

**Executive Masters in Crisis and Emergency Management
Response and Recovery
ECEM 733**

Professor: Bryan Scyphers

Contact Information:

Office:

Home:

Fax:

Email: Bryan.Scyphers@hhs.gov

Mail:

Office Hours:

Course Description:

This course analyzes the methods by which governmental organizations, private sector entities, and the general public can respond to and recover from natural, intentional, and technical disasters. It will discuss topics such as crisis action planning, conducting a needs assessment, establishing unity of effort, and integrating key personnel and organizations.

Course Goals:

The purpose of this course is to uncover the principles that promote effective disaster response operations and recovery. To achieve this goal, the course will examine the nature of disasters, the context of response operations in the United States, and the roles and responsibilities of various emergency management related personnel. The course will review the popular myths and realities of human behavior in catastrophic events as well as the divergent approaches to disaster response operations (e.g. command and control vs. networking/problem solving). The importance of providing an effective response for the affected population will be discussed, and will include a variety of important generic functions (e.g. implementing the emergency operations plan, warning, evacuation, search and rescue, emergency medical care/mass casualties, mass fatalities, sheltering and mass care, donations management, damage assessment, the disaster declaration process, media relations/public information, individual and public assistance, and critical incident stress debriefing). The course will also examine specific functions relating to natural, technological and terrorist disasters. Various problems associated with response operations will be identified (e.g. inadequate preparedness measures, safety and site security, politics, communications, coordination and record keeping, etc.). In exploring the means to improve emergency management after disaster occurs, the incident command system and its interaction with the emergency operations center will be emphasized. The role of technology and NIMS in effective post-disaster responses

will also be discussed. Each student will be expected to gain a solid comprehension of common post-disaster problems and how the emergency manager may overcome those challenges.

Course Objectives:

- Develop understanding about the nature of disaster;
- Recognize the importance of history in disaster response;
- Examine the roles of voluntary and government organizations in disaster;
- Formulate a comprehensive disaster response strategy;
- Recognize the cycles of recovery, and the physical aspects of recovery;
- Develop understanding of the politics of recovery;
- Examine how to build sustainability into a community holistically after disaster

Objectives Measurements:

Two research paper assignments;
Weekly writing assignments;
Weekly discussion board postings;
One midterm exam;
One final exam, and
One class presentation.

Midterm and Final Exams:

Both exams will ask questions about the ECEM student's body of knowledge required to produce an adequate response to and recovery from a disaster event. The Midterm and Final Exams will be taken online during Weeks 11 and 21.

Research Papers:

Paper 1: Select a topic relevant to the **Response** phase of a disaster and perform a cursory examination of relevant research materials available. Write a 1-2 paragraph abstract providing an overview of your paper, and submit the abstract to your instructor for approval. Once approved, you should write your paper, not to exceed 6-8 double-spaced, typed pages, including bibliography. **Your first paper will be due no later than the end of Week 13.** Remember, you must have your topic approved by your instructor prior to writing the paper.

Paper 2: Select a topic relevant to the **Recovery** phase of a disaster and perform a cursory examination of relevant research materials available. Write a 1-2 paragraph abstract providing an overview of your paper, and submit the abstract to your instructor for approval. Once approved, you should write your paper, not to exceed 6-8 double-spaced, typed pages, including bibliography. **Your first paper will be due no later than**

the end of Week 20. Remember, you must have your topic approved by your instructor prior to writing the paper.

Stylistic factors to remember in writing these research papers:

- 1) Papers must be 6-8 typed, double-spaced pages with 1 inch margins and 12 point fonts
- 2) Notes--endnotes will be acceptable as footnotes, although other styles such as APA and MLA are acceptable as well
- 3) A cover page (which does not count as a typewritten page) is to include the title of the paper, your name, the name of the class, the name of the instructor, and the date you are submitting the assignment
- 4) Be sure to include page numbers and/or web pages when citing source material
- 5) Quotes, statistics, and paraphrased material should have notes
- 6) Academic journal articles are a very good source of information, such as the International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters, Public Management, Public Administration Review, and Disaster Management. Another great comprehensive resource is the Handbook of Disaster Research by Rodriguez, Dynes, and Quarantelli, ISBN 9780387323312.
- 7) The use of the Internet is acceptable, but all information supporting the papers must be gathered from sound academic sources. Web sites, in many cases, may or may not be a wise choice since it is difficult to attest or evaluate the quality of the materials presented. All sources must be verified.
- 8) Papers should be sent to the professor by email as attachments in .doc or .rtf format.
- 9) Articles, working papers, or books may be identified through the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder (www.colorado.edu/hazards) and through the Learning Resource Center (FEMA's library) at (www.lrc.fema.gov) and through the University of Delaware's Disaster Research Center (www.udel.edu/DRC/)

