

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services
Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Course Title: Disaster Vulnerability

Course Number: EMHS:420

Course Credits: 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: 2235:305

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Analysis of citizen actions regarding major disasters including perspectives of individuals and emergency managers using case studies, theories, and social problems.

Program Outcomes:

Students will gain a better understanding of:

- 1) the principles associated with disasters and disasters as social problems
- 2) various theories of collective behavior
- 3) utilization of case studies with collective behavior and disasters
- 4) emergency management fundamentals (preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation) in regard to disasters and behavior concepts for responders and emergency managers in regard to disasters

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT:

The University of Akron and specifically the Emergency Management and Homeland Security program assesses student learning at several levels. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Grades and work samples may be selected to gather learning outcome data to be measured and tracked over several years. Student names or indicators are not used in data analysis. Students have an active role in course and program assessment projects. Generated data will direct any changes made in the curriculum which is designed to strengthen and constantly improve student learning and educational outcomes.

Demonstrate knowledge of social problems associated with disasters through assignments and final project.

Demonstrate knowledge of collective behavior theories through assignments and final project.
Use case studies in assignments and final project.
Utilization of emergency management fundamentals in assignments and final project.

Course Outline:

- Topic I: Disaster Principles
 - What is a Disaster?
 - Disasters as Social Problems
- Topic II: Sociological Theories
 - Introduction to Collective Behavior
 - Social Contagion Theory
 - Emergent Norm Perspective
 - Value-Added Theory
 - Assembly Perspective and Sociocybernetic Theory
 - Convergence Theory
 - Learning Theory
 - Social Identity Theory
 - Collective Behavior Categories
- Topic III: Disasters and Individuals
 - Disaster Mythology
 - Crime and Disasters
 - Disaster Finance
- Topic IV: Emergency Management Issues
 - Media and Disasters
 - Injuries and Fatalities
- Topic V: Sustainability

Grading Scale:

A	≥ 94%	493.50-525.00 points
A-	90-93%	472.50-493.49 points
B+	88-89%	462.00-472.49 points
B	83-87%	435.75-461.99 points
B-	80-82%	420.00-435.74 points
C+	78-79%	409.50-419.99 points
C	73-77%	383.25-409.49 points
C-	70-72%	367.50-383.24 points
D+	68-69%	357.00-367.49 points
D	63-67%	330.75-356.99 points
D-	60-62%	315.00-330.74 points
F	≤ 59.9%	≤ 314.99 points

Course Rationale:

This class will introduce the basic components of collective behavior along with societal actions before, during, and after a disaster. In addition, the course will discuss various cultural aspects of disasters. It is important that emergency managers know the fundamentals of disasters in regard to preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in regard to the victims and emergency management professionals.

Special Accommodations:

In pursuant to University policy #3359-38-01, The University of Akron recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional atmosphere in which students with disabilities have the opportunity to be successful. Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Accessibility at 330-972-7928 (v), 330-972-5764 (tdd) or access@uakron.edu. The office is located in Simmons Hall Room 105.