

**EOH 582****Disaster Management and Risk Assessment**

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**Course Description:**

Students will, through completion of a set of FEMA disaster Management courses, directed readings, guided discussions, assignments and exercises, gain the ability to understand the current disaster management doctrine and its inherent limitations. Students successfully completing the course will also be able to participate in the risk assessment process to enhance the health, safety and environmental security of their community, its critical infrastructures and commercial and residential buildings.

Using the rubric of risk analysis the course engages its participants to consider the risk that state sponsored, postmodern jihadist or domestic terrorists may obtain and use biologicals, chemical or radio-nuclear weapons against vulnerable civilian populations.

Course participants will also gain an understanding of the process of developing actionable intelligence that can be used by the public health, medical and public safety communities to reduce risk and enhance the biosecurity planning, prevention, response, mitigation and recovery process.

**Course Goals:**

At the conclusion of the course its participants will be conversant with current disaster management doctrine and its inherent limitations to the extent that they be able to make meaningful contributions in the management of a disaster. Participants will also have gained an

understanding of the process of risk assessment/ reduction and will be able to reflect concerns of the biosecurity field to others engaged in risk assessment/ reduction activities.

**Course Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course a student will have demonstrated, through discussions, quizzes and exercises, the acquisition of the knowledge, skills and abilities to;

- Actively participate with and positively contribute to a disaster management team.
- Actively participate in the emergency planning process.
- Actively engage in leadership activities.
- Emulate the attributes of an effective decision maker.
- Effectively communicate in an emergency.
  - Define the key tasks involved in working with individual volunteers.
- Actively participate in a formal critical infrastructure biohazard risk assessment activity,
- Actively participate in the process of developing a biohazard risk mitigation plan,
- Actively participate in the development and presentation of realistic, risk based lectures, training programs and exercises to protect vulnerable civilian populations from a terrorist's use of non-conventional weapons.
- Develop a risk prevention/ mitigation program to minimize the health and safety risks to an NGO disaster assistance team on call for world wide deployment,
- Function as a public health intelligence analyst at a local, regional or state intelligence fusion center.

**Course Format:**

The course makes extensive use of the FEMA IS 200 series self instructional courses, assigned and directed readings both from texts, E-Reserve and selected internet sites. The course requires active timely monitoring of assigned internet sites, participation in guided asynchronous discussions, and completion of assigned exercises and quizzes.

**Evaluation of Performance:**

Actionable Intelligence Assignment.....60 points

Weekly briefs.....10 points/week You can opt out of any one AIB assignment and still receive the maximum 60 points. If you don't opt out then the seventh AIB you will gain up to 10 bonus points.

IS 200 Assignments (6).....180 points

You must successfully complete all six assigned IS courses. If you choose to complete the seventh (not assigned) IS course and receive the FEMA certificate you will be awarded 60 bonus points

Online guided discussion .....90 points  
Each discussion question..10 points

Other assignments..... 150 points

Disaster Management Talk.....30  
Hazard/ Risk assessment.....30  
Vulnerability assignment.....30  
Botulinum assignment.....30  
Must Read assignment..... .30

Maximum Points.....480 points

According to the Saint Louis University Graduate School, the only final grades allowed are:

- A (432-480 points)
- B+ (407-431 points)
- B (383- 406 points)
- B- (359 -382 points)
- C (310-358 points)
- F (< 357 points)

**Course Policies:**

- All class-associated email communication should take place through the course Web CT email. The instructor will not accept any assignments turned in via the SLU address or his personal web address.

- With the exception of the Actionable Intelligence assignment that is due on each Friday, the week for class readings, assignments, and seminar discussion is defined as Monday through Sunday at midnight.
- Conversations on the discussion board should begin early in the session to allow for maximum interaction.
- On the weeks for which there is a discussion question students are expected to respond at least twice unless you notify the instructor in advance of a schedule conflict. This will enhance the conversations within the class.
- The standard for the course professor will be to login to the course at least 3 days of the week and one day during the weekend. The professor will notify the students at least one week in advance if he will not be able to get on line access due to travel issues for a specified period of time. I know that I'll have some delays during the first two weeks of June due to a very heavy travel schedule but I expect to be able to keep up
- Responses to all individual comments are not possible although answers to specific questions will be given.
- Students should notify the course professor early if they are unable to participate in a scheduled seminar or assignment during a specific week.
- Students must notify the instructor in advance if some life event or obligation precludes them from submitting an assignment on time. Project due dates are very flexible for DOD, DHS, FBI, DHHS. USPHS and D-MAT personnel that are deployed or subject to rapid deployment; please discuss this with the instructor.
- It is at the instructor's discretion to allow students to make-up missed assignments.
- All University, Graduate School, and School of Public Health policies and procedures are in effect, including, but not limited to, academic standards, course withdrawals, and course incompletes. Please refer to

the:

- [Catalog of the Graduate School](#)
- [Office of the Bursar](#) (Student Accounts)
- [Office of the University Registrar](#) (Student Services)
- Institute for Biosecurity Policy Statement on Academic and Professional Integrity. Details on the Biosecurity Policy Statement on Academic and Professional Integrity are provided in the Academic Integrity link to the left of your Web CT course page and in the MS in Biosecurity Student Handbook.

More information, policies, and guidelines relevant to your education are available on the School of Public Health web site at: [SLU School of Public Health](#). It is your responsibility to become familiar with all information available through this and the Web sites above.

#### **Required Texts:**

- **Crisis Leadership: Planning for the Unthinkable** Mitroff, Ian, Wiley & Sons  
ISBN # 0-471-22918-0
- **The Politics of Crisis Management Public Leadership Under Pressure**, A Boin, P t'Hart, E Stern, and B Sundelius; Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2005.  
ISBN # 978-0-521-60733-9 (Paperback)
- **Chaos Organization and Disaster Management**  
Kirschenbaum, Alan Marcel Dekker, Inc. NY, NY 2004  
ISBN# 0-8247-4715-1
- **Americans at Risk: Why We Are Not Prepared For Megadisasters and What We Can Do Now** Redlener, Irwin  
Knopf 2006  
ISBN# 0-307-26526-9
- **Critical Path, A Brief History of Critical Infrastructure Protection in the United States**, Brown K., Spectrum Publishing 2006 ( No ISBN #)
- **The Edge of Disaster**, Flynn, S. Random House 2007  
ISBN # 978-4000-6551-6

**Course Outline:**

- Week 1 Emergency Management
- Week 2 Planning to manage emergencies
- Week 3 Leadership
- Week 4 Decision making in disasters
- Week 5 Communication in emergencies
- Week 6 Managing Volunteers in disasters
- Week 7 Risk assessment
- Week 8 Hazard risk assessment
- Week 9 Structural risk assessment
- Week 10 Bioterrorism Risk Assessment
- Week 11 Chemical Terrorism Risk Assessment
- Week 12 Risk Assessment of Nuclear Threats

**Assignments;**

The assignments and their due dates are detailed in the accompanying Assignment Document. You are encouraged to print out the assignment due dates and keep them handy as a reminder of the deadlines.

Be sure to follow the class discussion posting guidelines also detailed in the Assignments document. All course related material is to be communicated only via the Web CT system. The discussions and assignments are not intended for release to anyone other than Institute students and faculty.