Emergency Planning and Preparedness
PUAD 630 – Fall 2017

PROFESSOR

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Hours: By Appointment
Format: Online in MyMason-Blackboard and in TBD

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to examine: 1) the nature of hazards, 2) human behavior in disasters; 3) various warning systems, 4) the principles of effectively planning and preparing for disasters, 5) protective action strategies, and 6) response management practices.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students in this course will develop a thorough understanding of emergency planning and preparedness such that they will be able to:

- Distinguish between the origins of natural and manmade disasters;
- Evaluate factors of disaster risk and vulnerability;
- Identify the seminal phases of emergency management;
- Understand the societal and policy context of hazards;
- Evaluate continuity of operations;
- Simulate a collaborative pre-disaster emergency operations plan; and
- Predict relevant trends of emergency management to maximize proactivity of the field.

PEDAGOGY

By integrating facilitated discussions, executive training programs, individual assignments, group activities, and other activities, students will be provided a robust educational experience grounded in literature-based and practitioner-supported research.

DISCLAIMERS

This is a tentative, contractual syllabus. The professor reserves the right to make any revisions that may be necessary to meet the objectives of this course. While informative and well-structured, improvements can always be made. Ongoing feedback on the usability of the outline, intelligibility of discussions and assignments, and other relevant materials is always welcome. Students will be promptly notified of any revisions via MyMason-Blackboard and/or Mason Email.

Students are expected to use official channels for all electronic course communication via MyMason-Blackboard and/or Mason Email.
In the event of a scheduled online discussion session cancellation, students will be notified via MyMason-Blackboard and/or Mason Email. Otherwise, every effort has been made to not hold class or require assignments due on major federal holidays or national events of significance. For more information, see [http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/](http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/).

**INSTRUCTIONS**

This is an online course and will be administered through MyMason-Blackboard interface. To access the course, log into MyMason at [https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/](https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/) and enter your Mason Net ID and Password. Then click on the “courses” tab and select the appropriate course under the “course list” section. From there, search through the far left tabs to review the materials (i.e. home page, syllabus, correlation matrix, etc.). Please note that some time restrictions have been placed upon certain course modules and/or assignments, meaning it will impact its availability to ensure that students do not jump around or get too far ahead. For more information, see [https://coursesupport.gmu.edu/Students/](https://coursesupport.gmu.edu/Students/).

**EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES**

Participation – Students must participate in scheduled online discussion sessions by being attentive, bringing information forward for dialogue, making comments about course-related materials, asking relevant questions, which also include completing three short developmental and team building activities.

Netiquette – Students are expected to maintain an environment that is conducive to learning by arriving to the virtual environment on time, demonstrating collegial respect to others, avoiding any disruptive behaviors, and using technology in an appropriate manner. For more information, see [http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=17&navoid=1316#Conduct](http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=17&navoid=1316#Conduct).

Privacy – Students’ educational records are federally protected and will not be released to anyone other than to the student unless proper legal documentation is obtained. For more information, see [https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/](https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/).

Writing – Students who need assistance in developing papers or manuscripts should contact Mason Writing Center. For more information, see [http://writingcenter.gmu.edu](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu).

Troubleshooting – Students who experience online system difficulties should contact Mason IT Services. For more information, see [https://itservices.gmu.edu/](https://itservices.gmu.edu/).

Disabilities – Students who need service accommodations should inform the professor in writing prior to the beginning of the course and register their disability with the university. For more information, see [http://ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu).

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

**Books to Purchase**


*Materials are available through the university bookstore, available at: [http://gmubncollege.com](http://gmubncollege.com).*

**Articles to Download**


Materials are also available through the university library, available at: http://library.gmu.edu/.

EXTENSION RESOURCES

Journals

Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal
http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?issn=0965-3562

Disaster Recovery Journal
https://www.drj.com/

Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management

International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters
http://www.ijmed.org/

Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management

Journal of Emergency Management
http://ejournal.emergencymanagementjournal.com/

http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jhsem

Agencies and Organizations

Federal Emergency Management Agency
http://www.fema.gov/

International Association for Emergency Managers
http://www.iaem.com/home.cfm/

Natural Hazards Center
http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/

Disaster Research Center
http://www.udel.edu/DRC/

Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership
http://www.emforum.org/
**ASSIGNMENTS**

Training Certifications – Students will complete 3 emergency management training certifications among a defined set that are aimed to increase knowledge and understanding of general emergency management themes as information management, improvement planning, and incident command, among many others. These certifications are all available online and are 100% free.

