Course Description

Explores the basic principles and terms of law in relation to fire protection and various legal actions against people or organizations charged with emergency services management duties. Contains court cases, statutes, and regulations that have an impact on emergency service organizations.

Course Textbook

In lieu of a textbook, this course will use the following articles from the CSU Online Library and existing government reports as Required Reading (shown here alphabetically, but will be listed under the required reading sections in the appropriate units):


**Course Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Discuss how the legal framework of the U.S. Government operates and interacts with state and local governments and its citizenry during times of disaster.
2. Compare and contrast how public health laws and state laws interact with emergency management personnel along with those of the private sector during states of emergency.
3. Analyze the roles of the Stafford Act, National Response Framework (NRF), and National Incident Management System (NIMS) during times of emergencies.
4. Evaluate the separation of powers in an emergency between the governors, legislature, courts, and local governments.
5. Evaluate the legalities for both natural and man-made disasters and emergencies.

**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:** Units I-VII contain Reading Assignments from the CSU Online Library or the Internet. Suggested Readings are listed in the Unit I-IV, VI, and VIII 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 III and V-VIII to aid students in their course of study.
5. **Discussion Boards:** Discussion Boards are a part of all CSU term courses. More information and specifications can be found in the Student Resources link listed in the Course Menu bar.
6. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in each unit. 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 Article Review

Read the article located in the CSU Online Library in the International Security and Counter Terrorism Reference Center database:


In the article, there are significant considerations for emergency managers related to carrying out their duties. Evaluate the highlighted proposals within the article and discuss how those could be implemented or considered by a local emergency manager.

Please outline your paper using the following:

1. an introduction to establish the flaws and issues being considered in the article;
2. a body for your discussion of potential areas where and how constraints and opportunities, as examined in the article, could be utilized to support preparedness for response and recovery efforts (The body should focus on two or three key points that come from the work.); and
3. a conclusion to your work (Write your analysis in formal third person at the graduate level.).

Write your analysis in formal third person at the graduate level. Please use APA format and ensure that your submission is at least two pages in length, not including the title and references pages. The paper should not include a table of contents, nor an abstract.

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

Unit II Article Critique

Read the article located in the CSU Online Library in the Academic Search Complete database:


Please outline your paper using the following:

- an introduction to the author’s thesis and reason for the paper (This summary should highlight any relevance and importance of the work.),
- an analysis of the work that identifies the following points, and
  - Examine the underpinnings of the United States Constitution and the fundamental liberties that it seeks to protect.
  - Distinguish the legal roles of response and recovery to natural and man-made disasters.
- your reaction to the author’s work (What experiences or research influenced your reaction?).
  - Identify significant primary laws that affect emergency management activities.

Your paper should be in APA style with a minimum of two pages (not including the title and references pages).

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

Unit III Article Critique

Read pages 147-160 and 185-186 of the following article located in the CSU Online Library in the International Security and Counter Terrorism Reference Center database:

Please outline your two-page paper using the following:

- an introduction to the author’s thesis and reason for the paper (This summary should highlight any relevance to legal issues in EM and importance of the work.)
- an analysis of the work that identifies the following, and
  - Identify strengths and weaknesses of specific domestic preparedness proposals.
  - Differentiate the powers of the sovereign governments in disaster preparedness.
- your reaction to the author’s work (What experiences or research influenced your reaction?).
  - Consider discussing significant emergency events from the early 1990s to today, and their influence on domestic policy change which may have impacted your reaction.

Provide a conclusion for the paper that ties all of the information highlighted together.

Your paper should be in APA style with a minimum of two pages (not including the title and references pages). The paper should not include a table of contents or abstract.

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

**Unit III Research Paper Topic**

The final research paper for this course should be related to administrative or case law in an emergency services function or recovery support function. This paper can be written from a general view, or more narrowly focused on a specific topic.

Please be sure that you review the requirements for this paper by reading the Unit VIII Research Paper instructions. This will ensure the topic you select will encompass all of the required elements.

Submit your proposed research topic for the instructors review. Your Research Paper Topic should be at least one page in length and include the following:

1. the general research topic;
2. the draft research questions;
3. the research approach in the CSU Online Library addressing at least ten key words that will be used in initial searches and at least two CSU Online Library databases that will be used for the research; and
4. identification of potential issues or challenges.

Here are some sample topics to consider:

- Disaster and emergency powers in the city of Tumwater, Washington
- The declaration of public health emergencies
- The Posse Comitatus Act and disasters in the United States
- The rights of states and reliance on federal disaster assistance
- Legislative needs in Montana related to disasters
- Legal protections for off-duty first responders in New Jersey
- Emergency legal preparedness
- Intergovernmental relations and contingent coordination
- Automated warning systems, social media, and a duty to warn

This paper will be submitted in APA format and style including a title page and references page, which are not part of the page count.

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

Case Brief Summary

Using your favorite web browser, locate and prepare a Case Brief Summary on one of the following cases:


Prepare your Case Brief Summary to include at least the following:

- the title and citation of the case,
- the facts of the case,
- the questions of law,
- the decision,
- the reasoning,
- opinions, and
- your analysis—including the implications during times of emergencies to the following: the Stafford Act, the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Your paper should be a minimum of two pages in length, not including the title and reference pages. Each of the components should be separated using APA level one headings.

