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**American Public University System**

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Security &amp; Global Studies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Number: EDMG515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Name: Hazard Mitigation and Resilient Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Hours: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Course: 8 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisite: None</td>
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**Course Description (Catalog)**

This course provides an overview of what is known about natural hazards, disasters, recovery, and mitigation, how research findings have been translated into policies and programs; and a sustainable hazard mitigation research agenda. The course also provides an examination of past disaster losses and hazards management over the past 50 years, including factors—demographic, climate, social—that influence loss.

**Course Scope**

We will work together to develop an overview of what is known about mitigation of natural hazards disasters; how research findings have been translated into policies and programs; and a
sustainable hazard mitigation research agenda. We will examine past disaster losses and hazards management over the past 50 years, including factors--demographic, climate, social--that influence loss. Building on this common background and understanding of the evolving context for hazard mitigation and resilient communities, we will explore hazard mitigation with respect to the historic evolution of U.S. disaster policy and practice. The adoption of the original Stafford Act in 1988 and its subsequent amendments and evolution will be analyzed. We will practice using the theoretical and practical framework for developing federal, state, and local mitigation capacity and commitment. Finally, this course provides an exploration into alternative and sustainable ways to view, study, and manage hazards in the United States. Thus, the course discusses the issue of disaster-resilient communities, higher environmental quality, inter- and intra-generational equity, economic sustainability, and improved quality of life.

### Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

**LO = Learning Objectives**

**LO-1**: Demonstrate proficiency in the use of selected research methods and tools.

**LO-2**: Describe and examine the differences between hazards and mitigation efforts

**LO-3**: Accomplish specific research tasks: hypothesis construction, conceptualizing terms, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and communicate findings.

**LO-4**: Evaluate data and critically assess research findings about local and federal emergency management in disaster mitigation

**LO-5**: Recognize and implement techniques for hazard mitigation to ensure resiliency in communities.

**LO-6**: Show graduate level critical thinking and writing.

### 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
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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.

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Course Resources

Textbook:

Supplemental Readings:
Please examine the Course Bibliography at the end of this syllabus. It contains the list of website and academic resources by week. In addition, it contains classic books dealing with risk, mitigation, disasters, catastrophes, resiliency, and emergency management. It also includes books that present detailed histories and analyses of notorious disasters and catastrophes.

Additional Resources:
Students are expected to use the APA Style (Sixth Edition) guidance materials in the APUS Online Library or to obtain an official APA Manual (Sixth edition, third printing). Sources specific to student’s approved chosen topic, found by student.

Please examine the Course Bibliography at the end of this syllabus. It contains classic books dealing with risk, mitigation, disasters, catastrophes, resiliency, and emergency management. It also includes books that present detailed histories and analyses of notorious disasters and catastrophes.

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Evaluation Procedures

Reading Assignments: Assessed through Forum posts.

Supplemental Readings: Will be evaluated for analysis and synthesis when presented as part of the literature review assignment or in other assignments; will not be graded separately.

Forum Assignments: All forums will be graded on a scale of 0-100 for participation, logic, grammar, spelling, and length. Forums will also be graded for responsiveness to other students’
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forum posts. URGENT NOTE! You must introduce yourself with a 250 word post in Week 1 - Introduction forum by midnight Eastern Time Sunday night, or you will be automatically disenrolled from this course. This is university policy that applies to every course at APUS and is necessary to satisfy U.S. Department of Education rules. This is a graded forum.

Homework Assignments: Assignments will be graded on a scale of 0-100 for logic, clarity, writing, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and APA formatting. Assignments 1, 2, and 3 will be returned without a grade for revision and resubmission if unacceptable for any reason including failure to adhere to APA Style (Sixth Edition). In such cases, the student will be given one week to resubmit the assignment. At the instructor’s discretion, the student may be asked to revise and resubmit any of these assignments. NOTE: APA citations and References page are required for PowerPoint presentation in weeks 4, as well as in all writing assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Maximum Score</th>
<th>% of course grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum 1 (Introduction)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum 3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum 4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
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<td>Forum 5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
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<td>Forum 6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum 7</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum 8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1 Assignment</td>
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<td>5.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 Assignment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 Assignment –Final Project</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</table>

100%
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Software Requirements

Assignments shall be uploaded in the classroom as Word (.doc or .docx) files. Other formats such as RTF, ODT, or WPS document are not compatible, and are not accepted.

Adobe Reader -- Go to http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html to download the latest version. This download is free.

Grading Scale

Please see the Student Handbook (click here) to reference the University’s grading scale.

