

Emergency Management & Homeland Security Course Outline

Course title: Introduction to Disasters, Hazards, and Risk
Course Number: 2235: 105
Course Credit: 3 credit hours
Pre-Requisite: None

Course Description:

Provides a research based and practitioner overview of how people perceive and react to extreme events before, during, and after disasters.

Program Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will gain a better understanding of:

1. the life cycle of disasters (i.e., preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation)
2. The Hazard tradition
3. The Disaster tradition
4. The Risk tradition
5. the Crisis tradition
6. Application of the above concepts and ideas

Course Rationale:

Through readings, lectures, discussion, video, guest speakers (both professionals and researchers) and other means, the students will obtain a general idea of how people perceive events and behave before, during and after disasters. This survey course will allow students of any background to obtain a better understanding of disasters and emergency management.

Program Assessment:

The University of Akron and specifically the Emergency Management program assesses student learning at several levels: general education, program, and classroom. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Students have an active role in course and program assessment projects designed to strengthen and constantly improve student learning and educational outcomes.

An example of your work, a paper, some test questions, a presentation, or other work may be selected for assessment. The data is run across classes and over years to generate information on how to make our program better.

Accessibility Statement:

If you feel you may need an accommodation or special service for this class, please see the office of accessibility for assistance.

Course Outline:

Topic I: Overview

- History of disasters
- Types of disasters
- Impact of disasters on people

Topic II: The Disaster Tradition

- Preparing for and responding to disasters

Topic III: The Hazards Tradition

- Recovering from and mitigating disasters

Topic IV: The Risk Tradition

- Perceptions of hazards and disasters
- Human responses to hazard and disaster perceptions

Topic V: The Crisis Tradition

- Disruptive events beyond the normal “disaster”
- International events

Bibliography:

Phillips, Brenda D., David M. Neal, and Gary R. Webb. 2013. Introduction to Emergency Management. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

Mileti, Dennis. 1999. Disaster by Design: A Reassessment of Natural Hazards in the United States. Washington, D.C.: Joseph Henry Press.