-Military Humanitarian Relief Collaboration)* (Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Hawaii)
- *Natural Hazards: An International Journal of Hazards Research & Prevention*
- *Natural Hazards Review* (Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado)

Websites:
- A specific list of disaster websites will be provided and more websites will be suggested in the class discussions and readings
- Students may subscribe to discussion lists for a variety of disaster organizations and related professions and receive email notification of major earthquakes and other disasters, federal disaster relief announcements, job announcements, research opportunities, and other relevant professional news from the field.
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) - for basic information on the federal emergency management system, reports, legal documents, training and planning documents, and status reports on disasters, as well as links to state and local emergency management agencies (including a link to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency)
- [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) - for basic information on the Department of Homeland Security, including FEMA, and its constituent agencies and directorates
• www.iaem.org - for information on the International Association of Emergency Managers, job listings, commentary on current policy issues
• www.colorado.edu/hazards - for information regarding specific hazards, full texts of some of the Natural Hazards Center’s series of working papers and quick response reports for recent disasters, and other information sources
• www.drc.udel.edu - for applied social science research related to disasters, full texts of some of the Disaster Research Center’s publications, including reports to FEMA and other government agencies
• www.emforum.org - Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership (EIIP) forum. Holds Internet workshops on a broad range of emergency management issues and maintains an archive of transcripts. Tune in online for Wednesday noon programs

Discussion Topics

July 2      Introduction to course, From asteroid strikes and Gamma rays to killer bees Lindell et al., Chapter 1

July 9      US Emergency Management Lindell et al., Chapters 2 and 3 System

July 16     Internet resources FEMA website
Disaster Timeline

July 23     The Katrina Case: The Political Costs of Failure Sylves, Annals, pp. 26-56 Tierney, Annals, pp. 57-81 Rodriguez, Annals, pp. 82-101

July 29-30  Campus Session “The Storm that Drowned a City” (video) NFPA 1600 and EMAP Standards The Principles of Emergency Management

August 6    Midterm made available


August 20   Discussion question posted

August 27   Risk Perception and Communication Lindell et al., Chapter 4
September 3  Discussion question posted

September 10  Discussion

September 17  Midterm due

September 24  Hazards in the US, Vulnerability, and Risk Analysis  Lindell et al., Chapters 5-6

October 1  Internet resources  
http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/  
http://www.noaa.gov  
http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/

October 8  Hazard Mitigation  Lindell et al., Chapter 7  
Burby, Annals, pp. 171-191

October 15  Discussion question posted

October 22  Disaster Preparedness  Lindell et al., Chapter 9  
Berke, Annals, pp. 192-207

October 29  Discussion question posted

November 5  Disaster Response  Lindell et al., Chapters 8 and 10  
Harrald, Annals, pp. 256-272  
Final Exam handed out

November 12  Disaster Recovery  Lindell et al., Chapter 11  
Mitchell, Annals, pp. 228-255  
Kunreuther, Annals, pp. 208-227

November 19  Evaluation and Accountability  Lindell et al., Chapters 12 and 14  
Conclusions  Lindell et al., Chapters 13 and 15  
Project Presentations  Kettl, Annals, pp. 273-287

November 26  Final Exam due

December 2  On-Campus session – student presentations and discussion

Grade Determination:
In-Class Participation  15%
Web-Based Participation  15%
Midterm Exam  15%
Research Project  40%
Final Exam 15%
100% = final grade

**Miscellaneous:**
- Grades: Grades will not be posted publicly nor given telephonically. Course grades can be obtained directly from the professor, or if the student desires the grade prior to official reports being mailed, leave a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the professor and the grade will be mailed.

**University Policies:**
- Disabilities: If you have a documented disability that requires assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for coordination in your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Reynolds Student Services Center, room 137, phone (702) 895-0866.

*This syllabus is a guide, not a contract. It may be revised if it seems in the best interest of the class to do so. Students will be notified promptly of any revisions.*