8 – Week Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Learning Objective(s)</th>
<th>Reading(s) Resources</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1  | What is mitigation? | • Class introduction  
• Gain an overview of mitigation and resiliency  
• Understand the moral issues surrounding mitigation  
• Understand the overview of Disaster Assistance (DA) | • Jollerman & Kiefer (2013). Natural Hazard Mitigation. New York: CRC Press. ISBN 978-1-4398-3493-0. Chapters 1,2, and 5  
• Government documents and websites listed in the Readings and Resources section of Week 2 Lesson  
• Academic journal articles listed in the Readings and | Week 1 - Introduction forum  
Familiarize yourself with Course Resources and the Syllabus  
Week 1 Assignment-Legislation |
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<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Resources section of Week 2 Lesson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2 | Non-Federal Mitigation and Resiliency | • Understand local government actions related to mitigation  
• Explain mitigation activities at the state level  
• Gain an understanding of how inter-governmental relations interact with mitigation  
• Describe strategies to leverage non-profit and and volunteers in mitigation activities  
• Government documents and websites listed in the Readings and Resources section of Week 2 Lesson  
• Academic journal articles listed in the Readings and Resources section of Week 2 Lesson  
|   |   | Reading Forum 2  
|   |   | Assignment 2: Non-Federal Mitigation Topic Approval  |
| 3 | Risk Communication and Community Involvement | • Describe methods to define risk  
• Understand and apply different  
|   |   | Readings Forum 3  
|   |   | Assignment 3: Disaster Risk Communication  |
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods of Communicating Disaster Risk</th>
<th>Chapters 7 and 9</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Define the different lenses through which to define community</td>
<td>Government documents and websites listed in the Week 3 readings and resources section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply different methods of involving the community in disaster mitigation</td>
<td>Academic, peer-reviewed resources listed in the Week 3 readings and resources section</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe the different social, economic, and political forces operating within a community.</td>
<td>Government Documents and Websites in Week 4 Readings and Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare and contrast cultural and policy issues in a community</td>
<td>Academic Journal Articles in Week 4 Readings and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Readings Forum 4 Assignment 4-Interrelatedness of cultural issues, policy, and legal issues |
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>and understand their interrelatedness</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Understand legal issues surrounding mitigation efforts and the legal concept not harming others</td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program</td>
<td>• Determine eligible for the HMGP</td>
<td>• Government Documents and Websites in Week 5 Readings and Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify administration</td>
<td>• Academic Journal Articles in Week 5 Readings and Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Identity how to apply</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Examine the FEMA regulations implementing the new disaster act.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>• Analyze the various mitigation</td>
<td>Jerolleman &amp; Kiefer (2013). Natural Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lesson 5 Reading Forum 5 Assignment 5: Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Lesson 6 Reading Forum 6</td>
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</table>
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<tr>
<td>- Discuss the impact of major natural disasters on efforts to reshape federal mitigation policy.</td>
<td>- Government Documents and Websites in Week 6 Readings and Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Discuss the requirements and incentives for state and local mitigation planning.</td>
<td>- Academic Journal Articles in Week 6 Readings and Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Evaluate the potential impacts of the act and regulations on reducing vulnerability to various</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Assignment 6: Risk Assessment
Work on term paper
a. STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Types of Natural Hazards</th>
<th>Hazard Mitigation Inadequacies</th>
<th>Academic Journal Articles in Week 7 Readings and Resources</th>
<th>Lesson 7 Reading Forum 7 Submit term paper outline (or mind map) in assignments section Work on term paper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7    | * Understand the issues and background of attempts to measure the success of hazard mitigation, both before and after a disaster*  
* Identify indicators of success*  
* Describe quantitative measurement approaches, such as benefit cost analysis*  
* Describe qualitative measurement approaches, such as case studies*  
* Assess the political, social, and economic* | *Lesson 7 Reading Forum 7* | *Submit term paper outline (or mind map) in assignments section Work on term paper* |
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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Putting it all Together</td>
<td>• Recall topics we have discussed this term and evaluate your community's resiliency.</td>
<td>Review previous readings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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
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**Disability Accommodations**

**Writing Expectations**

Precise, concise, and grammatically correct writing is expected in all assignments and forum posts in this course.

All written submissions should be submitted in 12-point Times New Roman font (required by APA Style (Sixth Edition)) and page set-up that is readable and neat.

- Typewritten and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- Times New Roman styles in 12-pitch.
- Double-spaced with the first line of each paragraph indented 0.5".
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch (Not 1.25 inches).
- Page headers containing APA running head and page numbers

**Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Style (Sixth Edition) as the sole citation and reference style used in written work and presentations submitted as part of coursework to the University’s Emergency and Disaster Management Program. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the syllabus. “Written work” includes all forums and assignments in this course. The APA Style Guide (Sixth Edition) is available in the APUS Online Library in the Tutorial & Student Studies Center and there are extensive coaching materials loaded in the Resources section of this class.

[Student Note: The **Citation** (format) refers to the basic information needed to find specific materials. For example, for a book this information includes author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date published. The citation provides sufficient information to locate the original item. A **Reference Style** is a consistent way of presenting bibliographic citations. Typically, the selection of the **Reference Style** is specific to a field of study.]

**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 submission of late assignments is unacceptable.

- Weekly Forum discussions must be posted by the end of the week in which they are assigned in order to receive credit.
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• Respond to the Forum discussion by midnight Thursday night (Eastern time). Comment on the initial posting of at least two other classmates by midnight Sunday night (Eastern time). Note: Waiting until Sunday to make replies will result in a reduced grade, as it will not contribute to the conversation
• Other graded assignments must be turned in by midnight Sunday.
• Assignments not turned in by the deadline will be penalized as follows unless the student contacts the instructor ahead of time about an extenuating situation:
  • One day late – 10 points deduction
  • Two days late – 20 points deduction
  • Three days late – 30 points deduction
Assignments submitted more than three days past the due date will earn zero points.
**Final papers submitted past the official end of the course (11:59 p.m. Eastern time on the last day of class) will not be accepted and will earn zero points.

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.

- **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 located in the Assignment Link and assignments will automatically be entered and processed through Turnitin.

Course Bibliography

Government Documents and Websites:


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http://scholarlycommons.law.cwsl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1064&context=cwlr


Academic, Peer-Reviewed Resources:


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**Selected Bibliography**


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