



Course Description

This course provides an overview of special operations in emergency management (EM). The emergency management field is ever evolving and requires integration of operations not traditionally considered core EM functions. These functions include integration with the intelligence community, joint information centers, pre-planned special events, critical infrastructure protection, and inter- and intra-state mutual aid. This course explores these and other critical special operations that EM communities undertake. Upon successful completion of the course the student will have an understanding of how EM integrates with these functions.

Course Textbook

Bissell, R. (Ed.). (2013). *Preparedness and response for catastrophic disasters*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Analyze how outside factors such as political and legal issues impact emergency management operations.
2. Examine the challenges associated with special operations, including issues related to mass care, evacuation, and public health preparedness.
3. Identify the difference between disasters and catastrophes.
4. Analyze the challenges associated with planning for and responding to large-scale incidents.
5. Examine the ways that homeland security issues such as prevention and protection as well as critical infrastructure protection must be incorporated into emergency management operations.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Outcomes:** Each unit contains Learning Outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Lessons:** Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses unit material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook and other resources. Suggested Readings are listed in the unit study guides to aid students in their course of study. The readings themselves may or may not be provided in the course, but students are encouraged to read the resources listed if the opportunity arises as they have valuable information that expands upon the lesson material. Students will not be tested on their knowledge of the Suggested Readings.
4. **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** These non-graded Learning Activities are provided in Units I-VII to aid students in their course of study.
5. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains seven Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of Units I-VII. Assessments are composed of multiple-choice questions and written response questions.
6. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units I-VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with each assignment. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.

7. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.
8. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

CSU Online Library

The CSU Online Library is available to support your courses and programs. The online library includes databases, journals, e-books, and research guides. These resources are always accessible and can be reached through the library webpage. To access the library, log into the myCSU Student Portal, and click on "CSU Online Library." You can also access the CSU Online Library from the "My Library" button on the course menu for each course in Blackboard.

The CSU Online Library offers several reference services. E-mail (library@columbiasouthern.edu) and telephone (1.877.268.8046) assistance is available Monday – Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. The library's chat reference service, *Ask a Librarian*, is available 24/7; look for the chat box on the online library page.

Librarians can help you develop your research plan or assist you in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information. Reference requests can include customized keyword search strategies, links to articles, database help, and other services.

Unit Assignments

Unit I Essay

Compare and contrast the terms *emergency*, *disaster*, *catastrophe*, and *extinction-level event*. Which type of incident is the least severe, and which is the most severe? Be sure you define each term, discuss its magnitude, and outline its distinguishing features.

Formulate your response in essay form. Your essay should be one to two pages in length and in APA style. All sources must be cited, and you should incorporate appropriate course material and outside sources (if needed).

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit II Essay

As an emergency manager, you will be presented with numerous ethical dilemmas both during the course of daily functions and in response to a catastrophic disaster. For this assignment, first identify and fully describe an ethical dilemma that might arise in a disaster. Next, discuss potential resolutions to the dilemma and what you, as the emergency manager, can do. Finally, discuss potential legal issues associated with your ethical dilemma in a disaster.

The essay should be one to two pages in length and should follow APA style. All sources must be cited, and you should incorporate appropriate course material and outside sources as needed.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit III Article Review

As you have learned in this unit, disasters are inherently political. For this article review assignment, research and locate an article through the CSU Online library that addresses how politics have affected emergency management.

Possible Topics

- How local, state, or federal politicians have influenced a response to a disaster
- How federalism has affected a response to a disaster
- How political parties affect disaster policy

Research and locate an article in one of these areas and perform an article review. The purpose of an article review is to let other readers know what the work is about so that they may decide whether they want to read the work. Other readers probably have not read the article, so the review should not only describe the work but also evaluate it.

Include each of the following within your article review:

- an introduction to the article;
- the key points from the article;
- a summary of the article's conclusion; and
- an evaluation of the article, including
 - why the article is important,
 - whether or not others should read it,
 - whether or not the article was well-written (organized, easy to understand, etc.), and
 - What your perspective and opinion on the article is.

The completed article review has to be a minimum of two full pages in length. The article review should be written in paragraph format and utilize APA style.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit IV Article Review

As you have learned in this unit, disasters are affected by a number of economical aspects, both on a small scale (microeconomics) and a larger scale at the city, state, or even regional level (macroeconomics).

