

Public Health Aspects of Disaster Management
CMH 764
4.0 Credit Hours

I. Course Description

This course is designed to meet the need for a recognized curriculum in the Public Health aspects of disaster care and organized emergency medical services systems. The course provides an understanding of the phenomena of disasters and management of disaster impacts, as well as an understanding of the emergency medical services system, currently in place in North America, which serves as a model for the developing systems worldwide. In addition, examination and analysis of relevant models for disaster management in developing countries will be done through case studies and individual or group projects that provide insights on the problems and strategies for disaster management.

Analytical and assessment skills will be emphasized. The course will focus on expanding the link between the existing and developing science of disasters and public health.

II. Course Objectives and Instructional Methods

The student will have an understanding of the issues related to the public health impacts of disasters. These issues include both social and cultural perceptions and attitudes as well as actual defined impacts on physical, economic, and health care systems acutely and over the long-term.

The student will develop an awareness and understanding of disasters and their implications on assessment, management, evaluations and prevention issues nationally and internationally.

The student will have an understanding of the knowledge and skills utilized in assessment, planning and research in the management and prevention of disasters and their impacts.

This course instructor will present didactic material, which covers key points related to the class subject matter. This material will be reinforced on a practical level in several ways:

Pre-Course Reading: The students will be asked to read identified material prior to arriving for the course. This will facilitate course learning as it will create a foundation upon which the course will build.

Group Process: The class will be responsible for developing a model disaster management plan for a hypothetical public health agency. Each student will be assigned a task toward completion of this course goal at the beginning of the course. The class will develop all aspects of the disaster plan including plan formatting, plan advisory structure, plan document outlines, and

program maintenance and training. The project parts will parallel the course teaching points. The class will be responsible for making a presentation on the last day of class. Some time will be allotted each day for plan organization and discussion.

III. Prerequisites

Enrollment in this course requires: formal admissions to the MPH program and completion of Introduction to Public Health and Health Policy and Introduction to Epidemiology.

IV. Required Texts

1. Public Health Management of Disasters. Landesman, Linda.
2. Introduction to Emergency Management. Haddow, George and Jane Bullock.
3. Disaster Medicine. Hogan, David.
4. <http://hsc.house.gov/files/TestimonyGebhart.pdf>

V. Course Schedule and Topics

Week 1	Overview of Disaster Issues Public health anatomy of a disaster
Week 2	Natural Disasters Principles of Incident Management I
Week 3	Application of epidemiologic principles to the disaster site
Week 4	Determination of assessment, survey, and surveillance techniques in disaster management.
Week 5	Disaster planning and preparedness for hospitals and communities.
Week 6	Organization of emergency medical systems in disaster part I.
Week 7	Complex humanitarian emergencies Principles of Incident Management II
Week 8	Organization of emergency medical systems in disaster part II.
Week 9	Mental health aspects of disaster.
Week 10	Famine and refugees: Anatomy of disaster relief Public health agency disaster plan presentation

VI. Grading System

Students are expected to attend each class meeting session. If a student has a schedule conflict she/he should communicate this to the instructor prior to that class session. Class participation is a key component of this learning experience.

The Wright State University Grading Scale will be used to assign final course grades. Grades of incomplete are granted only if three conditions are met: 1) sixty percent of the work is already finished; 2) the request is made one week before the last class; and 3) the reason for the request is circumstances beyond the control of the student. Final grade assignments will be broken down as follows:

Final Paper	40%
Mid - Term Paper	20%
Disaster Plan Participation	20%
Class Participation	20%

Grading Scale:A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	0-59

Note: Late work will only be considered if a written request is made to the instructor one week prior to the due date of the assignment. Late assignments are generally NOT accepted.

VII. Academic Integrity

All student work is to be completed individually, unless stated otherwise in writing. Absolutely no academic misconduct will be tolerated in this course. Regardless of the type of assignment, students found responsible for violating the WSU Academic Integrity Policy will receive an "F" for the course. All violations will be forwarded to the Office of Judicial Affairs where a university disciplinary file will be created.

Information regarding academic misconduct can be found in the Code of Student Conduct located at <http://www.wright.edu/students/judicial/stuintegrity.html>. Please contact the instructor during office hours should you have any questions or concerns.