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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security & Global Studies
Emergency & Disaster Management
Course Number: EDMG 502
Course Name: Emergency and Disaster Theory
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: none

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Instructor Information   Evaluation Procedures
Course Description   Grading Scale
Course Scope   Course Outline
Course Objectives   Policies
Course Delivery Method   Academic Services
Course Resources   Selected Bibliography

Instructor Information

**Instructor:** See information provided in the Syllabus link in the classroom

**Email:** Please use the internal classroom messaging system

Course Description (Catalog)

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This course establishes the theoretical foundation that enables the study and understanding of what constitutes 'disaster' as a part of the human condition and experience. Students are given a basic understanding of scientific concepts such as fact, theory, and hypothesis. These are then illustrated by analysis and case studies provided by renowned thinkers and writers in the field of emergency and disaster management. Students leave the class with a quality theoretical foundation from which to conduct all of their future master’s-level work. Accomplishment of this course early in the student program is highly recommended.

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Course Scope

The scope of this course is to provide the learner with a deeper understanding of emergency management and the theories that make up its practice. The course covers topics such as vulnerability, command/control, coordination/cooperation, structures, emergency management higher education, and disaster research. The course is designed to provide the student with a master’s level knowledge of the academic literature. The motto of this course is “theoretically based practically applied.” The course places a strong emphasis on knowledge grounded within the research. Furthermore, this class will stress the importance of academic rigor at the graduate level; that is, there will be strong emphasis concerning proper writing standards, development of an academic voice, using the literature to provide credibility in one’s writing and turning the field's theory into practice.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- LO-1: Assess concepts typically associated with scientific research and literature
- LO-2: Analyze the scholarly works of scientific researcher with respect to emergency and disaster management
- LO-3: Evaluate the impacts of theory (abstract) on operations (reality)
- LO-4: Synthesize the lessons to be learned from a large body of research and writing

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### Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

### Course Resources

#### Required Course Textbooks


*Note: The text is available as an ebook from the Amazon.com Kindle store, if not from the publisher. It is not necessary to own a Kindle. A free Kindle app is available for both PCs and MACs. Ebooks in most cases are provided at reduced cost and ebook use is encouraged. In many cases, Kindle books may be rented from Amazon, further reducing cost.*

### Evaluation Procedures

**Reading/Writing Assignments**: Papers will be graded using the APUS graduate rubric, with attention paid to comprehension, depth of knowledge, and clear expression of ideas and arguments. Additionally, adherence to APA conventions will be required.
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**Forum Assignments:** To achieve full credit for a forum, one must: create an original post; respond to a minimum of two classmates; and respond to everyone who responded to you. Posts must be thoughtful and responses helpful in a way that enhances understanding of the topics and issues.

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University’s [grading scale](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>LO-1</td>
<td>As researched.</td>
<td>Forum Post #1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
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<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>What is a disaster? – Pt. 2</td>
<td>LO-2</td>
<td>Perry &amp; Quarantelli (eds.) Parts II and III--Chapters 10 - 20.</td>
<td>Discuss Forum Posts #2-3</td>
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<td>Assignment #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Social Problem Perspectives</td>
<td>LO-2</td>
<td>Drabek and Evans.</td>
<td>Assignment #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Natural Hazards, Unnatural Disasters, Pt. 1</td>
<td>LO-2</td>
<td>The World Bank, ‘Memo’ through chapter 4.</td>
<td>Forum Post #5-6</td>
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<td>Assignment #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Natural Hazards, Unnatural Disasters, Pt. 2</td>
<td>LO-2</td>
<td>The World Bank, chapter five through ‘Memo’.</td>
<td>Discuss Forum Posts #5-6</td>
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<td>Assignment #6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>National Resiliency, Pt. 1</td>
<td>LO-3; LO-4</td>
<td>The National Academies, chapters 1 - 4.</td>
<td>Forum Post #7-8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment #7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Resiliency, Pt. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Academies, chapters 5 – 8.</td>
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</tbody>
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Discuss Forum Posts #7-8
Assignment #8

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Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

Writing Expectations
Writing must be clear, well organized, and original. Proofreading is expected – spelling and grammatical errors destroy credibility quickly. Use of a fancy vocabulary does not tend to improve the conveyance of ideas. Keep writing simple and straightforward. Be thorough – don’t leave a concept half-explained. Be thorough and comprehensive – if you were explaining the concepts to unfamiliar audiences, think about what they would want to know and cover all of it.

Citation and Reference Style
Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine
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Submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

**Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), 😊

**Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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**Online Library**

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.
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- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan**: The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books**: You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals**: The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com**: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.


The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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**Turnitin.com**

Turnitin.com is a web-based plagiarism prevention application licensed, for campus use, through the APUS Online Library. The quick submit option lets faculty upload and check suspicious papers, without requiring student to create their own Turnitin.com profiles.
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Turnitin.com analyzes electronic submissions of student writing, compares them to the contents of a huge online database, and generates a customized Originality Report. The database used to produce this analysis contains a massive collection of documents available on the Internet from both free and commercial sources, as well as the full texts of all other papers that have been previously submitted to Turnitin.com.

Similarity index is based on the amount of matching text to a submitted paper:

- **Blue** = no matching text
- **Green** = one word to 24% matching
- **Yellow** = 25 - 49% matching text
- **Orange** = 50 - 74% matching text
- **Red** = 75 - 100% matching text

**Selected Bibliography**

n/a