For this assignment, locate and review an article related to either microeconomic (small scale) or macroeconomic (large scale) issues in a disaster. The article should discuss economic issues related to disaster, challenges in the equity of disaster response, or issues related to mitigation projects. Research and locate an article through the CSU Online library. Provide a brief yet comprehensive review of the article highlighting the key findings of the article. Address whether or not the findings are similar to the readings in Unit IV.

The purpose of an article review is to let other readers know what the work is about so that they may decide whether they want to read the work. Other readers probably have not read the article, so the review should not only describe the work but also evaluate it.

Include each of the following within your article review:

- an introduction to the article;
- the key points from the article;
- a summary of the article's conclusion; and
- an evaluation of the article, including
 - why the article is important,
 - whether or not others should read it,
 - whether or not the article was well-written (organized, easy to understand, etc.), and
 - What your perspective and opinion on the article is.

The completed article review has to be a minimum of two full pages in length. The article review should be written in paragraph format and utilize APA style.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit V Essay

What is the role of the five mission areas in preparing for disasters in the United States according to the National Preparedness Goal? Be sure you describe each mission area in detail, and describe how the thirty-one capabilities can be used to standardize the tasks that emergency managers need to undertake during a disaster. If you were leading a planning effort how might you leverage the mission areas/capabilities to organize your plan?

Formulate a response to this question. The essay should be at least two pages in length, double spaced, and should follow APA guidelines (including in-text citations, cover page, and references page). All sources must be cited and you should incorporate appropriate course material and outside sources (if needed).

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VI Essay

You have been selected to implement a planning process addressing capabilities within the prevention mission area. How would you go about developing a plan that addresses the capabilities and tasks outlined in the National Prevention Framework? Who would be on your planning team? What agencies would serve what role?

Formulate a response to these questions. The essay should be one to two pages in length and should follow APA style. All sources must be cited, and you should incorporate appropriate course material and outside sources (if needed).

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VII PowerPoint Presentation

Assume that you are the emergency manager for your local office of emergency management and are charged with responding to a pandemic influenza affecting the jurisdiction. Create a PowerPoint presentation that outlines the role of your agency in supporting the public health response operations. The presentation should be at least 10 slides, not including the cover slide and references slide (if outside sources are used). Ensure that you address the following points:

- the nature of the threat,
- the interventions needed to control the incident,
- how emergency management will support public health (be specific), and
- any gaps that exist requiring assistance from state or federal agencies (note what the gap is and what agency can fill it).

In addition, each slide should have three to four sentences of notes outlining the purpose and emphasizing key points of the slide. Notes should be located in the *notes section* of the slide. Alternatively, a separate Word document which explains each slide is acceptable.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VIII PowerPoint Presentation

Select either the Haiti or Japan earthquake, and provide a presentation that highlights the challenges associated with catastrophic response to the incident. In a presentation that is at least 10 slides (not including the cover slide and references slide), touch on the following points:

- the overview of the incident,
- the challenges in response to the incident,
- the factors that exacerbated the effects of the incident,
- the ways in which international aid was used, and
- recommendations to avoid future catastrophic incidents such as the one you summarized.

In addition, each slide should have three to four sentences of notes outlining the purpose and emphasizing key points of the slide. Notes should be located in the *notes* section of the slide. Alternatively, a separate Word document which explains each slide is acceptable.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VIII Research Assignment

For the final research assignment, you will research and write a three- to five-page report that provides an overview of a recent disaster or catastrophic incident in the world and apply the information you learned in the unit lesson lectures and textbook that is applicable to that incident.

The lesson lectures applicable here are listed below.