Click here for a Case Brief template example. You may use the provided template or create your own.

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

Unit V Essay

Write an essay comparing and contrasting the duty to act and the Good Samaritan law. Your paper should be a minimum of one page in length and any outside sources used, including the required reading material, must be properly cited and referenced in APA format.

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

Unit V Annotated Bibliography

Create a list of a minimum of nine references for books, articles, and documents that relate to the topic that you submitted in Unit III for the Research Paper due in Unit VIII. Each reference must be followed by the annotation, a brief descriptive, and an evaluative paragraph.

The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Annotations are descriptive and critical; they expose the author's point of view, clarity, appropriateness of expression, and authority. Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

- First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.
- Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that:
  - evaluate the authority or background of the author,
  - comment on the intended audience,
  - compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, and
  - explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.
- Your annotations should be at least 100 words in length.

Reference each book, article, or document using APA format.

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

Compose two short essays on the following topics:

- Analyze legal authorities for evacuation and the separation of powers in an emergency between the governors, legislature, courts, and local governments. (You may want to consider who needs to call for the evacuation, who should request aid, when these actions should be taken, etc.)
- Describe protections for volunteers responding to emergencies and disasters.

Each essay should be a minimum of one page in length. Any outside sources used, including the required reading material, must be properly cited and referenced in APA format.

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

Unit VII Assignment

Letter to a State Legislative Representative:

Using the state where you live, locate the state public health law and examine what emergency powers are included within the law. Analyze the strengths and weakness of the authorities provided to state officials. For example, in Alabama you would visit the Alabama Department of Public Health and search for keyword emergency. From there, navigate to the Alabama Healthcare Disaster Planning Guide.

- From your analysis, craft a professional letter at least one page long to your state legislative representative recommending a beneficial change to the law. Or, if you believe no changes should be made, include detail on what portions of the law you believe are uniquely strong.
- If the state you live in does not have such a law or the law is not readily locatable on-line, craft a letter to your state legislative representative recommending the state consider such a law, and why.

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

Unit VIII Research Paper

The final research paper for this course should pertain to the specific topic you selected in Unit III and utilize the sources identified in your bibliography from Unit V.

Be sure to include the following points as they relate to your topic:

1. Discuss how the legal framework of the U.S. Government operates and interacts with state and local governments and its citizenry during times of disaster.
2. Compare and contrast how public health laws and state laws interact with emergency management personnel along with those of the private sector during states of emergency.
3. Analyze the roles of the Stafford Act, National Response Framework (NRF), and National Incident Management System (NIMS) during times of emergencies.
4. Evaluate the separation of powers in an emergency between the governors, legislature, courts, and local governments.
5. Evaluate the legalities in both natural and man-made disasters and emergencies.

Your research paper should have at least the following components:

- an introduction presenting your topic,
- an overview of the structure of the paper,
- an engaging and thought-provoking thesis statement,
- a literature review of the existing research,
- a minimum of nine sources that are peer-reviewed, or academic in nature,
- references and citations following APA formatting, and
- key points summarized with smooth transitions between section.

Your paper should be in APA style with a minimum of 10 pages (not including the title and references pages).
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 by clicking [here](#). 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) Discussion Board, (2) Assessment (Written Response), and (3) 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 Discussion Board rubric can be found within Unit I’s Discussion Board submission instructions.

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 Discussion Boards, 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.

[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

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards (8 @ 2%)</td>
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<td>Unit I Article Review</td>
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<td>Article Critiques (2 @ 5%)</td>
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<td>Assignments (2 @ 5%)</td>
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<td>Essays (2 @ 5%)</td>
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<td>Unit V Annotated Bibliography</td>
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<td>Unit VIII Research Paper</td>
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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.
By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

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<tr>
<th>Unit I</th>
<th>Public Emergency Laws &amp; Regulations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
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| Read: | **Reading Assignment**: See Study Guide  
**Suggested Reading**: See Study Guide |
| Discuss: | **Discussion Board Response**: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)  
**Discussion Board Comment**: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) |
| Submit: | **Article Review** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) |
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<th>Understanding Constraints &amp; Opportunities</th>
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<tr>
<th>Unit III</th>
<th>Bioterrorism and U.S. Domestic Preparedness</th>
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| Review: | Unit Study Guide  
**Learning Activities (Non-Graded)**: See Study Guide |
| Read: | **Reading Assignment**: See Study Guide  
**Suggested Reading**: See Study Guide |
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| Submit: | **Article Critique** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)  
**Research Paper Topic** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) |
| Notes/Goals: | |
## Course Schedule

### Unit IV
**Federal Emergency Management**

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### Unit V
**Duty to Act and Good Samaritan Laws**

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Notes/Goals:

### Unit VI
**Disaster Response, Volunteer Resources, and Evacuation**

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<th>Public Health Laws and Emergencies</th>
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| Review: | □ Unit Study Guide  
□ Learning Activities (Non-Graded): See Study Guide |
| Read: | □ Reading Assignment: See Study Guide |
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| Review: | □ Unit Study Guide  
□ Learning Activities (Non-Graded): See Study Guide |
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