Event Brief – Students will broken up into groups to develop a media-style brief that examines an actual disaster/emergency event and its relationship to any course content. The brief should be exactly 2 pages, single spaced, excluding the title/author page and any cited references.

Chapter Presentation – Students will develop a presentation that thoroughly examines the content of an assigned chapter disaster and its respective emergency management processes on any course content. Some chapters will have more than one author. If more than one person is developing a presentation on a chapter, students should exchange contact information so that they may coordinate their respective parts accordingly. The presentation should at minimum be 15 slides, excluding the title/author page and any cited references and is to be turned in the day that the particular chapter is to be reviewed.

Midterm Examination – Students will complete a 41-question midterm examination. Question types consist of 10 multiple-choice, 5 true and false, 15 matching, 10 short answer, and 1 brief essay question. Students will have exactly 2 days to turn it in.

Operations Plan Simulation – Students will simulate a mock emergency operation center representing the various agencies and roles necessary to develop a continuity plan in order to effectively prepare for a hypothetical disaster. This will occur in person on a scheduled date over the course of a few hours.

Annotated Bibliography – Students will develop an annotated bibliography that examines literature to date on emergency management theory. Students should be sure to summarize the source in their own words by identifying the piece’s main argument or key point as well as noting any strengths and/or weaknesses. The annotated bibliography should have at least 10 authoritative sources (i.e., peer-reviewed journals, government reports, academic books, etc.) should be referenced that are 1/2 of a page, single spaced, excluding the title/author page.

*Detailed information and associated grading rubrics is available for review via MyMason-Blackboard.*

**SCORING**

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There is a total of 100 possible points with the following grade scales:

- A+ Above 96 points
- A  94-96 points
- A- 90-93 points
- B+ 87-89 points
- B  84-86 points
- B- 80-83 points
The grades of an A/A- indicate sustained excellence and outstanding performance on all aspects of the course. The grades of a B/B+ denote mastery of the material and very good performance on all aspects of the course. The grade of a B- is given for marginal quality work that is not quite up to graduate-level standards as related to the course. The grade of a C denotes work that may be adequate for undergraduate performance, but is not acceptable at the graduate level as related to the course. The grade of an F denotes the failure to perform adequately on course assignments.

Due dates are listed below in the schedule. Mitigating circumstances will only be considered on a case-by-case basis if, and only if, the professor is provided advance notice via MyMason-Blackboard and/or Mason Email.

**HONOR CODE**

For consideration of grading, each assignment submitted to the professor must include a signed and dated university honor code page which reads: “Student members of George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” Any honor code and/or other ethical infractions made by students will be handled in accordance with university policies. This signature form is available for download in MyMason-Blackboard. For more information, see http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/9798/honorcod.html#code.

**SCHEDULE**

Module 1 (Aug 29)  
**Activities**  
Participate in introductions chat  
Review syllabus  
Review assignments  
Review all other course related materials  

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 1

Module 2 (Sept 5)  
**Activities**  
Participate in discussion board  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 2  
Birkland Article

Module 3 (Sept 12)  
**Activities**  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 3  
McEntire Article
Module 4 (Sept 19)  
**Activities**  
Turn in training certifications assignment***  
Turn in chapter presentation***  

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 4

Module 5 (Sept 26)  
**Activities**  
Watch documentary  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 5

Module 6 (Oct 3)  
**Activities**  
Turn in event brief assignment***  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 6

Module 7 (Oct 10)  
No Class – Fall Break

Module 8 (Oct 17)  
**Activities**  
Participate in discussion board  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 7

Module 9 (Oct 24)  
**Activities**  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 8  
Weichselgartner Article

Module 10 (Oct 31)  
**Activities**  
Participate in discussion board  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 9-10

Module 11 (Nov 7)  
**Activities**  
Turn in midterm examination assignment***  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 11-12
Module 12 (Nov 14)  
**Activities**  
Turn in chapter presentation***

**Readings**  
Perry and Lindell Chapter 13-14  
Perry and Lindell Article

Module 13 (Nov 21)  
No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Module 14 (Nov 28)  
**Activities**  
Participate in discussion board  
Review operations plan simulation assignment

Module Meeting (Dec 2)  
In Person Meeting (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm → tentative)

**Activities**  
Hold operations plan simulation***

Module 15 (Dec 5)  
**Activities**  
Review annotated bibliography assignment

Module 16 (Dec 12)  
**Activities**  
Complete online course evaluation  
Turn in annotated bibliography assignment***