

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

Professor: Dr. Bill Waugh

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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:

Michael K. Lindell, Carla Prater, and Ronald W. Perry, *Introduction to Emergency Management* (Wiley, 2007).

William L. Waugh, Jr., ed., *Shelter from the Storm: Repairing the National Emergency Management System After Hurricane Katrina* (Special Issue of *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, March 2006) (Sage Publications).

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*
- *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management* (electronic)
- *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 - 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 - 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 System	Lindell et al., Chapters 2 and 3
July 16	Internet resources	FEMA website <i>Disaster Timeline</i>
July 23	The Katrina Case: The Political Costs of Failure	Waugh, Annals, pp. 10-25 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 13	Social Impacts	Cutter, Annals, pp. 102-112 Nigg, Annals, pp. 113-128 Bourque, Annals, pp. 129-151 Elrod, Annals, pp. 152-170
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 Final Exam handed out	Lindell et al., Chapters 8 and 10 Harrald, Annals, pp. 256-272
November 12	Disaster Recovery	Lindell et al., Chapter 11 Mitchell, Annals, pp. 228-255 Kunreuther, Annals, pp. 208-227
November 19	Evaluation and Accountability Conclusions Project Presentations	Lindell et al., Chapters 12 and 14 Lindell et al., Chapters 13 and 15 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%