Class Presentation:

Select a topic relevant to disaster Response or Recovery and be prepared to present your topic to the class during the second in-class week. Your presentation can be based on either of your selected paper topics, or a completely different topic. Please incorporate an audiovisual component(s)-- (PowerPoint, handouts, models, etc) in conjunction with your presentation. As an Emergency Management professional, you will need to present information to politicians, government officials, the media, and the public. This class presentation gives you the opportunity to practice this necessary skill, and to learn from each other.

Course Text: Disaster Response and Recovery, David A. McEntire, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2007, ISBN-10 is 0471789747; ISBN-13 is 9780471789741.

ECEM 733 Response & Recovery, Assignment Schedule & Guidelines

Each Week of the course will begin on Monday and end at midnight the following Sunday.

The profession of Emergency Management requires you to plan, schedule your time efficiently, and meet deadlines. Thus, all work assigned for the given week (reading, written assignments, discussion board postings, quiz, etc.) must be completed/submitted by midnight Sunday. Late work will not be accepted, except in the case of a most unfortunate, unplanned, and unforeseen event, i.e., a DISASTER.

Assignment Guidelines

Readings—Each week, a reading assignment will be posted. Readings may include a combination of the course text, PowerPoint presentations, research articles, or Current Events & Issues. Use the readings to enhance your discussions, gather research for your papers, and to prepare for the midterm and final exams.

Written Assignments—Written assignments are to be submitted via e-mail by the deadline and are to be no more than 2-3 pages in length, unless different specifications are given in the assignment instructions. Grading will reflect your content, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The profession of Emergency Management requires you to write clearly, concisely, and professionally.

Discussions—Each week, you will be required to respond to a question posted on the Discussion Board. At a minimum, you must post one original response to the question and post two replies to the responses of others. Feel free to disagree and debate the issue in a lively manner, however, always respect the opinions of others, and be polite and pleasant in your postings. The profession of Emergency Management requires you to discuss and debate issues and policies, and to persuade others to understand your point of view and take appropriate actions for disaster Response & Recovery. You must learn to interact with others who are completely clueless regarding disaster management, yet are involved in the process.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Orientation & Overview

- Read the Syllabus
- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 2: Hazards & Disasters

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 3: Roles & Responsibilities of Disaster Participants I

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 4: Roles & Responsibilities of Disaster Participants II

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 5: Current Events & Issues

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 6: Human Behavior in Disasters

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 7: Response & Recovery Management Theories

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 8: Initial Response

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 9: Current Events & Issues

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 10: The Injured, Dead, and Distraught I

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 11: The Injured, Dead, and Distraught II

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- **Midterm Exam**
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 12: Special Needs Populations

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 13: Animals in Disasters

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- **Research Paper 1 Due**
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 14: Public Relations, Donations, and Volunteers

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 15: Damage Assessment, Disaster Declarations, and Debris Removal

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 16: Promoting Recovery and Mitigation

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)

- Adhere to the deadline

Week 17: Other Anticipated Problems for Recovery

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 18: Using Technology

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 19: Current Events & Issues

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 20: New Threats and Vulnerability

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- **Research Paper 2 Due**
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 21: Promoting Resilience

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- **Final Exam**
- Adhere to the deadline

Week 22: Course Synopsis

- Complete the assigned readings/presentations
- Post and respond on the discussion board
- Submit the written assignment(s)
- Adhere to the deadline

Grade Determination

Written Assignments	20%
Discussion Board Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	10%

Research Paper 1	20%
Research Paper 2	20%
Class Presentation	10%
Final Exam	10%

All course grades will be posted in the electronic gradebook.

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.