

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT**

**Disaster Response Operations and Recovery
PUAD 631-001 – Summer 2020**

PROFESSOR

Professor: William N. Flagler Jr, MA, MPA, CEM

E-mail: wflagler@gmu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact: Email is the primary method of contact; instructor will return all email within 24-48 hours

Format: Hybrid Course-Online in MyMason-Blackboard(material is due Tuesday at 11:59pm)

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to: 1) examine the nature of disasters, 2) explore the principles and practices of emergency management; 3) investigate the roles and responsibilities of varying emergency management-related organizations, and 4) promote models for effective disaster response operations and recovery plans.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students in this course will develop a thorough understanding of disaster response and recovery 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;
- Describe characteristics of disaster response and recovery;
- Summarize lessons learned/best practices of prior disaster response and recovery plans;
- Compare intergovernmental disaster coordination and decision-making tools;
- Simulate a collaborative post-disaster emergency operations center; 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/>.

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/> 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/>.

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>.

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/>.

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

Troubleshooting – Students who experience online system difficulties should contact Mason IT Services. For more information, see <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>.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Books to Purchase

McEntire, D. A., 2015, *Disaster Response and Recovery: Strategies and Tactics for Resilience*, 2nd edition. John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Storr, V. H., Haeffele-Balch, S., and L. E. Grube. *Community Revival in the Wake of Disaster: Lessons in Local Entrepreneurship*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Materials are available through the university bookstore, available at: <http://gmu.bncollege.com>.

Articles to Download

Boin, A., and A. McConnell, 2007, "Preparing for critical infrastructure breakdowns: the limits of crisis management and the need for resilience," *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 15(1): 50-59.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.mutex.gmu.edu/enhanced/doi/10.1111/j.1468-5973.2007.00504.x/>

Hills, A., 1998, "Seduced by recovery: The consequences of misunderstanding disaster," *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 6(3): 162-170.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.mutex.gmu.edu/doi/10.1111/1468-5973.00085/pdf>

Paton, D., and D. Jackson, 2002, "Developing disaster management capability: an assessment centre approach," *Disaster Prevention and Management*, 11(2): 115-122

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com.mutex.gmu.edu/journals.htm?issn=0965-3562&volume=11&issue=2&articleid=871002&show=html>

Paton, D., and D. Johnston, 2001, "Disaster and communities: vulnerability, resilience and preparedness," *Disaster Prevention and Management*, 10(4): 270-277.

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com.mutex.gmu.edu/journals.htm?issn=0965-3562&volume=10&issue=4&articleid=870990&show=html>

Petak, W., 1985, "Emergency management: A challenge for public administration," *Public Administration Review*, SI: 3-7.

<http://eds.b.ebscohost.com.mutex.gmu.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=311e68e2-6937-4dd2-95a7-d741455062fe%40sessionmgr110&vid=1&hid=105>

Trim, P., 2004, "An integrated approach to disaster management and planning," *Disaster Prevention and Management*, 13(3): 218-225.

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com.mutex.gmu.edu/journals.htm?issn=0965-3562&volume=13&issue=3&articleid=871051&show=html>

Wallace, W., and F. DeBalough, 1985, "Decision support systems for disaster management," *Public Administration Review*, SI: 134-146

<http://eds.b.ebscohost.com.mutex.gmu.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=602ece71-b93b-4033-bbd3-71af556317bc%40sessionmgr112&vid=1&hid=105>

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

<http://www.goinginternational.eu/en/online-datenbank-ergebnis-detail/journal/51/>

International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters

<http://www.ijmed.org/>

Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1468-5973](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-5973)

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

Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
<http://www.degruyter.com/view/i/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

Survival Exercise – Students must individually rank items and as well as rank items as part of an assigned group to demonstrate their survival knowledge in a fictional exercise.

Group Definition – Students must provide five meaningful terms and define them with consideration for to effectively characterize a disaster and its origins that give consideration to its physical, geographic, cultural, social, political, economic, and governmental elements in order to generate a course-wide working word cloud.

Documentary Synopsis – Students must watch an assigned documentary, and, once completed, write a one page, single-spaced contextual review on its connection to course material, specifically its relevance to disaster response and recovery principles. The documentary is publicly available.

Training Certifications – Students will complete a minimum of three 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.

Case Study Presentation – Students will be broken up into small groups to develop a 7-10 minute slide presentation that examines the historical context of an assigned disaster and its respective emergency management processes on the course materials covered to date.

Midterm Examination – Students will have 2 days to 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.

Crisis Simulation – Students will participate in a mock emergency operation center representing the various agencies and roles necessary to successfully respond to and recover from a hypothetical disaster.

Research Paper – Students will write a 10 page, double spaced manuscript, excluding references, on a topic related to response and recovery principles. Once an area of interest is selected, students will submit their idea to the professor for approval. The overall spirit of the paper should examine lessons learned and best practices from disaster operations.

Detailed information and associated grading rubrics regarding each assignment is available for review via MyMason-Blackboard. All assignment should be submitted via Mason email.

SCORING

Survival Exercise	4 points
Group Definition	5 points
Documentary Synopsis	6 points
Case Study Presentation	15 points
Midterm Examination	20 points
Training Certifications	10 points
Crisis Simulation	20 points
Research Paper	20 points

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

A+	At or above 96 points	B-	80-83.9 points
A	94-95.9 points	C+	77-79.9 points
A-	90-93.9 points	C	74-76.9 points
B+	87-89.9 points	C-	70-73.9 points
B	84-86.9 points	F	At or below 69.9 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 in the course schedule. Mitigating circumstances will only be considered on a case-by-case basis if, and only if, the professor is provided advance notice via Blackboard and Mason email.

HONOR CODE

For consideration of grading, an honor code form must be submitted to the professor prior to the first assignment. The form must be signed and dated, 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

TBD

DRAFT