- Ethical Issues in Emergency Management
- Political/Legal Issues in Emergency Management
- Economic Issues in Emergency Management
- Preparedness for Response Operations

- Prevent & Protection Operations
- Public Health Preparedness
- International Disaster Response

The research assignment should include at least five references, two of which must be from scholarly reviewed sources available through the CSU Online Library. The assignment should be in APA style. The specific topic and focus of your paper is up to you; however, it must reflect upon a recent incident (past 20 years) and one of the unit topics. Potential topic areas could include

- political issues during Hurricane Katrina,
- ethical concerns in the 2010 Haitian Earthquake,
- prevention and protection operations during the 2012 Boston bombing,
- public health issues following the 2012 Japan earthquake and tsunami, or
- legal considerations with isolation and quarantine during the 2014 West Africa Ebola outbreak.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

APA Guidelines

The application of the APA writing style shall be practical, functional, and appropriate to each academic level, with the primary purpose being the documentation (citation) of sources. CSU requires that students use APA style for certain papers and projects. Students should always carefully read and follow assignment directions and review the associated grading rubric when available. Students can find CSU's Citation Guide in the myCSU Student Portal by clicking on the "Citation Resources" link in the "Learning Resources" area. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides information on how to contact the CSU Success Center.

Grading Rubrics

This course utilizes analytic grading rubrics as tools for your professor in assigning grades for all learning activities. Each rubric serves as a guide that communicates the expectations of the learning activity and describes the criteria for each level of achievement. In addition, a rubric is a reference tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of that learning activity. It is imperative for you to familiarize yourself with these rubrics because these are the primary tools your professor uses for assessing learning activities.

Rubric categories include: (1) Assessment (Written Response) and (2) Assignment. However, it is possible that not all of the listed rubric types will be used in a single course (e.g., some courses may not have Assessments).

The Assessment (Written Response) rubric can be found embedded in a link within the directions for each Unit Assessment. However, these rubrics will only be used when written-response questions appear within the Assessment.

Each Assignment type (e.g., article critique, case study, research paper) will have its own rubric. The Assignment rubrics are built into Blackboard, allowing students to review them prior to beginning the Assignment and again once the Assignment has been scored. This rubric can be accessed via the Assignment link located within the unit where it is to be submitted. Students may also access the rubric through the course menu by selecting "Tools" and then "My Grades."

Again, it is vitally important for you to become familiar with these rubrics because their application to your Assessments and Assignments is the method by which your instructor assigns all grades.

Communication Forums

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive e-mail updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.

[Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.](#)

Ask the Professor

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

Student Break Room

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

Grading

Assessments (7 @ 5%)	= 35%
Essays (4 @ 5%)	= 20%
Article Reviews (2 @ 5%)	= 10%
PowerPoint Presentations (2 @ 5%)	= 10%
Unit VIII Research Assignment	= 25%
Total	= 100%

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.

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Unit I	Emergency, Disaster, and Catastrophe
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Activities (Non-Graded) : See Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 1: What Is a Catastrophe, and Why Is This Important? <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 2: Understanding Catastrophes: A Discussion of Causation, Impacts, Policy Approaches, and Organizational Structures <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Essay
Notes/Goals:	

Unit II	Ethical Issues in Emergency Management
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Activities (Non-Graded) : See Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 3: Ethics in Catastrophe Readiness and Response <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Essay
Notes/Goals:	

Unit III	Political/Legal Issues in Emergency Management
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Activities (Non-Graded) : See Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 4: Political and Legal Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Article Review
Notes/Goals:	

Unit IV	Economic Issues in Emergency Management
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Activities (Non-Graded) : See Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 5: Economics of Catastrophes and Disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Article Review
Notes/Goals:	

Unit V	Preparedness for Response Operations
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Activities (Non-Graded) : See Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 11: Methods of Planning and Response Coordination <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 14: Training and Exercises for Catastrophes <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Reading Assignment(s): See Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Essay
Notes/Goals:	

Unit VI	Prevention & Protection Operations
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Activities (Non-Graded) : See Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 6: Logistics and the Management of Critical Supplies Following Catastrophes <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 7: Overview of Critical Infrastructure in Catastrophes <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Essay
Notes/Goals:	

Unit VII	Public Health Preparedness
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Activities (Non-Graded) : See Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 8: Public Health Role in Catastrophes <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 13: Pandemic Scenario <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation
Notes/Goals:	

Unit VIII	International Disaster Response
Review:	<input type="checkbox"/> Unit Study Guide
Read:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 15: Catastrophes in Haiti and Japan <input type="checkbox"/> Suggested Reading: See Study Guide
Submit:	<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Research Assignment
Notes/Goals:	